



# **Brownfields 2005 Assessment Grant Fact Sheet**

## **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**

### **EPA Brownfields Program**

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

### **Community Description**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants. The Wisconsin DNR is targeting sites in the City of Milwaukee's 30th Street Industrial Corridor. This area is a federally designated Renewal Community and part of the Milwaukee Brownfields Showcase Community. Large and small manufacturing operations, including foundries, tanneries, breweries, and motor manufacturers, thrived in this area, employing nearly 40 percent of neighborhood residents. Fears of environmental contamination from these operations have discouraged investment and economic development in the corridor. Today, less than 15 percent of neighborhood residents are employed in the area. Ninety-seven percent of residents are minority, 34 percent live in poverty, and the unemployment rate is 19 percent. Fifteen percent of neighborhood housing units are vacant. Most occupied units are rentals, many of which are owned by absentee landlords who invest little in maintenance and up-keep. Assessment and eventual cleanup of the brownfields will remove health and environmental hazards and blight from the community and provide opportunities to restore economic health to this struggling urban corridor.

### **Assessment Grant**

**\$200,000 for hazardous substances**  
**\$200,000 for petroleum**

EPA has selected the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for two brownfields assessment grants. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct approximately ten Phase I and up to four Phase II environmental site assessments and develop remedial action plans for sites in the 30th Street Industrial Corridor in the City of Milwaukee. Petroleum funds will be used to perform the same tasks at sites in the corridor with potential petroleum contamination. This area was once a manufacturing center with tanneries, breweries, foundries, and motor manufacturers.

### **Contacts**

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields Web site (<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>).

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team  
(312) 886-7576  
EPA Region 5 Brownfields Web site  
(<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields>)

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(608) 267-6713

The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.