



## Millvale Borough Property Acquisition

### Full Mitigation Best Practice Story

#### *Allegheny County, Pennsylvania*

**Millvale Borough, PA** - During a period of extremely heavy snowfall and rains in March of 1994, occupants of Millvale Borough complained of feeling movement in their homes.

Inspection showed evidence that earth movement had occurred over many years. Signs of recent earth movement in a grassy area behind one of the homes resulted in an evacuation order. Eventually, this earth movement resulted in a broken sanitary sewer line that polluted the groundwater.



The following month, additional earth movement occurred again, causing severe undermining of tree root systems in the area. It was obvious that the condition was worsening. Residents of three more properties were advised to evacuate.

The Borough of Millvale decided to acquire 12 properties, three of which had been demolished during the disaster. After purchase, the remaining nine buildings were demolished; all fill and failure materials were then removed from the site. Finally the slope was stabilized, and ground cover added to prevent a recurrence.

The stabilization of the slope will protect residents of the surrounding area from further erosion damage. Capping the sanitary sewer line prevents sewerage from seeping into the ground water. The cost of utilizing emergency personnel for evacuation and rescue is avoided, as well as the disruption to the lives of residents in this community.

#### Activity/Project Location

Geographical Area: **Single County in a State**

FEMA Region: **Region III**

State: **Pennsylvania**

County: **Allegheny County**

City/Community: **Millvale**

## Key Activity/Project Information

Sector: **Public**  
Hazard Type: **Flooding**  
Activity/Project Type: **Acquisition/Buyouts**  
Structure Type: **Wood Frame**  
Activity/Project Start Date: **08/1998**  
Activity/Project End Date: **Ongoing**  
Funding Source: **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP); Local Sources**  
Funding Recipient: **Local Government**  
Funding Recipient Name: **Borough of Millvale**

## Activity/Project Economic Analysis

Cost: **\$924,000.00 (Estimated)**

## Activity/Project Disaster Information

Mitigation Resulted From Federal  
Disaster? **Yes**  
Federal Disaster #: **1015 , 03/10/1994**  
Value Tested By Disaster? **No**  
Repetitive Loss Property? **Unknown**

## Reference URLs

Reference URL 1: <http://www.fema.gov/>  
Reference URL 2: <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/emergency/response/default.htm>

## Main Points

- Signs of recent earth movement in a grassy area behind one of the homes resulted in an evacuation order. Eventually, this earth movement resulted in a broken sanitary sewer line that polluted the groundwater.
- The Borough of Millvale decided to acquire 12 properties, three of which had been demolished during the disaster.
- The stabilization of the slope will protect residents of the surrounding area from further erosion damage. Capping the sanitary sewer line prevents sewerage from seeping into the ground water.