



Superfund Redevelopment Pilots

**Wells G & H
Woburn, MA**

EPA's Superfund Redevelopment Initiative (SRI) is a nationally coordinated effort to facilitate the return of Superfund sites to productive use by selecting response actions consistent with anticipated use. The SRI Pilots are intended to help local governments enhance their involvement in the Superfund decision-making process by assisting EPA in predicting future land uses for Superfund sites. Under the Pilot Program, EPA will provide up to \$100,000 in financial assistance and/or services to local governments for specified activities. Applicants are offered several types of program assistance, including funding through a cooperative agreement, access to facilitation services, and/or the availability of personnel under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA).

BACKGROUND

EPA selected the City of Woburn, Massachusetts, for a Superfund Redevelopment Pilot. Woburn is home to the Wells G & H Superfund site. Wells G & H were two municipal wells built in 1964 and 1967 to supplement the city's water supply. The wells supplied 30 percent of the city's drinking water. In 1979, city police discovered several 55-gallon drums of industrial waste on a vacant lot near the wells. These drums were removed, and the nearby Wells G & H were tested and found to be contaminated with volatile organic chemicals. Both wells were shut down in 1979. The site received national attention in the 1980s when several potentially responsible parties settled with plaintiffs representing six families whose children had died of leukemia, allegedly caused by drinking the contaminated well water. In September 1983, EPA added the site to its list of hazardous waste sites needing cleanup. In the late 1990s, this story again was brought into the public limelight through the book and major motion picture, *A Civil Action*.

OBJECTIVES

The City of Woburn plans to use Pilot funds to develop a reuse plan to help determine reasonable future uses for the municipal parcels and adjacent properties affected by contamination from the site. Also, the city will involve the community and other stakeholders in the reuse decision-making process, including developing a land-use plan and participating in city-sponsored and EPA public meetings.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Applicant Name: Woburn, MA

Site Name: Wells G & H

Date of Selection: July 2000

Anticipated Award: Cooperative Agreement (\$100,000)

Profile: The city will involve the community in developing a plan for future uses for the site.

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