

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



# Underground Storage Tanks And Brownfields Sites

## MONTANA/Billings

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 Montana will partner with the City of Billings to assess several abandoned gas stations with underground storage tanks located in the First Avenue South Corridor. First Avenue South is a main traffic artery, and the sites along it contribute to the degradation of the area, identified by Billings as a focus for redevelopment. The targeted properties border an area that is part of the City of Billings Economic Redevelopment Project, which is currently underway. The city's Brownfields project, the former Pierce Packing Plant, is located near the USTfields Pilot area.

### OBJECTIVES

Using USTfields Pilot funds, Montana will team with the City of Billings to evaluate several abandoned underground storage tank sites along the First Avenue South Corridor. The sites will be ranked, and five will be selected for continued cleanup based on potential human health and environmental threats. The city would like to redevelop the low-income area to contain mixed residential properties and commercial businesses.



**Applicant Name:** State of Montana  
**Local Partner:** City of Billings  
**Date of Selection:** June 2002  
**Profile:** Montana will work with the City of Billings to assess abandoned gasoline stations and implement corrective action on some of the sites in order to restore the land to productive use.

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