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# **RCRA Brownfields Prevention Initiative: Pilot Projects 2000 Summary Report**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The RCRA Brownfields Prevention Initiative is a U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) effort designed to use opportunities for statutory and regulatory flexibility in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act to accelerate site cleanup, facilitate dialogue, and integrate reuse and redevelopment issues, as appropriate, into cleanup decisions. In the longer term, it is EPA's goal that this initiative will help accelerate cleanups at brownfields sites, thus enabling the creation of new jobs, businesses, and green spaces for communities.

In March 2000, EPA announced four pilot projects intended to provide case studies of techniques, tools, and strategies to integrate RCRA cleanups and brownfields redevelopment. The four pilots are: 1) the CBS/Viacom facility in Bridgeport, Connecticut; 2) the Bethlehem Steel Corporation site in Lackawanna, New York; 3) the PECO-Energy (now Exelon Corporation) facility in Chester, Pennsylvania; and 4) the Blue Valley Redevelopment area in Kansas City, Missouri. The four pilots already have yielded results and innovations that can be transferred to other sites. All sites have cleanup and redevelopment plans well underway, and all have benefitted from the pilot process by eliminating unnecessary procedural steps, cutting red tape, and brokering communication between state and local governments and the community.

**The RCRA Brownfields Pilots illustrate how frequent communication among federal, state, and local governments, community members, owners/operators, and other stakeholders, coupled with the corrective action reforms emphasis on "results over process," can expedite cleanup. This will, in turn, allow for redevelopment at RCRA facilities.** The process at all four sites has been accelerated (in some cases, dramatically) by their designation as a RCRA Brownfields pilot. The pilots demonstrate the value of broad-based stakeholder communication. They point out to methods for streamlining and accelerating the RCRA corrective action process, partnering with states and industry, focusing on results, and achieving faster cleanups that meet the redevelopment goals of the facility and community at large while ensuring protection of human health and the environment. **The pilots also demonstrate that significant effort is needed to further incorporate a Brownfields approach of accommodating plans for community revitalization and site reuse into the RCRA corrective action program.**

This summary report provides background on the Initiative, describes the pilots and their accomplishments, and identifies the "lessons learned" that EPA and other stakeholders can use to improve cleanups by leveraging redevelopment potential at properties subject to RCRA.















































