



Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Association of South Central Oklahoma Governments, Oklahoma

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. 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

EPA has selected the Association of South Central Oklahoma Governments (ASCOG) for a Brownfields Pilot. ASCOG is a consortium of 71 member governments that includes 8 counties, 11 cities, and 60 towns. ASCOG is the regional leader on environmental issues, and the Pilot project area that it serves is primarily rural and agricultural, with a population of 271,922. The counties are characterized by high poverty rates, ranging from 14 percent to 28 percent.

Beginning during World War II and continuing through the 1970s, the area was home to commercial and industrial businesses, including military air bases, aircraft manufacturers and affiliated businesses, landfills, oil refineries, and former missile silo sites. As these industries declined and moved out of the area, brownfields were left in their place, resulting in a significant economic decline. The potential impact on public health caused by ground and surface water contamination from these brownfields is of particular concern.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Association of
South Central
Oklahoma Governments, Oklahoma

Date of Announcement:
June 1999

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets
rural brownfields in an 8-
county area of South Central
Oklahoma.

Contacts:

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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

The Pilot's objective is to facilitate the cleanup and redevelopment of the region's brownfields by demonstrating the successful revitalization of a few, high-priority sites, thereby mitigating the risk to human health as well as boosting the economic development of the South Central Oklahoma region. The Pilot is the first phase of a long-term, regional effort to restore the environment and economic base of the area. Working closely with community members, the Pilot will identify brownfields within the 8-county area, beginning with an initial 48 brownfields archived from EPA's CERCLIS database; conduct assessments on priority sites; and develop cleanup and reuse plans for select sites.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Identifying and inventorying all brownfields within the 8-county area;
- Performing an economic analysis of the inventoried sites, with input from stakeholders on development potential and site priority;
- Conducting Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments on priority sites;
- Establishing cleanup cost estimates and draft cleanup and reuse plans for assessed sites; and
- Implementing a community outreach plan, including a series of public meetings.

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