

LE MARS COAL GAS SUPERFUND SITE

STATE PROGRAM: Iowa Department of Natural Resources

ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT: City of Le Mars

ASSISTANCE AMOUNT: \$1.5M

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Located at the site of a former manufactured gas plant and distribution system constructed by the Le Mars Gas Light Company, the 1.6 acre Le Mars Coal Gas Superfund site was contaminated by elevated VOCs, SVOCs, and cyanide, among other soil and groundwater contaminants. EPA identified remediation activities necessary to remove the human health and groundwater threat posed by the site. The activities included underground storage tank removal, excavation to remove on-site soil contaminants, off-site thermal treatment of highly contaminated soil, off-site disposal of nonhazardous soil and debris, air monitoring during the removal, and backfill with clean soil and site restoration. The most recent property owners, MidAmerican Energy (formerly Iowa Public Service Company) and the City of Le Mars, paid a total of \$4.6 million to EPA for response costs, which included all costs EPA incurred to clean up the site including the legal fees of the consent decree. The CWSRF provided a \$1.5 million loan at 3% interest to the City of Le Mars for their portion of the remediation.

To read more about this case study, please visit https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2018-09/documents/cwsrf_brownfields_superfund_case_studies.pdf.