

Superfund Redevelopment Pilots

GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Pittsfield Economic Development Authority, MA

EPA's Superfund Redevelopment Initiative (SRI) is a nationally coordinated effort to facilitate the return of Superfund sites to productive use by selecting response actions consistent with anticipated use. The SRI Pilots are intended to help local governments enhance their involvement in the Superfund decision-making process by assisting EPA in predicting future land uses for Superfund sites. Under the Pilot Program, EPA will provide up to \$100,000 in financial assistance and/or services to local governments for specified activities. Applicants are offered several types of program assistance, including funding through a cooperative agreement, access to facilitation services, and/or the availability of personnel under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA).

BACKGROUND

EPA selected the City of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, for a Superfund Redevelopment Pilot. Pittsfield is home to the General Electric (GE)-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Superfund site. The GE plant in Pittsfield has historically been the sole producer and major handler of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in western Massachusetts. It is the only known source of the PCB wastes that were discovered in the Housatonic River sediments and floodplain between Pittsfield and Lenox. The site includes the GE facility where PCB wastes were dumped and areas where soil was contaminated by the migration of the wastes via the Housatonic River. It also includes the river sediments and groundwater contaminated by PCBs. The site is in the heart of the city and has been vacant for a number of years. In September 1997, EPA proposed adding the site to its list of hazardous waste sites needing cleanup.

OBJECTIVES

Prior to the closure of its Pittsfield plant, GE was the largest employer in the region. The Pittsfield Economic Development Authority (PEDA) will use the Pilot funds to develop a reuse plan for the site. Economic redevelopment of the property represents the area's best opportunity to attract businesses to the area, resulting in jobs and an increase in the city's tax base. As part of the reuse plan, PEDA will first investigate the site's condition, identify obstacles to and opportunities for reuse, and evaluate the impacts of reuse. PEDA will also meet with community groups to ensure that the city's concepts are in line with the community's vision for the site.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Applicant Name: Pittsfield Economic Development Authority

Site Name: GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River

Date of Selection: July 2000

Anticipated Award: Cooperative Agreement (\$100,000)

Profile: The city will reach community consensus and develop a plan for reusing the site and attracting businesses to the area.

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