



Brownfields Assessment Pilots

Catawba Regional Council of Governments, SC

BACKGROUND

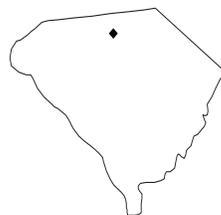
EPA has selected the Catawba Regional Council of Governments (CRCOG) for a Brownfields Assessment Pilot. CRCOG is an association of four county governments representing a population of 289,914 in north-central South Carolina. The council is authorized to provide technical assistance and economic development enhancement for the local governments. CRCOG has identified more than 21 potential brownfield sites across all four counties and expects to identify more during the inventory phase of the Pilot. At one time, the region's economy was largely dependent on the textile industry, and the majority of potential brownfields identified thus far are underused, abandoned, or demolished textile mills. Dilapidated residences originally constructed for mill workers surround many closed mill buildings.

The former mill sites reflect the precipitous decline in that industry during the last 20 years. Communities surrounding the mill sites generally include low- to moderate-income families and minorities. The unemployment rate in the four counties is as high as 11.4 percent, compared to 5.3 percent statewide. Minorities account for about 27 percent of the region's population. The poverty rate in some areas of the four counties has reached 17.2 percent, compared to 14.9 percent for the state.

OBJECTIVES

CRCOG's objective is to incorporate the Brownfields Pilot into a larger economic development strategy for the region that seeks to replace lost textile jobs with diversified employment on redeveloped mill sites. The Pilot will facilitate this objective by identifying brownfields in the region, assessing environmental conditions at selected sites, and developing cleanup plans.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Catawba Regional Council of Governments, South Carolina

Date of Announcement:
May 2002

Amount: \$ 200,000

Profile: The Pilot will primarily target former textile mill sites in a four-county region that has suffered economically due to the decline of the textile industry.

Contacts:

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Visit the EPA Region 4 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region4/waste/bf/index.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
www.epa.gov/brownfields

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Inventorying possible brownfields sites in the four-county region;
- Involving local communities in decisions during the inventory and planning processes;

- Conducting Phase I and II environmental assessments of priority sites; and
- Assisting local governments in developing cleanup plans.

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