



# Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

## West Monroe, LA

### 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 West Monroe was selected to receive a brownfields revolving loan fund grant. Located in northern Louisiana, West Monroe (population 13,250) was not directly impacted by the hurricanes of 2005. Nevertheless, it has been experiencing the effects of associated economic crisis and population shifts as businesses and individuals relocate from storm-impacted areas. The city has a poverty rate of approximately 22 percent. West Monroe plans to address brownfields sites throughout the city, with a focus on sites within the federally designated Ouachita Parish Urban Renewal Community and U.S. Census tract 56. Almost 20 of the at least 100 brownfields sites in the city are located in tract 56. The presence of these brownfields has contributed to the deterioration of already suffering, older parts of town. The target area



### Revolving Loan Fund Grant



#### \$500,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the City of West Monroe for a brownfields revolving loan fund grant. The grant will be used to capitalize a revolving loan fund from which West Monroe will provide loans to support cleanup activities at sites contaminated with petroleum. Grant funds will be used to establish and operate the loan fund, perform community outreach and marketing activities, and support cleanup planning and oversight activities.

### 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](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 6 Brownfields Team  
214-665-2241

<http://www.epa.gov/region6/brownfields>

Grant Recipient: City of West Monroe, LA  
318-396-2600

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

includes West Monroe's two industrial parks and the historic downtown area. Forty-eight percent of residents in the area are minorities and nearly 37 percent live in poverty. The city has a great need to redevelop brownfields sites in order to provide real estate and support growth. Brownfields cleanup and redevelopment is expected to accelerate economic development that will create more jobs and ultimately bring more opportunities to low-income and minority families in the city.