

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Underground Storage Tanks And Brownfields Sites

IDAHO/Smelterville

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 State of Idaho will team with the City of Smelterville to assess and clean up petroleum contamination at four sites located on Main Street. These sites are included in Smelterville's downtown revitalization plan. The sites are in a mixed commercial and residential neighborhood within the Bunker Hill Superfund site area. The Bunker Hill site encompasses several communities and is contaminated with heavy metals from a century of mining and processing of metals. The acidic soil and groundwater are a result of decades of smelter and zinc plant emissions and are likely to have contributed to corrosion of the underground storage tanks. Leaks from the tanks could easily result in further contamination of the city's groundwater. The Panhandle Health District and the Silver Valley Economic Development Corporation have committed additional funding and in-kind assistance to this project.

OBJECTIVES

Using USTfields Pilot funds, Idaho will work with Smelterville to assess and clean up four sites on Main Street in downtown Smelterville. As part of the clean up work, Idaho and Smelterville will address petroleum and potential MTBE contamination that threaten an adjacent residential area. Future plans for the sites are to return these commercial properties to new business uses to stimulate the economy. The long-lasting benefit to the community will be to create jobs, generate taxable income, and assist the community with additional business partnerships.



Applicant Name: State of Idaho

Local Partner: City of Smelterville

Date of Selection: June 2002

Profile: Idaho will work with Smelterville to assess and clean up petroleum contamination at four sites in the downtown area.

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For further information, go to www.epa.gov/oust/

EPA USTfields INITIATIVE

EPA has not yet negotiated the Cooperative Agreements with states and tribes to fund these pilots; therefore, activities are subject to change.