



National Brownfields Assessment Pilot

Greater Kansas City, KS and MO

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. Between 1995 and 1996, EPA funded 76 National and Regional Brownfields Assessment Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. EPA is funding more than 27 Pilots in 1997. 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.

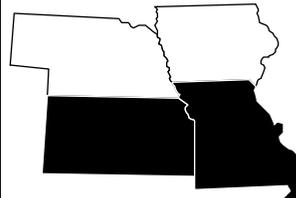
BACKGROUND

EPA has selected Greater Kansas City for a Brownfields Pilot. The proposed project area is the bi-state Central Industrial District (CID), the oldest industrial sector in the City. A long history of intensive rail activity in the CID has led to real and perceived environmental problems. The area is also in a Federally-designated Enhanced Enterprise Community—one of four nationwide. Population in the CID (49,000) is 79 percent minority, the poverty rate is about 35 percent, unemployment is 17 percent, and per capita income has fallen. For the greater metropolitan area, the manufacturing index (where 1977 = 100) had fallen to 87 in 1991 compared with a drop to 96 nationwide.

OBJECTIVES

The focus of Kansas City's brownfields effort is to show that economic redevelopment of environmentally contaminated sites in the bi-state CID is both environmentally and economically achievable. This will be accomplished by identifying the CID's best candidate sites for developing a model process for other sites. Existing tools for addressing brownfields,

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Kansas City,
Kansas and Missouri*

Date of Award:
September 1996

Amount: \$200,000

Site Profile: The Pilot targets up to six sites within the Greater Kansas City downtown Central Industrial District (CID).

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such as prospective purchaser agreements, the economic incentives provided through the Missouri Brownfields Redevelopment Program, and other funding mechanisms, will be compiled from local and national sources and applied to a few select sites. The Pilot will seek to involve key developers and investors and closely interact with the environmental justice communities most affected by the brownfields. Key interstate planning issues such as transportation and regional environmental management will also be dealt with as part of this Pilot.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The Pilot is:

- Conducting an inventory of the many properties in the CID;
- Engaging the residential and business communities in the decision-making process;
- Conducting Phase I and II environmental site assessments on four to six sites and planning for cleanup and redevelopment;
- Integrating community issues, cleanup requirements, and the interests of developers and investors in the brownfields process at selected sites; and
- Ensuring the involvement and consideration of those communities most adversely impacted by the sites through a stakeholders' council.