



# Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilot *Rockford, IL*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

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

Rockford, Illinois has a strong manufacturing history. Since the mid-1960s, however, manufacturers have been relocating to the southern United States and overseas. Manufacturing giants have seen their workforce decrease. Barber Colman, for instance, has seen its workforce decrease from a high of 6,000 employees to fewer than 100 today. During the early 20th century, more than 60 percent of Rockford's population was employed in the manufacturing sector; this figure dropped to less than 30 percent by 1990. The manufacturing exodus has brought about hundreds of acres of abandoned sites. Rockford's BCRLF will target the City's Enterprise Zone (EZ), which lost 1,000 jobs in the latter half of 1999. The EZ contains approximately 227 acres of brownfields, with over one million square feet of industrial and commercial space. The City was designated a Brownfields Assessment Pilot and is currently assessing various sites for redevelopment.

## BCRLF OBJECTIVES

Rockford's BCRLF will be designed to address the simultaneous development of programs to coordinate finance, marketing, planning, and review. A further objective will be to develop strategies to assist

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



Rockford, Illinois

**Date of Announcement:**  
May 2000

**Amount:** \$500,000

**BCRLF Target Area:** City of  
Rockford's Enterprise Zone

### Contacts:

Community Development  
Department  
(815) 987-5600

Region 5 BCRLF  
Coordinator  
(312) 886-7576

Visit the EPA Region 5 Brownfields web site at:  
[www.epa.gov/region05/waste/brown/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region05/waste/brown/index.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>

existing businesses economic and environmental needs, reestablish business in the City, and enhance employment opportunities for community residents. Rockford intends to leverage private and public funds to assist in the mitigation of contaminated property, thereby providing a viable alternative to locating businesses in greenfields. Rockford anticipates providing BCRLF loans to smaller new companies to encourage them to locate in the EZ. Three potential properties in the EZ will be considered for brownfields cleanup: the Reed-Chatwood site, South Main Railroad Yards, and Short Elm Railroad Yards.

### **FUND STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS**

The City of Rockford will serve as lead agency, site manager, and fund manager.

### **LEVERAGING OTHER RESOURCES**

Rockford's BCRLF award will be coordinated with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant funds and tax increment financing funds. The City intends to use BCRLF loans in conjunction with privately and publicly funded mitigation activities. Rockford, in partnership with an array of stakeholders, will provide staff, legal assistance, and other services necessary to administer the BCRLF.

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*Use of BCRLF Pilot funds must be in accordance with CERCLA, and all CERCLA restrictions on use of funding also apply to BCRLF funds.*

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