



Brownfields 2002 Assessment Pilot Fact Sheet

Nye County, Nevada

EPA Brownfields Initiative

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.

Background

EPA has selected Nye County for a Brownfields Assessment Pilot. The county also was selected to receive additional funding for assessments at brownfields properties to be used for greenspace purposes. Nye County, located east of Death Valley National Park in the south-central portion of Nevada, is the largest county in Nevada and the third largest county in the United States, covering 18,155 square miles. The county (population 40,490) has targeted the towns of Tonopah, Amargosa Valley, Beatty, Round Mountain, Gabbs, and Pahrump-Johnnie for this Pilot. Nye County has suffered the boom-bust effects of mineral mining and defense and energy-related activities over the years, and is trying to stimulate a pattern of diverse, stable economic growth on a limited amount of land (the federal government owns 98 percent of the land in the county). One possible target site for the Pilot is a former gold mine that could be redeveloped as a solar power generation facility. The county also has identified a site along the Amargosa River where there is considerable community support for greenspace preservation and the establishment of a community center.

While the populations of two of the towns have grown, growth in the remaining towns has declined due mainly to the slump in the mining industry and the loss of projects sponsored by the Department of Defense

Pilot Snapshot

Date of Announcement: 05/01/2002

Amount: \$200,000
\$50,000 for Greenspace

Profile: Nye County, Nevada. The Pilot targets six municipalities within Nye County. Sites to be assessed will be selected for their potential to sustain commercial and industrial development.

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 9 Brownfields Team
(415) 972-3091
EPA Region 9 Brownfields Web site
(<http://www.epa.gov/region9/brownfields>)

Grant Recipient: Nye County, NV
(775) 727-7727

Objectives

The county's objective is to prepare properties in the target communities for reuse, thereby increasing the amount of land attractive for new commercial and industrial development. To accomplish this objective, the Pilot will fund outreach to the community and potential stakeholders, create an inventory and prioritize properties for redevelopment within the target townships, conduct Phase I environmental site assessments of up to six high-priority sites, and conduct Phase II assessments as needed.

Activities

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Implementing a community outreach plan;
- Identifying and prioritizing sites for assessment;
- Conducting up to six Phase I environmental site assessments, plus additional Phase II assessments

projects sponsored by the Department of Defense. Between 1992 and 1998, Nye County lost 9,560 jobs. The unemployment rate in the Pilot area is 6.2 percent, and nearly 13 percent of residents live in poverty. Approximately 21 percent of the population are minorities, primarily Hispanic.

as needed; and

- Evaluating the assessment program at different stages to evaluate its effectiveness at meeting its goals.

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

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.