Osceola, Arkansas
Mississippi County

Total Recovery Act Investment – $560,465

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 January 2010, Ops Contracting Services, LLC of Memphis began work at the former Godsey's Exxon site in Osceola, Mississippi County, Arkansas. The site is adjacent to a strip mall and near other commercial buildings. Cleanup work includes excavating and disposing of approximately 3,600 cubic yards of contaminated soil lying beneath a parking lot, installing dual-phase and soil-vapor extraction systems, and reconstructing the area with clean fill. Workers will be employed at this site for approximately six months and will continue monitoring the site for about four years.

A 1992 flash fire of vapors at an adjacent strip mall brought the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality's attention to a 6,000 gallon gasoline release from an underground storage tank at Godsey's Exxon gas station. Arkansas's Petroleum Storage Tank Fund paid for a portion of contaminated soil clean up and extraction work, but the work exhausted the maximum amount of money available from the fund for this site. In 2001, the gas station owner filed for bankruptcy. A 2004 site assessment revealed persistent soil contamination and a chronic, human health exposure to vapor intrusion into the adjacent, occupied commercial strip mall. In October 2009, a corrective plan was approved for the cleanup work being paid for with Recovery Act money.

More than 7,900 people live in Osceola, which is comprised of 7.81 square miles. Osceola is about 40 miles north of Memphis.

Recovery Overview
EPA provided Arkansas's Department of Environmental Quality with $1.672 million to assess and clean up contamination released from federally-regulated underground storage tanks. This Recovery Act money is providing Arkansas with much-needed financial assistance to respond to petroleum releases from underground storage tanks where tank owners are unknown, or are unwilling or financially unable to take the necessary corrective actions themselves. The money is being used under state-lead contracts to perform site assessments, environmental sampling, cleanup and oversight activities as needed to adequately address the project sites in Arkansas.

Protecting Our Environment
Cleaning up the former Godsey's Exxon gas station will remove persistent soil contamination and a chronic, human health exposure to vapor instruction in the adjacent, occupied commercial strip mall.

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
Arkansas UST-LUST Program
EPA Region 6 UST Program

LUST Recovery Act money is cleaning up a site in Osceola, AR