

Superfund Redevelopment Pilots

Tennessee Products Chattanooga, TN

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 Chattanooga, Tennessee, for a Superfund Redevelopment Pilot. Alton Park, a low-income, urban, and industrial area alongside Chattanooga Creek in south Chattanooga, is home to the Tennessee Products Superfund site. Since 1917, coal-tar wastes and process wastewater from coal processing were dumped and discharged to Chattanooga Creek. During WWII, the U.S. Government purchased the Tennessee Products facility and operated it as part of the war effort. Coal production doubled during these years of operation. Coal-tar deposits were found in a one-mile segment of Chattanooga Creek between Hamill Road and 38th Street. Contaminants in the creek are mainly polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and metals. The site is separated from the neighborhood by barbed wire fences and warning signs. In January 1994, EPA added it to its list of hazardous waste sites needing cleanup. The City of Chattanooga has also been granted a Brownfields Pilot.

OBJECTIVES

Chattanooga's goals are to return Chattanooga Creek to its status as a neighborhood landmark, accessed and enjoyed by area residents; reverse the decline of Alton Park to draw people back to the neighborhoods; increase property values; and find a use for the site that supports the neighborhood's vision. Pilot funds will be used to identify recreational use options for the creek area, and commercial use options for the plant area.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Applicant Name: Chattanooga, TN

Site Name: Tennessee Products

Date of Selection: July 2000

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

Profile: The community will identify recreational reuse options for the Chattanooga Creek area and commercial options for the plant.

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