



Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

West Monroe, LA

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 West Monroe was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. West Monroe (population 13,250) has a per capita income of \$16,803 and a poverty rate of 22 percent, which are close to the averages for the State of Louisiana. However, within the target area, Census Tract 56, the poverty rate is nearly 37 percent and 48 percent of residents are minority. This tract is West Monroe's portion of Ouachita Parish's federally designated Enterprise Community. Under the original cooperative agreement with the EPA, the city developed a detailed brownfields inventory and prioritized the sites. These sites consist of a variety of manufacturing and commercial facilities, including dry cleaners, and printing, electrical repair,



Assessment Grant

New
2005

\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of West Monroe for a brownfields assessment grant. Grant funds will be used to conduct community outreach, perform a thorough site compliance review, conduct site assessments, and develop cleanup plans for sites throughout the city, with an emphasis on sites in Census Tract 56.

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 West Monroe, LA
318-323-5700

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

tire repair, and auto paint shops. Nearly 20 of the 100 identified sites are located in the target area. The presence of these brownfields has contributed to the deterioration of already suffering, older, established parts of town. Assessment and cleanup of the sites will allow West Monroe to convert sites previously plagued by environmental uncertainty to good locations for reuse and attract people back into the heart of the community.