



Brownfields 2008 Grant Fact Sheet

Three Rivers, MI

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 this 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 Three Rivers was selected to receive a brownfields cleanup grant. Located in St. Joseph's County in southern Michigan, Three Rivers (population 7,328) is a manufacturing community. Between 1996 and 2000, hundreds of jobs were lost when major manufacturers closed plants and laid off workers in Three Rivers. Per capita income in the city averages 25 percent below the national rate. More than 30 percent of residents in the neighborhood surrounding the former Essex Wire property have incomes below the poverty level. The site has impeded growth and added to the blight and declining value of the neighborhood. Cleanup of the site is expected to assist in addressing the disproportionately high human health and environmental effects the site has on low-income



Cleanup Grant



\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of Three Rivers for a brownfields cleanup grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up the former Essex Wire site at 618 Fourth Street. This vacant 20-acre site has an industrial history dating back to the 1870s. A foundry and car company, and railroad equipment and copper wire manufacturers once occupied the site. Site soils are contaminated with polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, PCBs, and metals.

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 5 Brownfields Team
312-886-7576

<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields>

Grant Recipient: City of Three Rivers, MI
269-273-1075

The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

populations. After the site is cleaned up, the city plans to create a public trail along the river adjacent to the site. This trail is expected to provide walkable access from residential neighborhoods into downtown, supporting businesses along the waterfront.