RIDEM
Office of Waste Management
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Going green!

Send your e-mail address to tank.talk@dem.ri.gov to receive your copy of *Tank Talk* electronically!

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/waste/topictan.htm

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Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Waste Management

Tank Talk

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UST Management Program readies for high-tech future

Thanks to a federal grant, Underground Storage Tank Management Program inspectors in the field will soon set aside their clipboards in favor of state-of-the-art electronic tablets.

Inspectors will use the tablets to record field observations during UST system installations and upgrades, periodic inspections, and closures. The tablets will interact with the UST Program's database and will automatically generate site-specific inspection reports, closure approval letters, closure certificates, and other documentation.

"Customer service is a top priority, and we are always working to make our program more efficient," states Kevin Gillen, UST Program supervisor.

UST personnel began field testing the tablets in November 2013. Sofia Kaczor, a principal scientist with the UST Program, spearheaded the project.

"A lot of staff effort has been invested to set up this project," explains Kaczor, "but the benefits that DEM and our customers will reap will be ten-fold."

According to Kaczor, deployment of the live program is imminent.

This photo depicts a soil sample collected from beneath a 550-gallon fuel oil UST that was closed in place at a commercial property. Closures in place require the laboratory analysis of soil samples and often require supplemental investigations.

Thank you!

Thank you to our readers for responding so enthusiastically to our inaugural issue of ***Tank Talk***. We appreciate the feedback and, as always, welcome story ideas for upcoming issues. Please address your comments and suggestions to us at tank.talk@dem.ri.gov.

Countdown

1,392

days remain between March 1, 2014 and Dec. 22, 2017, the deadline for the permanent closure of most single-walled federally regulated UST systems.

Fast Fact

The greatest threat from a leaking UST is that its contents can seep into the soil and contaminate groundwater, the source of drinking water for nearly half of all Americans. The United States Environmental Protection Agency created the Office of Underground Storage Tanks in 1985 in response to a congressional mandate to develop and implement a regulatory program for UST systems.

Next Issue

Be sure to check out the May issue of ***Tank Talk*** in which we will introduce Tank Dawg, the UST team's newest member!

Bradford Kendall Illustrations, Inc.

Assessing the situation

Certain UST closures require the completion of a closure assessment while the decommissioning of the UST system is underway.

The goal of a closure assessment is to determine if a release from the UST system has occurred. This is done by measuring for potential releases in the locations where they are most likely to occur.

The UST Closure Assessment Matrix below lists the applicability of closure assessment requirements in the absence of a suspected release. Note that if a release is suspected, the exemptions listed below are void and an assessment is required (along with program notification), regardless of tank size, tank contents and property use.

The fuel oil UST shown in the photograph to the left demonstrates the poor condition in which many USTs are found. Corrosion and holes are easily observed, with pitting visible on closer inspection. Based on the condition of the tank and the presence of stained soils, RIDEM required a closure assessment for this UST.

Assessments must be completed by persons of appropriate professional qualifications who are employed by a firm independent of the UST facility owner. Qualified individuals include registered professional engineers, certified professional geologists and registered professional geologists.

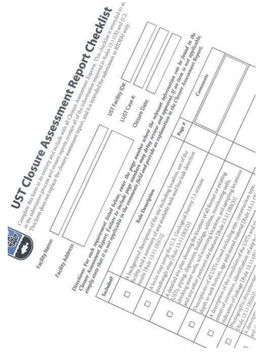
A *Closure Assessment Report* detailing closure-related activities must be submitted to the UST Management Program within 30 days of the closure. The report must include a description of the site; locus and site plans; descriptions of all USTs; photographs of the tanks; a description of soil conditions, contamination and soil management; groundwater characterization; a discussion on potential environmental receptors; tank, sludge and soil disposal details; the consultant's conclusions relative to contamination at the site; certifications by the consultant and tank owner; and the newly developed closure assessment report checklist.

For more information on closure assessment requirements, visit the web address shown at the bottom of this page.

UST Closure Assessment Matrix

Tank Size	Contents	Property Use	Closure Assessment Required per Rule 13.11?
Any size	Heating Oil	Residential or farm (consumed on-site)	No
Any size	Heating Oil	Commercial (consumed on-site)	No
Any size	Motor fuels (e.g. diesel, gasoline)	Commercial	Yes
<1,100 gallon	Motor fuels (e.g. diesel, gasoline)	Residential or farm (consumed on-site)	No
≥1,100 gallon	Motor fuels (e.g. diesel, gasoline)	Residential or farm	Yes
Any size	Hazardous materials (waste oil, solvents, etc.)	Any property	Yes

UST Program updates closure assessment guidance



The UST Management Program recently revised the *UST Management Program Closure Assessment Guidelines*. Revisions to this document include the following:

- The creation of a closure assessment checklist that itemizes the *Closure Assessment Report* requirements specified in Rule 13.11.
- Inclusion of the closure assessment checklist as an attachment to the *Closure Assessment Report*.
- Revised language to match the language of Rule 13.11 (C)(1). Rule 13.11(C)(1) requires that environmental consultants possess specific credentials.

The closure assessment checklist will benefit tank owners by providing their environmental consultants with an easy-to-use resource to guide report preparation. Further, inclusion of the checklist as an attachment to the *Closure Assessment Report* will streamline the UST Program's report review process.

These updates will minimize the time and paperwork required to review each site administered through the UST Program. Anyone with questions on the updated guidance should contact the UST Program for more information.

http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/waste/pdf/clsrasmt.pdf

On the road with Greg and Ted

Earlier this winter ***Tank Talk*** followed UST Program Inspectors Theodore Peters and Greg Yekhitikian while they visited a UST facility upgrade at the West Greenwich Travel Center located off Exit 5 along Interstate 95 in West Greenwich. As shown below, upgrades at the facility included the installation of a diesel tank, piping, sumps and dispenser units.

During calendar year 2013, UST Program inspectors oversaw the installation of 10 new facilities, piping upgrades at eight facilities, and cathodic protection upgrades at two facilities. Inspectors also completed more than 200 compliance inspections at active facilities and monitored the closures of more than 190 tanks.

Gregory Yekhtikian (center), Theodore Peters (right) and Chris Swanson of Rhode Island Hydraulics discuss a site plan detailing upgrades to the Travel Center UST facility.

Upgrades at the Travel Center facility included the installation of a diesel tank, piping, sumps and dispenser units.

Plumbing observed within a newly installed sump. Storm water collecting in the sump during construction is removed before the sump goes into service.

Theodore Peters reviews his notes while inspecting UST system components.