

## **Helena to Receive \$400,000 Brownfield**

By Randy Hogan

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Helena and Pulaski County (Little Rock) will share a \$746,000 Brownfield grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. The money will be used to organize redevelopment of former abandoned properties.

Helena's share of the grant money is \$400,000. EPA announced the grant award Tuesday.

The Helena/Pulaski County granted was one of 219 applicants that will share \$75 million in EPA Brownfield grants. The Brownsfields program helps revitalization efforts by funding environmental assessments, cleanup activities and job training.

"These federal grants are awarded under the Brownfield Act signed by President Bush in January 2002," said Richard Greene, EPA regional administrator. "The landmark legislation continues to help local and state leaders throughout the country in their efforts to revitalize abandoned properties.

"The importance of making these properties available to the community, providing jobs, needed tax revenues and recreational benefits that were not there before is a priority for us as we work towards our goal to recycle and renew polluted land," added Greene.

Helena will receive a \$400,000 assessment grant to be used to identify, inventory and assess hazardous materials and petroleum substances on abandoned industrial and commercial properties in the community. The funds are expected fuel an ongoing collaboration between Helena and West Helena to give themselves a boost after decades of economic decline.

Cities receiving the assessment grants also can use the funding to develop community-wide volunteer clean up programs. The Brownfield programs will provide the city with useful information and strategies for a unified approach to redevelop contaminated properties.

More information about EPA's Brownfields program and grants awarded nationwide is available at [www.epa.gov/brownsfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownsfields). More information about EPA's goals is available at <http://epa.gov/adminweb/leavitt/500dayplan.htm>.