**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. In 2002, the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act was passed to help states and communities around the country cleanup and revitalize brownfields sites. Under this 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 City of Rome was selected to receive a brownfields cleanup grant. Located in the historic Mohawk Valley of central New York, Rome (population 33,889) was a thriving mill town in the early and mid-1900s. When the mills began closing their doors, the former Griffiss Air Force Base became the area's major employer. When the base vacated the city in 1995, hundreds of supply-chain businesses failed, unemployment and poverty rates increased to record numbers, and 21 percent of Rome's residents left the city. Acres of abandoned land, large buildings, and storage tanks filled with unknown contaminants dotted the urban landscape in downtown Rome and along its waterways. The city has an inventory of more than 100 potential brownfield sites. In the downtown Rome area, the median household income is less than one-third of the state average. The targeted former Nolan Manufacturing site acts as a gateway to East Rome. Cleanup of the property will reduce exposure to contamination and help the city prepare the site for redevelopment with clean technology manufacturing, commercial, and residential reuses.

**Cleanup Grant**

$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of Rome for a brownfields cleanup grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up the former Nolan Manufacturing Building at 1313-1333 East Dominick Street. The two-acre property has been used as a gasoline station, auto repair shop, and saw mill. The site is contaminated with PCBs. Grant funds also will be used to support community outreach activities.

**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 2 Brownfields Team  
(212) 637-3260  

Grant Recipient: City of Rome, NY  
(315) 339-7643

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.