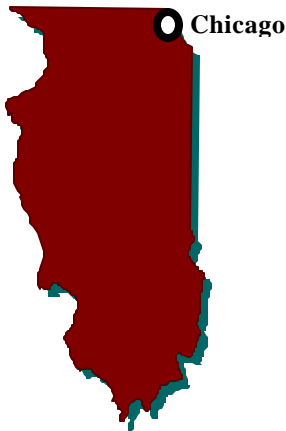


US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

UST*FIELDS* PILOTS



ILLINOIS

Last year EPA's Office of Underground Storage Tanks (OUST) launched the USTfields Pilot program, which is helping states address contamination from federally-regulated underground storage tanks (USTs) at idle or abandoned commercial properties known as "brownfields." Cleanup of petroleum contamination is generally excluded from coverage under EPA's Brownfields program, so EPA provided 10 pilot states with up to \$100,000 of LUST Trust funds each to cover the costs of petroleum cleanups at Brownfields sites. Using the pilot funds, each state is working with Brownfields communities to assess, clean up, and monitor petroleum-impacted UST sites. The cleanup of these sites is removing barriers to their reuse and allowing communities to return them to productive use.

Background

EPA selected the State of Illinois as an USTfields Pilot in 2000. As part of the pilot program, the state will work with the City of Chicago and the city's Abandoned Service Station Management Program to clean up an abandoned underground storage tank site. Chicago established the locally-funded Abandoned Service Station Management Program in 1996 to address the hundreds of abandoned former service stations throughout the city. Under this city program more than 40 sites have already been cleaned up, but many still need to be addressed. The City of Chicago is an EPA Brownfields Assessment Pilot, Showcase Community, and a recipient of a Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund grant. The \$100,000 USTfields grant will supplement these other funds and will allow the state to properly investigate, assess, and clean up petroleum contamination at an abandoned underground storage tank site in Chicago.



This site, 2759 West Washington Street, was determined to be a nuisance and a threat to public health and will be cleaned up to remove barriers to redevelopment. The 2759 West Washington Street site is the city's highest priority for cleanup and redevelopment.

What follows is a description of how EPA, the State of Illinois, and the City of Chicago are working together to clean up an underground storage tank site to remove barriers to redevelopment.

West Washington Street

From the 1960s through the mid-1990s, the property at 2759 West Washington Street was home to a gas station and an auto repair shop. In 1994, the city demolished a 12,000 square foot building on the property and in 1999 removed eight underground storage tanks. The tanks contained 100 to 6,000 gallons of fuel. The city detected a petroleum release during the removal of the tanks and conducted tests on the soil that confirmed the presence of petroleum. The city took possession of the property for the purpose of cleanup and redevelopment. After the site is cleaned up, a local developer will build low-income housing on the site.



Accomplishments

The city has completed the site assessment, preliminary cleanup activity, and excavation and removal of a portion of the contaminated soil. To insure the safety of residents, the city installed a chain link fence around the site. The state and the city planned a cleanup strategy for the remaining soil that will be funded by the USTfields Pilot.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) performed soil remediation between July 30 and August 6, 2001. During soil excavation activities, an abandoned heating oil tank was discovered. After this tank is removed by the state, the Illinois EPA contractor will prepare a corrective action completion report.

Challenges

The city pursued the gas station owner in an attempt to recover the costs associated with the site cleanup. This attempt was unsuccessful; therefore, the city took possession of the site.

Until the mid-1980s, most underground storage tanks (USTs) were made of bare steel, which is likely to corrode over time and allow a tank's contents to leak. Faulty installation or inadequate operation and maintenance can also cause tanks to leak. The greatest potential hazard from a leaking underground storage tank is that the petroleum or other hazardous substance can seep into the soil and groundwater, the source of drinking water for nearly half of all Americans. Leaking tanks can present other health and environmental risks, including the potential for fire and explosion.

Partners

- **Chicago Department of Environment**
-Invested time and funds in targeted sites
- **City of Chicago**
-Demolished former service stations and removed USTs
- **Chicago's Abandoned Service Station Management Program**
-Cleaned up over 400 UST sites already
- **State of Illinois Environmental Protection Agency**
-Directed the cleanup of an orphaned tank site in Chicago using USTfields Pilot funds
- **U.S. EPA**
-Designated the State of Illinois as an USTfields Pilot and awarded funds

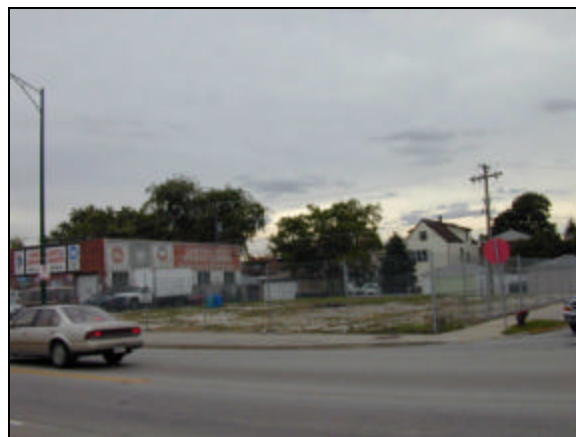
Other Sites

If funds remain following the cleanup of the 2759 West Washington Street site, the following sites are the city's next priorities. In conjunction with the Abandoned Service Station Management Program, the City of Chicago will use any remaining USTfields Pilot funds to clean up abandoned gas stations located at 1335 West 79th Street, 11900 South State Street, 6100 South Morgan Street, and 6200 South Central Street.

The properties on West 79th and South Morgan streets will most likely be turned into greenspace. The South State Street site will be developed into greenspace and a housing development, while the South Central site is a corner lot and will be redeveloped for business use.

Accomplishments

The city has demolished buildings and removed underground storage tanks from these sites. It has also taken protective measures, such as placing a fence around each site to guard residents from unnecessary harm. The city will clean up these sites using USTfields Pilot funds, if available, and is currently planning a site investigation of each property.



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**For more information
about USTfields Pilots, visit
the EPA Web site at
www.epa.gov/oust/ustfield**