



Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

Port Arthur, TX

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The City of Port Arthur was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Port Arthur (population 57,755) is located in extreme southeast Texas on the Gulf of Mexico. Throughout the 20th Century, the oil industry defined Port Arthur's development. Today, three major oil refineries and at least six petrochemical plants are located in the city. While the industry thrived, most residents were guaranteed above-average incomes straight out of high school, making higher education unnecessary for many. Today, almost as many residents 25 years and older lack high school diplomas as those who have them. As a result, Port Arthur has remained a blue-collar community. Unemployment and poverty rates are nearly 14 and 25 percent, respectively. More than 68



Assessment Grant

New
2005

\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of Port Arthur for a brownfields assessment grant. Grant funds will be used to update the inventory of brownfields, perform community outreach activities, conduct 15 to 20 Phase I and five to ten Phase II site assessments, and plan remedial actions and reuse. The city will focus on the West Side of Port Arthur, which has been disproportionately impacted by the presence of brownfields.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 6 Brownfields Team
214-665-6736

[http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sf/bfpages/
sfbfhome.htm](http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sf/bfpages/sfbfhome.htm)

Grant Recipient: City of Port Arthur, TX
409-983-8298

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

percent of the residents are minority. The city also faces a problem with an older, rapidly deteriorating stock of housing and former heavy commercial and industrial properties. Port Arthur has identified 30 suspected brownfields sites that are vital for the city's business growth and revitalization. Assessment of previously unidentified brownfields sites will allow the city to implement its plan to develop a small residential community, with adjacent commercial areas, in the west side neighborhood. The city expects these efforts to lead to the creation of jobs and business opportunities in parts of the city hit hardest by the economic decline.