



# Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

## *West Allis, WI*

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 City of West Allis and the Village of West Milwaukee for a Brownfields Pilot. West Allis and West Milwaukee are suburbs of the City of Milwaukee, located in southeastern Wisconsin. The two municipalities share a 32-acre industrial brownfields site, the former Wehr Steel property.

Heavy industry, such as the former Wehr Steel facility that was used as a steel foundry and landfill, once dominated these communities. However, during the 1980s, more than 8,500 manufacturing jobs were lost during the industry shutdowns and downsizing, and a number of large, vacant industrial brownfields were left in the communities. The 32-acre Wehr Steel site—once the largest steel facility in Wisconsin—is one of the last large brownfields in West Allis remaining to be cleaned up and redeveloped.

## OBJECTIVES

Using the Pilot to jump-start the environmental assessments at the targeted Wehr Steel site, the two municipalities ultimately seek to clean up the environmental and public health-related hazards on the site and redevelop it into a business park. The two

## PILOT SNAPSHOT



West Allis, Wisconsin

Date of Announcement:  
June 1999

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets the 32-acre former Wehr Steel property in the City of West Allis and the Village of West Milwaukee.

### Contacts:

City of West Allis  
Department of Development  
(414) 302-8462

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 5  
(312) 353-3161

Visit the EPA Region 5 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

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/>

municipalities plan to accomplish these goals through an “infill development” strategy that was designed to eliminate blighted properties, return properties to the tax base, and provide job opportunities for area residents. The municipalities will use state and local mechanisms to remove liability and financing barriers to facilitate cleanup and redevelopment after the Pilot has conducted the assessments.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting environmental assessments of the former Wehr Steel property; and
- Designing a cleanup plan for the site.

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