

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Underground Storage Tanks And Brownfields Sites

MAINE/Portland

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 Maine will work with several local governments to assess and clean up petroleum contamination at old underground storage tank sites. The cities of Portland, Westbrook, and Lewiston are Brownfields pilot communities with leaking tanks. Portland recently encountered a number of tanks at an abandoned gas station. Westbrook is a small, historic mill town that is struggling with the decline of the lumber, textile, and pulp and paper industries; it will focus on two recently discovered petroleum tanks. Lewiston is a former mill town that has also been affected by the decline of the textile industry. The city would like to assess and clean up petroleum contamination at the Bates Mill Complex. A former gasoline station that operated for more than 40 years is located in another community, the Town of Hiram; the site has been abandoned for 13 years and petroleum contamination exists beneath a road. This site needs to be assessed and cleaned up.

OBJECTIVES

Using USTfields Pilot funds, the state will team with these communities to clean up petroleum contamination at underground storage tank sites. The funds will further Portland's cleanup efforts at its Bayside areas, allow Westbrook to continue with its waterfront cleanup projects, and support Lewiston's efforts to clean up and return its downtown and waterfront to productive use. In Hiram, the local government will combine its USTfields Pilot funds with other local, state, and federal resources to assess and clean up an abandoned service station for reuse as a town park and canoe/kayak launch site on the Saco River.



Applicant Name: State of Maine
Local Partners: Portland, Westbrook, Lewiston, and Hiram
Date of Selection: June 2002
Profile: Maine will work with Portland, Westbrook, Lewiston, and Hiram to remove barriers imposed by petroleum contamination at Brownfields sites.

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