

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



# Underground Storage Tanks And Brownfields Sites

## ILLINOIS/Chicago

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 Illinois as an USTfields Pilot. Under the USTfields pilot, Illinois will work with the City of Chicago, through the city's Abandoned Service Station Management Program, to assess and clean up five abandoned gas stations that are considered a threat to public health and safety and a public nuisance. The locally-funded Abandoned Service Station Management Program was established in 1996 to address the hundreds of abandoned and former service stations in the city. Since then, the program has cleaned up and secured more than 25 sites, though many more sites remain. The City of Chicago is a Brownfields Assessment and Showcase Community as well as a recipient of a Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund grant.

### OBJECTIVES

The state will use USTfields pilot funds to conduct risk-based assessments and cleanups at tank-impacted sites to protect human health and the environment. The USTfields partnership with the city's Abandoned Service Station Management Program will help to secure the safety of residents and foster the revitalization of neighborhoods across the City of Chicago. A few of the proposed uses for cleaned up properties include low-income housing, public green space, and commercial establishments.

#### Region 5



**Applicant Name:** Illinois

**Local Partner:** City of Chicago

**Date of Selection:** October 2000

**Profile:** The state will work with the city to assess and clean up petroleum contamination at former gasoline stations to help remove a barrier to redevelopment.

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