RECOVERY ACT
EPA Supports America's Recovery

Jonesport, Maine
Washington County

Total Recovery Act Investment – $65,000

Jobs Created By Recovery Act – Without Recovery Act money, this cleanup work could not have been done.

Community Background
In November 2009, work began to clean up soil contaminated by abandoned underground storage tanks in Jonesport, Washington County, Maine and included removing two abandoned underground storage tanks in order to access and remove approximately 300 cubic yards of petroleum-contaminated soil at the site. Maine's Department of Environmental Protection says this cleanup work made residents safer and created jobs. This project is one of three in Washington County that was paid for with Recovery Act money.

A senior environmental engineer with Maine's Department of Environmental Protection said that Jonesport is benefitting from this cleanup work because citizens there don't have a municipal drinking water supply. Because threats were removed from the site, drinking water wells of Jonesport's citizens are now better protected. Maine's Department of Environmental Protection said this work could not have been done without Recovery Act money. Approximately $600,000 of leaking underground storage tank (LUST) Recovery Act money has been spent in Washington County, making that area the largest recipient within Maine of LUST Recovery Act money to clean up underground storage tank releases.

Approximately 1,400 people live in Jonesport, which is comprised of 28.5 square miles. Jonesport is on a peninsula, six miles out in the Gulf of Maine.

Recovery Overview
EPA provided Maine's Department of Environmental Protection with $1.436 million to assess and clean up contamination released from federally-regulated underground storage tanks. Maine selected projects located across the state – from Eliot to St. Francis – ranging in cost from $3,000 to almost $500,000.

Protecting Our Environment
Cleaning up this site is an important step in protecting Jonesport's groundwater, since contamination in soil can migrate into groundwater. Without Recovery Act money, this cleanup

could not have been accomplished. Because residents in this area depend on private drinking water wells, it is especially important to remove the petroleum threats from this site.

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

Maine UST Program
EPA Region 1 UST Program