



# Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

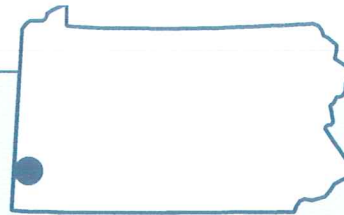
## *Redevelopment Authority of the County of Washington, PA*

### **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 Redevelopment Authority of the County of Washington was selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants. Washington County (population 202,897) is an 863.6-square-mile area of western Pennsylvania bordered on the east by the Monongahela River. Once a center of the steel, glass, and mining industries, the county includes properties that provided thousands of high-paying jobs in the area that now are idled. As a result, many of the 323



### **Assessment Grants**

**New  
2006**

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

EPA has selected the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Washington for two brownfields assessment grants. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to develop an inventory of sites; conduct outreach, program development, and community involvement activities; perform approximately ten to 20 Phase I and five to ten Phase II environmental site assessments; and, develop reuse plans for sites around the county. Petroleum grant funds will be used to conduct the same activities at sites with potential petroleum contamination.

### **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 at: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 3 Brownfields Team  
215-814-3129  
<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/bfs/index.htm>

Grant Recipient: Redevelopment Authority of the  
County of Washington, PA  
724-228-6875

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

identified brownfields sites and abandoned mine lands pose a threat to the county's watershed, local streams, and the downstream Ohio River Watershed. The presence of contaminants, such as iron and aluminum oxide in retention ponds and wetlands, creates a significant risk for the 30 percent of residents that depend on wells for potable water. The poverty rate for the county is nearly ten percent, and that of the municipi-

palities within the Monongahela River corridor is 13.3 percent. Assessment and eventual cleanup of the brownfields sites is expected to reduce the health risks in the community, help generate resources for the revitalization of brownfields sites for commercial and greenspace use, increase employment opportunities for area residents, and increase public awareness of the benefits of brownfields redevelopment.