



Brownfields Supplemental Assistance

Bernalillo County, NM

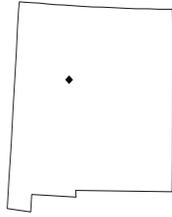
BACKGROUND

EPA awarded Bernalillo County supplemental assistance for its Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot. Bernalillo County (population 518,000), which encompasses the City of Albuquerque, is bisected by the Rio Grande and bordered by the Sandia Mountains to the east. Twenty-four percent of the county's residents live below the poverty level, and minorities comprise 44 percent of the county's population. Due to a long history of industrial and commercial activity, the county is home to hundreds of vacant or abandoned sites with known or perceived contamination. These brownfields are located in a region of shallow groundwater connected to a deeper sole-source aquifer, which provides drinking water for Albuquerque and most of the county.

Bernalillo County's original Pilot targeted two areas—the South Valley, which is adjacent to the Rio Grande, and the North Valley, which is adjacent to downtown Albuquerque and includes the city's historic transportation and commercial corridor. The original Pilot funded public meetings to solicit input for a brownfields inventory. In addition, a Phase I assessment was performed at the Nine Mile Hill Landfill. Phase II work at the site is ongoing. Pilot funds also were used to complete a Phase II assessment at the Serna Trucking Site. Supplemental assistance is needed to perform additional assessments at properties that are key to the county's open space development plans.

OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Bernalillo County's overall goal is to use the Pilot to redevelop stigmatized properties in order to benefit wildlife, improve water quality, and provide recreational and educational open space for current and future generations of county residents. Four sites located in ecologically vulnerable areas—two agricultural properties along the

PILOT SNAPSHOT	Date of Announcement: May 2002
	Amount: \$ 150,000
<i>Bernalillo County, New Mexico</i>	Profile: The Pilot targets four brownfields in ecologically vulnerable areas for site assessment activities in order to stimulate light development and open space uses.
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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: www.epa.gov/brownfields	

Rio Grande and two properties in the Sandia foothills—will be targeted. Phase I assessments of four sites will be performed, with at least two sites selected for further Phase II assessment. Through cleanup and redevelopment of these brownfields, the county hopes to provide residents with much needed open space and light development.

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Continuing to solicit community input on the location of brownfields;
- Performing Phase I environmental site assessments at four targeted brownfields;
- Prioritizing the four brownfields and performing at least two Phase II environmental site assessments; and
- Planning remedial options for the two brownfields with Phase II assessments.

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