



Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Puerto Rico Ports Authority

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 Puerto Rico Ports Authority (PRPA) for a Brownfields Pilot. The PRPA is a Puerto Rican government corporation responsible for the management, operation, and development of maritime and aviation facilities across the island. The PRPA owns these properties and leases the facilities to businesses and government agencies. Historically, limited environmental oversight was given to these leased properties. As a result, thousands of acres of abandoned properties have lain idle because the PRPA lacks the resources to identify and assess the contamination present. Uncertainty about the contamination at these properties has raised liability concerns and has prevented the PRPA from reusing these properties. To address these concerns, the PRPA formed the Environmental, Health and Safety Comprehensive Management Program (EHS CMP).

The PRPA has identified more than 20 potential brownfields sites at six separate geographic locations within Puerto Rico. The PRPA plans to target two potential sites to serve as models for the Pilot. More than 62% of Puerto Rico's population is characterized as economically disadvantaged, and 84% of all families live below the poverty line. In addition, Puerto Rico's unemployment rate is 13.8%.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Date of Announcement:
July 1998

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets two properties owned by the Puerto Rico Ports Authority (PRPA).

Contacts:

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Visit the EPA Region 2 Brownfields Website at:
[http://www.epa.gov/r02earth/superfnd/brownfld/
bfmainpg.htm](http://www.epa.gov/r02earth/superfnd/brownfld/bfmainpg.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/>

OBJECTIVES

The PRPA plans to clean up and redevelop its brownfields to help create employment opportunities within the affected communities and enhance transport and shipping opportunities within the region. To aid in this objective, the Pilot will develop a program to promote the development of brownfields sites owned by the PRPA within the existing framework of the EHS CMP. Pilot funding will be used to identify and characterize sites for redevelopment; tailor existing EHS CMP infrastructure to support brownfields redevelopment; and promote community involvement and participation in brownfields revitalization efforts.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Developing a community outreach program to educate affected communities about site conditions and to update residents about Pilot site activities;
- Performing Phase I and II environmental assessments on two sites—the Scorpio Metals, Inc. and the Puerto Rico Fire Fighting Training Academy properties;
- Completing a cleanup plan for the two sites, which may include innovative technologies to improve cleanup efforts; and
- Developing a strategy to sustain redeveloped brownfields sites.

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