



Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Canton, IL

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

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. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 200 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots 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 Canton for a Brownfields Pilot. Canton (population 13,922) has targeted a vacant 33-acre industrial property at the heart of its central business district. This location has been an industrial/manufacturing site since 1847, occupied primarily by International Harvester (IH). Known prior uses of the property over its 150-year history include a steel plow manufacturing plant, a tire recycling site, a storage area, and a dumping ground for junk and possible hazardous wastes.

International Harvester, once a vibrant business and major employer in the City, operated on the property for nearly 65 years before closing in 1983. Over the years, businesses operating on this site have had little regard for the property's environmental conditions and the potential health hazards to residents of surrounding communities. When IH vacated the property, it left unknown contaminants and pollution in its wake and increased the area's unemployment. The City's current unemployment rate is estimated at 7.5%, with 12.5% of the population living in poverty. In its 14 years of vacancy, the property has suffered from fires and other mishaps. The site lies within an Enterprise Zone (EZ) and a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Canton, Illinois

Date of Announcement:
July 1998

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot will target a 33-acre industrial site for assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment. The targeted area is located in both an EZ and a TIF district.

Contacts:

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Regional Brownfields Team
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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/>

OBJECTIVES

The Pilot will assess the targeted site for types, levels, and location of contaminants, and will develop both short- and long-term redevelopment plans. The City hopes to bring at least 10 acres of the property into a usable condition within two years. Upon completion of the Pilot, Canton plans to conduct a workshop outlining the applicability of the brownfields program to other small, rural communities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting Phase I site assessments, Phase II investigations of suspected hot spots, and a site screening baseline assessment; and
- Identifying locations within the site that are severely economically impaired for redevelopment and those that can be redeveloped within a shorter timeframe.

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