

# EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

## *Red Lake Band of Chippewa, MN*

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 Red Lake Band of Chippewa for a Brownfields Pilot. The tribe is part of the Red Lake Nation, which is located in northwest Minnesota, with the main reservation situated in Beltrami County. Of the reservation's nearly 10,000 members, 48 percent of all families are below the poverty line, the median income is \$11,977, and unemployment stands at 61 percent. The Red Lake Nation traditionally depended on forestry and fishing to sustain its economy. The Bureau of Indian Affairs operated a successful sawmill and green mill in the village of Redby for nearly 100 years. However, with these two industries in decline and years of mill operation resulting in environmental harm, the Red Lake Nation faces environmental and economic challenges.

### OBJECTIVES

The goal of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Pilot is to promote environmentally sensitive economic development through the reclamation of brownfields areas within the Red Lake Reservation. The Pilot specifically targets the Redby Industrial Park, which houses a sawmill, a seedling greenhouse, a custom home plant, and the new Red Lake water bottling company. The Pilot will enable the tribe to address

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Red Lake Band  
of Chippewa, MN*

**Date of Announcement:**  
May 2000

**Amount:** \$200,000

**Profile:** The Pilot focuses on assessing environmental contamination at the tribe-owned Redby Industrial Park and creating a site reuse plan to redevelop it as an Eco-Industrial Park.

#### Contacts:

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Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 5  
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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:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

environmental contamination at the Redby Industrial Park and develop a comprehensive plan for site redevelopment as an Eco-Industrial Park. The long-range plan is to incorporate greenspace, alternative energy sources, and energy-efficient building practices at the Eco Park. In turn, this redevelopment will promote economic development and foster environmental stewardship throughout the reservation.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Identifying site histories, including oral histories and tribal documents;
- Performing site assessments, including water and soil samples, and independent laboratory analysis;
- Developing a site cleanup plan using a task force of partners from Red Lake and Redby Villages and outside technical assistance; and
- Developing site reuse plans through the task force model.

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