

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# Underground Storage Tanks And Brownfields Sites

## NEVADA/Mineral County

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 Nevada and Mineral County will use USTfields Pilot funds to assess and clean up three underground storage tank sites in the downtown area of Hawthorne. Hawthorne is the county seat and is home to the U.S. Army Ammunition Depot. It is on the "gateway" to Yosemite National Park and in the corridor between Reno and Las Vegas. It is a small, rural community that is currently experiencing an economic downturn. At the height of Hawthorne's years supporting government facilities, rapid development created numerous gasoline service stations, a majority of which were abandoned after the scaling back of government operations. Mineral County and the community strongly support the redevelopment of these sites to reverse the negative impact they have on existing and potential businesses in the area. The Downtown Revitalization Committee and the Mineral County Economic Development Authority have already shown their commitment to cleanup efforts with their work to raise funds, find volunteers, and create partnerships. The former Hawthorne Landfill is a Brownfields Site Assessment Pilot.

### OBJECTIVES

Using USTfields Pilot funds, the state will work with Mineral County to assess and clean up several petroleum-impacted sites. The sites can then be marketed to potential investors and developers of retail shops and services that will help diversify the local economy. Successful cleanup of these properties will remove barriers to redevelopment and will serve as a model for other potential tank site cleanups in the State of Nevada.



**Applicant Name:** State of Nevada

**Local Partner:** Mineral County

**Date of Selection:** June 2002

**Profile:** Nevada will work with Mineral County to assess and clean up underground storage tank sites in the downtown area of Hawthorne.

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