

EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Elyria, OH

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, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; 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 programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans 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 City of Elyria for a Brownfields Pilot. Elyria (population 57,000) is located near Lake Erie in northcentral Ohio. For much of its history, Elyria has depended on manufacturing for economic growth. However, the departure of many companies left the city with a legacy of unemployment, urban blight, and brownfields sites. Today, unemployment within the brownfields target area stands at between 8 percent and 30 percent, and the poverty rate is over 28 percent.

The Pilot targets the former Tappan manufacturing facility for redevelopment. Formerly one of the premier manufacturing facilities in the Midwest and a key component of Elyria's economic success, today much of the site is unused. Two tenants use about two-thirds of the facility for manufacturing activities and are interested in expanding their operations. However, this expansion is unable to proceed because of past on-site environmental contamination, which has resulted in one tenant threatening to move to an undeveloped parcel of land. The Pilot will address these environmental concerns in an effort to promote redevelopment of the Tappan property.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Elyria, OH

Date of Announcement:
May 2000

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot focuses on the former Tappan manufacturing brownfields site to facilitate site redevelopment and maintain current site tenants.

Contacts:

Department of Community
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Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 5
(312) 353-3161

Visit the EPA Region 5 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

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/>

OBJECTIVES

The Pilot's objective is to address environmental issues at the former Tappan plant in order to redevelop the site through the planned expansion of existing on-site manufacturing activities. This will allow the two tenants to remain on-site and retain more than 300 family-supporting jobs. In addition, the redevelopment of the former Tappan site will be the foundation of an overall effort to promote industrial development within the city. Finally, Pilot activities will alleviate potential environmental and health threats on the site.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of the Pilot include:

- Quantifying the environmental conditions identified at the former Tappan site;
- Preparing a risk assessment to determine if cleanup is required and establish cleanup goals;
- Preparing a remedial design, if risk-based standards are exceeded; and
- Conducting public meetings to communicate and discuss current information about the proposed activities.

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