

# EPA Cleans Up Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Contamination in Indian Country

## Looking for Additional Sites



Since its launch in 2005, EPA’s Indian Country LUST Corrective Action Initiative continues to make significant progress. A team of scientists, engineers and attorneys has worked closely with six tribes to select 22 abandoned LUST sites on tribal lands in EPA’s Pacific Southwest Region for site assessment, cleanup and closure activities. To date, EPA has closed out 15 sites and spent over \$2.5 million of the Federal LUST Trust Fund.



An Underground Storage Tank being lifted from the ground

### New Policy Expands Federal Fund Use for LUST Cleanups

With this initiative, EPA strives to quickly and efficiently clean up the eligible LUST sites in Indian Country. A 2005 policy decision from EPA Headquarters helped kick-start this nationwide effort. For more information about the fund, visit <http://www.epa.gov/oust/ltffacts.htm>.

### Teaming Up with Tribes and Contractors

Over the past two years, EPA’s Pacific Southwest Regional Office and the tribes have worked to determine site eligibility, and to obtain historical preservation and ecological clearances prior to assessing and cleaning up contami-

nated facilities. These tribes include the following:

- Colorado River Indian Tribes
- Gila River Indian Community
- Hopi Tribe
- Navajo Nation
- San Carlos Apache Tribe
- Tohono O’Odham Nation

EPA has used the services of its national UST contractor, Bristol Environmental, a Native Alaskan-owned firm. EPA Headquarters is in the final stages of awarding another five-year contract to continue with these efforts.

### Progress Since Last Year

Since May 2006, EPA and the tribes have

- Obtained approvals for assessment activities at seven sites. These activities include gathering groundwater and soil samples to determine the extent of contamination.
- Completed cleanup activities at six sites, pulling 15 tanks and removing over 500 cubic yards of contaminated soil.
- Begun conducting assessments at six additional sites.

### First Large-Scale Treatment System Activated

One of the notable projects is the treatment system at the Arizona Traders LUST site, a former trading post on the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC). The system began operation in September 2006, and was featured in the February 2007 issue of *LUST Line*, a bulletin published by the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (<http://www.neiwpcc.org/lustline>).



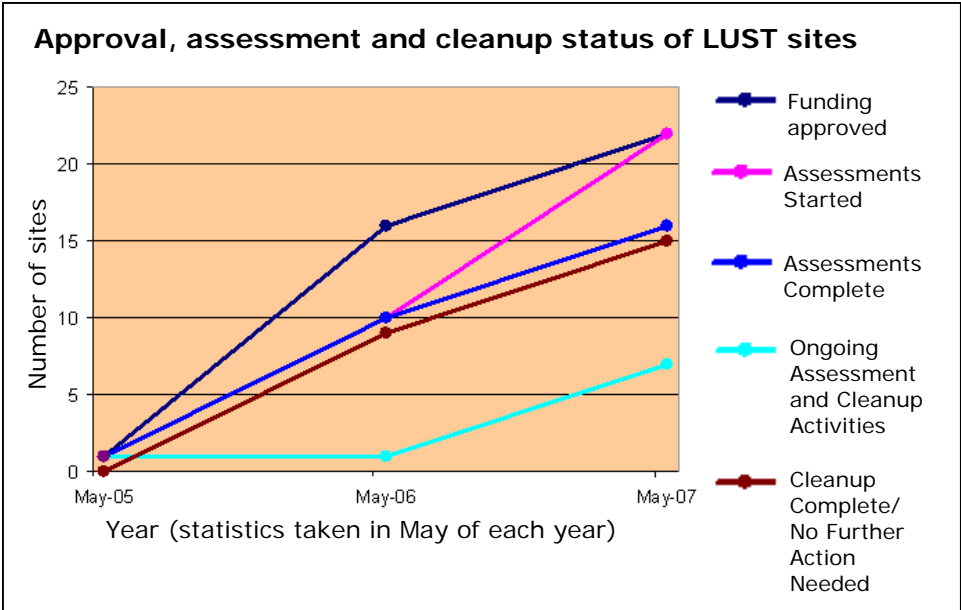
Treatment system startup at the Arizona Traders site on Gila River Indian Community: Reuben Guerrero Jr., Congressional District Aide (left); and Jennifer Allison-Ray, GRIC Lieutenant Governor

### Pursuing Additional Sites

EPA will continue working with tribes to select additional sites for assessment and cleanup. Input and information regarding potential eligible sites is highly valued and important to continue the success of this project.

### If you have questions or would like to share information concerning tribal sites:

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## Questions or Concerns?

Contact the EPA Region 9 Underground Storage Tank Program Office (USTPO)

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**On the web:**  
[www.epa.gov/region09/waste/ust/ustcleanup.html](http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/ust/ustcleanup.html)

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