



# Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

## *New Milford, CT*

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. 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 Town of New Milford for a Brownfields Pilot. New Milford is a small, rural town in western Connecticut with a population of 25,658, whose per capita income is below the state average. One of the largest pieces of commercial/industrial property in the town is the 72-acre former Century Brass Products mill site, which has a desirable location near a natural gas pipeline and a rail line. The site's environmental and economic impact on the community has been significant: the property represents 13 percent of the town's industrially zoned land, but has not contributed to the local tax base since it was abandoned 13 years ago. As a result, the town loses approximately \$80,000 in taxes each year that the property remains unproductive.

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the U.S. EPA have both been involved in overseeing the assessment and cleanup of known metal hydroxide sludge and polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination at the site. As the site is located at the confluence of the Aspetuck and Housatonic Rivers, DEP and EPA have advised the town that the PCB spillage on the site may pose a threat to the rivers or residents downstream, either through direct contact or through well water. Although

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



New Milford, Connecticut

Date of Announcement:  
June 1999

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets a 72-acre former brass mill site located at the confluence of the Aspetuck and Housatonic Rivers.

#### Contacts:

Town of New Milford  
(860) 355-6010

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 1  
(617) 573-9681

Visit the EPA Region 1 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/remed/brnflld/>

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/>

some assessment and cleanup work has been performed at the site, additional assessment is needed to determine the extent of the PCB contamination and any remaining hydroxide contamination.

## OBJECTIVES

The Pilot-funded assessment and cleanup planning will seek to overcome a barrier that many small, rural communities face—lack of assessment financing which generally gets targeted to distressed urban areas. The Pilot will determine the extent of the PCB and sludge contamination and provide cleanup cost estimates to help prepare the site for cleanup and redevelopment. In conjunction with the Pilot activities, the town is pursuing a foreclosure action to clear the property's title of more than \$8 million in back taxes and other liens. These activities will help eliminate the potential environmental and health risks posed at the site and return the property to productive use.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Reviewing prior assessments performed at the site;
- Performing additional assessments to determine the current extent of sludge and PCB contamination;
- Developing cleanup plans for the site; and
- Conducting outreach through newsletters and a community forum.

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