



Brownfields Assessment Pilots

City of Evansville, IN

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Evansville for a Brownfields Assessment Pilot. Evansville (population 121,582) is located on the Ohio River in the tri-state area of southwestern Indiana. The city has designated its urban core, which consists primarily of Pigeon Township (population 33,682), as the target area for the Brownfields Pilot. Evansville's economic base historically has been rooted in Pigeon Township's foundries, furniture manufacturing, and coal mining industries. A decline in these industries since the mid-1960s has created numerous brownfield properties. The city estimates that 90 percent of its more than 200 brownfield sites are located in Evansville's urban core. Many sites are vacant and abandoned, and concern about unknown contamination is impeding investment and redevelopment of sites in the target area.

Urban flight by the city's manufacturing base has devastated the blue-collar workforce in the 12 Pigeon Township neighborhoods. Since 1980, Pigeon Township has lost nearly 29 percent of its residents. Unemployment is at 6.6 percent, double the countywide average, and over 25 percent of the township's residents live in poverty.

OBJECTIVES

Evansville's overall objective is to clean up contaminated properties in Pigeon Township for economic redevelopment. Pilot funds will help identify brownfields sites in the target area and assess environmental conditions at some of them. It also will fund community outreach and reuse planning.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Inventorying all potential brownfields sites in the 12 neighborhoods of Pigeon Township;

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*City of Evansville,
Indiana*

Date of Announcement:
May 2002

Amount: \$ 200,000

Profile: The Pilot will target sites in Pigeon Township, the city's primary manufacturing and industrial area, which has been devastated by steady industrial closures and a declining population.

Contacts:

City of Evansville - Department of Metropolitan Development (812) 436-7823	Regional Brownfields Team U.S. EPA Region 5 (312) 353-0123
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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:
www.epa.gov/brownfields

- Establishing a brownfields committee to work with the public to develop priorities for selecting target sites;
- Conducting approximately ten Phase I and six Phase II environmental assessments;

- Developing an innovative and sustainable reuse plan;
and
- Reaching out to involve the residents and businesses
in the target area.

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