

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Underground Storage Tanks And Brownfields Sites

TEXAS/Houston

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 Texas will work with the City of Houston to assess the need for corrective action at the former W.S. Bellows Construction Equipment Yard site. The petroleum-contaminated property, located in a minority residential neighborhood, is an eyesore and a potential environmental threat to the surrounding communities. Originally, nine underground storage tanks were installed at the site; five tanks have already been removed and the remaining four were filled with drilling mud and abandoned. The site will be cleaned up to be ready for reuse. The City of Houston is a Brownfields Showcase Community.

OBJECTIVES

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission will team with the City of Houston to assess the W.S. Bellows Construction Equipment Yard site and clean up the petroleum contaminaton. After the cleanup, the city will finance the construction and redevelopment of the site into a recreational facility and soccer field for the neighborhood park.



Applicant Name: State of Texas
Local Partner: City of Houston
Date of Selection: June 2002
Profile: Texas and the City of Houston will work together to assess and clean up petroleum contamination from tanks to remove a barrier to redevelopment.

Contacts:
EPA Region 6
Christine Cherrett
(214) 665-7342
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
Rosemary Wyman
(512) 239-2127
For further information, go to www.epa.gov/oust/

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