



Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Santa Fe, NM

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

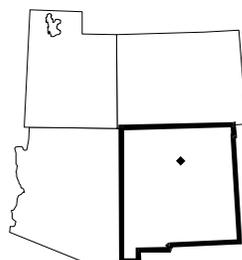
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 150 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 City of Santa Fe for a Brownfields Pilot. Santa Fe's economy is dependent on its rich cultural heritage and environmental quality, yet these values are being challenged by urban sprawl and environmental and economic decline. The railroad industry that once brought prosperity to the city left behind a large corridor of potentially contaminated land and abandoned, deteriorating buildings in the center of downtown Santa Fe. This railyard is the largest vacant parcel of contiguous land in the city's business district and sits adjacent to several of Santa Fe's oldest Hispanic neighborhoods. These neighborhoods are 70% minority, and 32% of the residents live below the poverty line. Unemployment in the area is almost four times the city average.

Santa Fe declared the railyard area blighted and purchased 50 acres of the site in 1995. After the city bought the property, a community-based planning process produced a vision for the area that includes a 10-acre park and a cultural and educational center. The city also plans to encourage small business development in the area. The railyard has the highest potential for new business and industry employment for downtown residents; however, real and perceived environmental contamination have impeded redevelopment efforts and limited the neighborhood's prosperity.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Santa Fe, New Mexico

Date of Announcement:
May 1998

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets a 50-acre, city-owned railyard located in downtown Santa Fe. The railyard is the largest vacant parcel of contiguous land in the city's business district, and sits adjacent to several of Santa Fe's oldest Hispanic neighborhoods.

Contacts:

Railyard Planning Project
City of Santa Fe
(505) 995-4607

Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 6
(214) 665-6736

Visit the EPA Region 6 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sf/bfpages/sfbfhome.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

Santa Fe's ultimate objective is to revitalize the city's historic urban fabric while enhancing the downtown's economic viability. The Pilot will develop a conceptual model for transforming a brownfields property into a vital area for business and the surrounding community. Pilot funds will be used to conduct environmental assessments, identify environmental liabilities, study cleanup and redevelopment options for the railyard, and expand existing public-private partnerships and community involvement programs.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting a Phase II environmental assessment of the railyard to determine the degree and extent of contamination;
- Conducting a study to determine the feasibility of cleanup and redevelopment of the railyard;
- Identifying liabilities and removing barriers to cleanup and redevelopment; and
- Organizing neighborhood partnerships and conducting a community outreach program.

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