North Pole, Alaska
Fairbanks North Star Borough

Total Recovery Act Investment – $239,000

Jobs Created By Recovery Act – Environmental contractors, remediation equipment supply businesses, excavation companies, testing laboratories, hauling companies, and landfill operators will be employed during this underground storage tank cleanup.

Community Background
In October 2009, work began at the Badger Chevron site in North Pole, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Alaska to characterize the site, replace monitoring wells, evaluate the current soil vapor extraction system, and evaluate other remedial alternatives. This cleanup may have stalled indefinitely without the infusion of Recovery Act money. The site currently operates as a Tesoro retail fuel sales and service station.

Previously, the site had six underground storage tanks, some of which leaked over an unknown period of time. When the six tanks were removed in the early 1990s, tests revealed extensive petroleum contamination in soil and groundwater, which remains today. Chlorinated solvents from an unknown source also contaminated the groundwater. Although a soil vapor extraction system was installed, it did not operate for some time due to financial issues. Contaminant levels in the groundwater remain quite high. Residents in the area depend on private drinking water wells; however, their wells have been tested and so far are not affected.

Approximately 2,200 people live in North Pole, a small Interior Alaska town that is comprised of 4.2 square miles. It is approximately 14 miles southeast of Fairbanks. North Pole is presently renowned as the "home of Santa Claus". Children all over the world mail letters to the North Pole at Christmas each year.

Recovery Overview
EPA provided Alaska's Department of Environmental Conservation with almost $1 million to assess and clean up contamination released from federally-regulated underground storage tanks. Alaska identified for investigation 15 known or suspected orphan sites where underground storage tanks may have leaked, impacting soils and groundwater.

Protecting Our Environment
Cleaning up the Badger Chevron site is an important step in removing petroleum contamination from the North Pole's groundwater. Because residents in this area depend on private drinking

water wells, it is especially important to address this petroleum contamination to ensure their wells remain safe.

Protecting Our Health
Cleaning up underground storage tank releases protects human health and our environment. Underground storage tanks are a leading source of groundwater contamination in our country. Even a small amount of petroleum can contaminate groundwater, the source of drinking water for nearly half of all Americans and 99 percent of citizens in rural areas.

For More Information
Alaska LUST Recovery Act Program
Alaska LUST Program
EPA Region 10 UST-LUST Program

Installing remediation system piping in North Pole, AK

Installing soil borings at site in North Pole, AK