

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Underground Storage Tanks And Brownfields Sites

OREGON/Portland

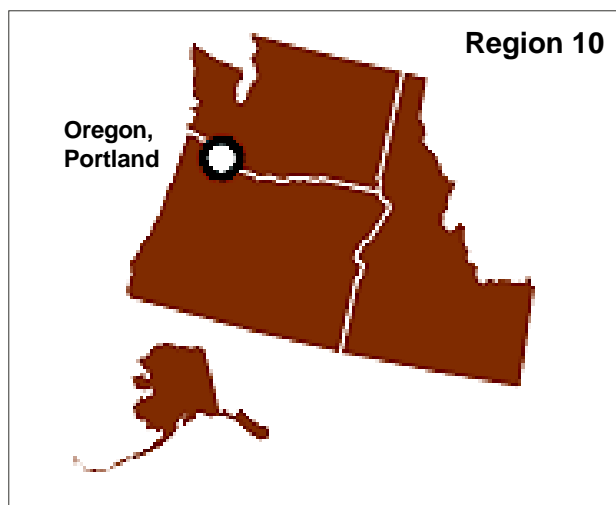
EPA's USTfields Initiative will fund pilots in Brownfields communities to assess and clean up petroleum contamination from federally-regulated underground storage tanks (USTs) at idle or abandoned commercial properties. Petroleum contamination is generally excluded from coverage under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and is not, therefore, covered under EPA's Brownfields Program. In its USTfields Pilot Program, EPA's Office of Underground Storage Tanks (OUST) has selected 10 state/local pilots in which the state will partner with a local area to assess and/or clean up two or more petroleum-impacted underground storage tank sites. Each pilot state will receive up to \$100,000 of LUST Trust funds to be used to assess and clean up the local area sites. This will help to ready them for future reuse.

BACKGROUND

EPA selected the State of Oregon as an USTfields Pilot. Oregon has targeted the City of Portland to partner with in its pilot. Portland is Oregon's oldest and largest industrial, shipping, and commercial center and has the state's highest concentration of brownfields. Because of the numerous brownfields, the city was named a Brownfields Assessment Pilot, a Brownfields Showcase Pilot, and a Revolving Loan Fund Pilot. Brownfields funds will help the city clean up and redevelop several properties in Portland. The progress of the city's redevelopment efforts, however, has been stalled by properties with underground storage tanks and/or petroleum contamination which generally cannot be addressed because of the CERCLA exclusion.

OBJECTIVES

With USTfields pilot funds, the state will work with the city to investigate for MTBE and assess and/or clean up sites with petroleum contamination. Some of the future plans for cleaned up properties include retail shops, a community service center, senior housing units, and a restaurant. Portland's REACH Community Development, Inc., has also proposed building apartments for people with physical disabilities and for low-income residents. Once potential sites are addressed, the city can continue its other redevelopment projects through the Brownfields program.



Applicant Name: Oregon

Local Partner: City of Portland

Date of Selection: October 2000

Profile: The state will work with the city to assess and clean up former petroleum sites to remove environmental barriers to redevelopment.

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

EPA USTfields INITIATIVE

EPA and the state have not yet negotiated the Cooperative Agreement to fund this pilot; therefore, activities are subject to change.