



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

Acadiana Regional Development District, South Central Louisiana

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders 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 Acadiana Regional Development District (ARDD) was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Located in south central Louisiana, the ARDD covers eight parishes and 49 municipalities (total population 602,654) in the heart of Cajun Country. Most of the ARDD towns and parishes have been experiencing rural flight and an out-migration of the younger generation, leaving behind several vacant and blighted businesses and light industries that pose a



Assessment Grant New 2006

\$200,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the Acadiana Regional Development District for a brownfields assessment grant. Petroleum grant funds will be used to rank sites eligible for assessment, perform Phase I and II environmental site assessments, conduct community outreach activities, and develop cleanup plans for sites around the District.

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
214-665-2241
<http://www.epa.gov/region6/brownfields>

Grant Recipient: Acadiana Regional Development District, LA
337-886-7782

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

potential threat to the communities. Numerous abandoned oil and gas drilling sites with suspected contamination sit on the outskirts of area towns. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita contributed to the blight, destroying businesses and properties and bringing an influx of evacuees to the area. The demographics of the region indicate a significant discrepancy between the residents of the ARDD and the general population of the United States. Nearly 22 percent of area residents live below the poverty level, 27.5 percent are African-American, and 31 percent of adults do not have high school diplomas. Assessment and eventual cleanup of the area's brownfields sites will allow the ARDD to convert them into commercial centers, parks, recreational areas, and

community centers. Revitalization of brownfields is expected to improve economic conditions in the area by providing jobs, and encouraging new businesses.