



Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Escambia County, FL

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 Escambia County for a Brownfields Pilot. Located in the northwestern part of the State, Escambia County has a geographical area of 661 square miles. Palafox Corridor, the gateway to the City of Pensacola (population 4,401), is the targeted Pilot community. The area is characterized by old houses, solid waste transfer stations, and a multitude of unused railroad spurs. Twenty-seven percent of the City's residents earn less than \$10,000, and 5% of the community is unemployed.

The Pensacola area economy depends on military installations, industry, shipping, tourism, agriculture, health care services, and retail trade. The City has suffered economically from industrial and military reshuffling. Several key employers have laid off workers, and the Department of Defense moved its helicopter repair facility elsewhere. According to a U.S. Navy study, that closure alone is estimated to impact 5,450 jobs and produce a total economic loss of approximately \$300 million annually. Although much of Pensacola is undergoing revitalization, the Pilot area remains a bottleneck. The combination of low-income employment, lay-offs in older, more established industries, and former industrial

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Escambia County, Florida

Date of Announcement:
July 1998

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets the Palafox Corridor for cleanup and redevelopment into a commercial, light industrial, and/or commerce center surrounded by improved residential neighborhoods.

Contacts:

Neighborhood and
Environmental Services
Department
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Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 4
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Visit the EPA Region 4 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region4/wastepgs/brownfpgs/bf.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/>

contamination has set the stage for much needed economic, environmental, and social redevelopment in Pensacola.

OBJECTIVES

Escambia County's long-term objective is to redevelop the Palafox Corridor into a commercial, light industrial, and/or commerce center surrounded by improved residential neighborhoods. As part of this objective, the Pilot will address environmental issues and barriers in order to enhance and encourage redevelopment through site assessments, community involvement, and development of reuse options.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting Phase I and II environmental site assessments;
- Encouraging community involvement by establishing a committee-type forum to discuss assessments, cleanup technology, and redevelopment issues; and
- Utilizing and expanding the existing Pensacola Brownfields Committee by establishing a subcommittee to focus on the redevelopment of the Palafox Corridor.

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