

Celebrating 10 Years of Returning Superfund Sites to Beneficial Use



REGION 8 Success Story

Midvale Slag: Midvale, Utah



EPA has been working with the Midvale community to return the Midvale Slag Superfund site to beneficial use since 1999. Once home to five smelters, the site is now becoming a large-scale, commercial, recreational, and residential development. The Superfund Redevelopment Initiative (SRI) worked with the Region to help make this transformation possible, awarding a Pilot grant in 1999, highlighting the site as a 2006 Return to Use demonstration project and providing a Ready for Reuse determination in 2008.

The 446-acre site is located about 12 miles south of Salt Lake City in Midvale, Utah. Smelting activities began in 1871 and continued until the last smelter closed in 1958. Studies initiated in 1984 found that ground water and soil were contaminated with heavy metals. In 1990, EPA initiated cleanup actions to excavate and remove contaminated soils from the site, including residential yards, and put clean soil in its place. Though ground water remediation is on-going, the cleanup remedy is complete.

Midvale Slag, along with its sister site, Sharon Steel, comprise the majority of the City of Midvale's available land for expansion. The sites present unique opportunities to create a sustainable community in the heart of Midvale, a rapidly growing bedroom community of Salt Lake City. EPA worked with site stakeholders to develop a reuse plan entitled the Bingham Junction Reuse Assessment and Master Plan. Redevelopment of the site into Bingham Junction is underway, and families began moving into new condominiums in 2008. The restored riparian border of the Jordan River will be a linear City park with trails linking up with the Greater Salt lake area trail system. Additionally, Utah Transit Authority has begun construction of a light commuter rail through the site, allowing for further transit-oriented development.

“The key to our progress redeveloping this site is very good communication between EPA, the local government, and the Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) and stakeholder groups. We had to work together to make this happen, and everyone plays an important part. Among other things, the City makes sure the ICs [Institutional Controls] are enforced; construction folks are always available on-site to report any issues; EPA is very responsive to our needs. We all know what the ICs are because we developed them together.” – Midvale stakeholder

“Today, I don't think the general public even knows that this is Superfund site. To me this means the right remedy was chosen, that the site was cleaned up appropriately.” – Midvale stakeholder

For more information, please contact **Melissa Friedland**, at friedland.melissa@epa.gov, or **Frank Avvisato**, at avvisato.frank@epa.gov.