



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

Sterling, IL

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 City of Sterling was selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants and a brownfields cleanup grant. Located in northwest Illinois, Sterling (population 15,600) is a rural community that is a federally designated Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community. The average household income in the city is 80 percent of the state average, and the unemployment rate is 7.6 percent. There are approximately 20 brownfields within a one-mile radius of the downtown area. The location of these brownfields properties makes it difficult to attract new businesses to the community, and in many cases, the contamination at the properties poses a threat to public safety. When the brownfields are assessed and eventually cleaned up, they will be redeveloped into mixed use properties to provide employment within walking or bicycling



Assessment Grants



\$178,000 for hazardous substances
\$79,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the City of Sterling for two brownfields assessment grants. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to perform community-wide Phase II environmental site assessments. If necessary, grant funds also will be used to conduct a health-based risk assessment at brownfields properties. Petroleum grant funds will be used to perform Phase II site assessments at the Stormwater Retention Area within the former Northwestern Steel & Wire property. This property is a three-acre site contaminated with petroleum. The site presents a threat to the general public, groundwater, and the nearby Rock River. If necessary, funds will be used to conduct a health-based risk assessment at the property following the Phase II assessment. Funds also will be used to prepare a cleanup plan for the property.

Cleanup Grant



\$189,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the City of Sterling for a brownfields cleanup grant. Grant funds will be used to clean up the Stormwater Retention Area within the former Northwestern Steel & Wire property, a three-acre site along the banks of the Rock River. The site was used to collect and store stormwater runoff and cooling water from a nearby mill. When the site is cleaned up, it will be used for manufacturing and light industrial operations.

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

distance for residents who live in or near the downtown area. Brownfields redevelopment will attract new industry, provide jobs and income for residents, and reclaim and revitalize the city's riverfront.

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team
312-886-7576
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: City of Sterling, IL
630-729-6149

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