

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



# Underground Storage Tanks And Brownfields Sites

## GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY/St. John Mission

EPA's USTfields Initiative funds states and tribes to conduct pilot projects in brownfields communities to assess and clean up petroleum contamination from federally-regulated underground storage tanks (USTs) at idle or abandoned commercial properties. Petroleum contamination has generally been excluded from funding under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and has not, therefore, been covered under EPA's Brownfields Program. In 2002, EPA's Office of Underground Storage Tanks (OUST) competitively selected 40 state and tribal USTfields Pilots. In each pilot, the state will work with a local community or the tribe will work with its EPA Region to address identified sites. Each pilot is awarded up to \$100,000 of Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Trust funds to assess and clean up petroleum-contaminated sites; as a result, the sites will be ready for future reuse.

### BACKGROUND

The Gila River Indian Community will assess and clean up petroleum contamination at the St. John Mission site, which is a historic mission in Komatke, Arizona. The mission is located within the Gila River Indian Community, which is a federally-recognized tribe. In 1998 the tribe utilized an underground storage tank locator service and identified and removed two underground storage tanks. At one of the tank sites, a release was confirmed when a groundwater sample indicated petroleum contamination. The tribe is a Brownfields Showcase Community.

### OBJECTIVES

Using USTfields Pilot funds, the Gila River Indian Community will conduct a site assessment to further characterize the petroleum contamination, clean it up, and then monitor the St. John Mission site. After the cleanup is complete, the tribe plans to renovate the site into a Diabetes Education Center.



**Applicant Name:** Gila River Indian Community  
**Date of Selection:** June 2002  
**Profile:** The Gila River Indian Community will conduct a site assessment and clean up petroleum contamination at the St. John Mission site.

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For further information, go to [www.epa.gov/oust/](http://www.epa.gov/oust/)

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