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Solid Waste
and Emergency
Response (5105)

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www.epa.gov/brownfields/



EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, OK

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

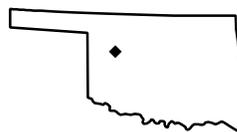
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, and safely clean up brownfields to promote their sustainable reuse. Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years, with additional funding provided for greenspace) to test assessment models and facilitate coordinated assessment and cleanup efforts at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels; and job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years) to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund program (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years) to provide financial assistance for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes for a Brownfields Pilot. Tribal lands are located in an eight-county area in northwestern Oklahoma. They include 10,000 acres of tribally owned trust land and almost 77,000 acres of individual trust allotments provided under the Dawes Act of 1887. Nearly 7,300 members of the tribes live on or near the former Cheyenne and Arapaho reservation. The annual income of tribal members is estimated to be \$11,000, which is less than half the median income level for the state. The unemployment rate is about 53 percent.

The Pilot has identified potential brownfields sites within the former reservation, including four former schools. The Pilot's primary location of interest is the Concho School. The school was constructed in 1908 and contained a hospital and an industrial arts school. Late in the 1920s, the school also began providing training in dairying, farming, auto and farm mechanics, and horse shoe and harness repair. The site has been abandoned since 1982 and is now owned by the tribes. Contamination from medical wastes, pesticides, solvents, PCBs, lead, and

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes,
Oklahoma*

Date of Announcement:
April 2001

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets three brownfields sites within the former Cheyenne and Arapaho reservation, where tribal members suffer from a 53 percent unemployment rate.

Contacts:

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Visit the EPA Region 6 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sf/bfpages/sfbfhome.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:

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

asbestos is suspected. Similar types of contamination also are expected at the other schools. The abandoned and run-down condition of these and other potential brownfields properties provides pathways for human exposure to the contamination. The Pilot will examine the potential sites and target the three considered most viable for redevelopment.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes is to enhance the quality of life of tribal members residing near the selected brownfields. The Pilot hopes to accomplish this objective by assessing the potential for exposure to contamination and by planning for redevelopment of these historic lands for the economic benefit of the tribes.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Soliciting input from the community through quarterly meetings in the 10 tribal districts and meetings at senior citizen centers;
- Prioritizing brownfields and selecting three target sites;
- Conducting Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments of target sites;
- Developing cleanup plans for target sites; and
- Conducting a redevelopment study for target sites.

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