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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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.

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.”
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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.

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!
Assessing the situation

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.

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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, location and site plans; descriptions of all UST components of the tank; 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.

Further, inclusion of the checklist as an attachment to the Closure Assessment Report.

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 benefittank owners by providing their environmental consultants with an easy-to-use resource to guide report preparation.

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.


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