

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



# RECOVERY ACT

## EPA Supports America's Recovery



### Milwaukee, Wisconsin Milwaukee County

**Total Recovery Act Investment** – \$1,108,392

**Jobs Created By Recovery Act** – After cleanup of the former Tower Automotive/A.O. Smith industrial site, Milwaukee city officials plan to transform the 84-acre brownfield into the Century City mixed-use redevelopment, including commercial businesses and residential property, with a goal of employing up to 1,000 people.

#### Community Background

From the early 1900s to 1997, this large industrial property in the heart of Milwaukee was owned by the A.O. Smith Corporation. The facility's primary function was producing auto frames, but a number of other products were manufactured as well, including military equipment, water heaters, electric motors, and linseed oil. At its peak, this facility employed more than 8,000 people.

In 1997, Tower Automotive acquired the business and operated it until 2005, when the company filed for bankruptcy. At one point, the property was the single biggest brownfield in Milwaukee.



Former Tower Automotive/A.O. Smith site as of October 2009

In 2009, Milwaukee took title to the property to begin assessing, cleaning up, and redeveloping the former automotive plant, which is located in the 30th Street Industrial Corridor, a five-mile stretch of historically industrial properties adjacent to an active railroad line. In 2006, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett announced the city's commitment to revitalize this corridor through a series of job creation, workforce development, crime reduction, and environmental cleanup programs.

More than 600,000 people live in Milwaukee, making it the largest municipality in Wisconsin. Located on the western shore of Lake Michigan, Milwaukee is home to a diverse population and has been a Midwest shipping and commerce center for more than 200 years. Businesses and community leaders have been working to adapt to the changing business climate by focusing on precision and next-generation manufacturing, water technology, and other emerging industries.

## Recovery Overview

EPA provided Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources with more than \$6.3 million to assess and clean up contamination from federally-regulated underground storage tanks around the state. More than \$1 million of those funds will go to the former Tower Automotive/A.O. Smith site for assessing and cleaning up contamination resulting from more than 80 leaking underground storage tanks (LUSTs).

## Protecting Our Environment

In addition to LUST removals and remediation, Milwaukee will use other funding to demolish the majority of the buildings on site, upgrade the site's infrastructure, and install storm water best management practices. After cleanup, city plans call for creating Century City, a mixed-use redevelopment that will include a business park and residential housing with capacity to employ 700 to 1,000 people.



Exposing underground storage tanks to address contaminated soils at the former Tower Automotive/A.O. Smith site

The city also plans to provide tax incremental financing and other development tools to help grow businesses at Century City, which in turn is expected to become an economic anchor and catalyst for revitalizing the 30th Street Industrial Corridor.

## 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

[City of Milwaukee 30<sup>th</sup> Street Industrial Corridor](#)

[Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Brownfields & LUST Recovery Act Projects](#)

[EPA Region 5 LUST Recovery Act Program](#)