



# Brownfields Supplemental Assistance

## Bucks County, PA

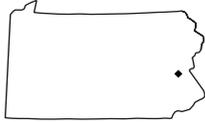
### BACKGROUND

EPA awarded Bucks County supplemental assistance for its Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot. Since the mid-twentieth century, the economic vitality of Bucks County has centered around a manufacturing industrial base located along the Delaware River. The county has been the site for much industry, mainly because of its major transportation routes, which include the Delaware River, Delaware Canal, Neshaminy Creek, Interstate-95, Route 202, and Route 611. Despite accessibility to an established transportation network and a large, high-quality workforce, businesses tend to avoid brownfields and their suspected contamination and, instead, elect to locate in undeveloped parts of the county, which has exacerbated urban decay and suburban sprawl. Furthermore, as a result of the economic downturn in 2001 and the additional slowdown resulting from the September 11<sup>th</sup> tragedy, numerous businesses in Bucks County have closed, leaving hundreds of acres of industrial land idle and resulting in the loss of nearly 1,000 jobs.

The original Assessment Pilot grant focused on three municipalities and later expanded to cover all six municipalities comprising the Enterprise Zone (EZ) located in the lower portion of the county. Supplemental assistance allowed the Redevelopment Authority to expand their inventory to include all brownfields in the county and to conduct environmental assessments at targeted sites. Additional supplemental funds will allow Bucks County to expand their brownfields inventory to include additional abandoned or underused sites.

### OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

With this supplemental assistance, the county's Redevelopment Authority intends to update and consolidate the brownfields inventories that were previously completed using the original funding under the Assessment Pilot. The authority will subsequently assess, acquire, and ultimately clean up those brownfields that the community and the

<b>PILOT SNAPSHOT</b>		<b>Date of Announcement:</b> May 2002
		<b>Amount:</b> \$ 150,000
	<i>Bucks County, Pennsylvania</i>	<b>Profile:</b> The Pilot will identify and rank new and existing brownfields sites in Bucks County and target priority brownfields sites for acquisition, assessment, cleanup, and/or redevelopment.
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<b>Contacts:</b>		
Redevelopment Authority of the County of Bucks (215) 781-8711		Regional Brownfields Team U.S. EPA Region 3 (215) 814-3246
Visit the EPA Region 3 Brownfields web site at: <a href="http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/bfs/index.htm">http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/bfs/index.htm</a>		
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: <a href="http://www.epa.gov/brownfields">www.epa.gov/brownfields</a>		

county have identified as being most important to the revitalization of the area. Bucks County plans to establish a system whereby the authority, as the county-designated brownfields coordinator, would be advised of any potential brownfields as soon as they become a brownfield by definition.

*Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:*

- Establishing a process through which municipalities will notify the Redevelopment Authority of potential brownfields soon after they become vacant or underused;
- Conducting record searches on recently identified brownfields;
- Conducting field inspections to determine the eligibility of identified sites for inclusion in the brownfields program;
- Presenting the target sites to a panel for review and rating based on established criteria;
- Contacting the property owners and municipalities about proceeding with the acquisition, assessment, and cleanup of the sites; and
- Assessing high priority sites.

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