

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



# **RECOVERY ACT**

## **EPA Supports America's Recovery**



### **National Historic Voting Rights Trail Selma To Montgomery, Alabama Dallas, Lowndes, And Montgomery Counties**

**Total Recovery Act Investment – \$350,000**

**Jobs Created By Recovery Act** – Environmental contractors, remediation equipment supply businesses, excavation companies, testing laboratories, hauling companies, and landfill operators will be employed during the underground storage tank cleanups along this 54-mile corridor.

#### **Community Background**

Since 2009, Alabama's Department of Environmental Management and EPA are working closely with local communities and citizens living along and in the vicinity of the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Voting Rights Trail to envision and realize a local community vision for revitalization that is consistent with national historic site goals. The Trail runs through Dallas, Lowndes, and Montgomery Counties and is a pivotal civil rights location. It begins in Selma and continues along U.S. Highway 80 to West Montgomery. Unfortunately today, the route is a 54-mile corridor of high unemployment, health issues, lower educational and economic achievements, and severe rural isolation.

Alabama and EPA, along with a number of state and federal agencies (such as the Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, Department of Agriculture, and Federal Highway Administration), are collaborating with local communities to apply Recovery Act resources along the Trail. State and federal partners are supporting the vision, created by local communities, that enhances preservation of historic assets, while realizing area revitalization goals to improve the economic situation of the area. The Historic Trail communities of Hayneville, White Hall, Lowndesboro, Selma, and Montgomery have recommended a variety of reuses for abandoned UST properties, including local craft and gift shops that support National Historic Trail visitors, restaurants, and vegetable stands.

In addition to Recovery Act-funded efforts, Alabama and EPA are devoting contract and in-house efforts to conduct site assessment activities for other petroleum and hazardous waste properties along the corridor. Sampling activities were conducted in 2009 and additional sampling efforts are ongoing in 2010. Combining targeted involvement and leveraging federal and state resources, Alabama and EPA can facilitate community based revitalization, environmental benefits, and economic development activities along the corridor.

There are many active and former gasoline stations along the Trail that have the potential to cause contamination from petroleum leaks. One example where Alabama and EPA are addressing contamination is a former Gulf service station on Oak Street in Montgomery in an area bordered by mixed light commercial and residential properties. This was formerly a retail gas station and is currently used as a car detail shop. This site has petroleum contamination that dates back to at least 1986 or earlier, and in 1986 four 3,000 gallon gasoline tanks were removed. There are concerns about soil, groundwater, and possibly petroleum vapor contamination in surrounding residential neighborhoods. Site investigation activities are going on now. Groundwater monitoring and risk assessment activities are next, with cleanup activities to be completed in late 2011. Alabama estimates it will cost \$350,000 to address contamination at this site and intends to clean up the site to a level protective of human health and the environment, which will allow for a greater range of property uses.

### **Recovery Overview**

EPA provided Alabama's Department of Environmental Management with \$4 million to assess and clean up contamination released from federally-regulated underground storage tanks. Alabama identified a list of 28 sites for initial assessment evaluation, and will identify additional sites for investigation and clean up over the next two to three years.

### **Protecting Our Environment**

Cleaning up the underground storage tank contamination along this 54-mile stretch of U.S. Highway 80 in Alabama is an important first step to reusing this historic byway. Local communities and citizens living along and in the vicinity of the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Voting Rights Trail are working together to realize a local community vision for revitalization and redevelopment of the area.

### **Protecting Our Health**

Cleaning up underground storage tank releases protects human health and our environment. Underground storage tanks are a leading source of groundwater contamination in our country. Even a small amount of petroleum can contaminate groundwater, the source of drinking water for nearly half of all Americans and 99 percent of citizens in rural areas.

### **For More Information**

[Alabama LUST Recovery Act Program](#)

[Alabama LUST Program](#)

[EPA Region 4 UST Program](#)



Drilling activities at the former Gulf station located along the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Voting Rights Trail



Local community visioning at one of the sites along the Trail