

# Tank Talk



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 NOVEMBER 2013

## UST Management Program introduces newsletter

The Underground Storage Tank Management Program of the Office of Waste Management is pleased to introduce *Tank Talk*, a forum for providing pertinent and timely information to our customers.

### Who are our customers?

Our customers include people who deal with USTs located at service stations, municipalities, commercial properties and state facilities; certain homeowners with USTs; tank-removal contractors; installers; and environmental consultants.

Our regulation is the basis for much of the information presented in this newsletter. Entitled the "Rules and Regulations for Underground Storage Facilities Used for Petroleum Products and Hazardous Materials," the abbreviated "UST Regulations" is used interchangeably.

Topics presented in this and future issues will include:

- Program information
- Statistics
- Regulatory changes
- Our staff
- Interesting sites
- General interest items

"I'm excited to see this first newsletter published, which is a credit to the ini-

tiative of project managers and staff in the UST Program," stated Leo Hellested, Chief of the Office of Waste Management. "It's a fantastic way to keep the public up to date."

We hope that you find this newsletter useful. We welcome your feedback, which you may submit by e-mail to [angela.harvey@dem.ri.gov](mailto:angela.harvey@dem.ri.gov).



**Fill'er up: The features of the gasoline pump depicted in this photograph suggest that the pump is of 1950s vintage.**

## Single-walled systems to be eliminated

Except for those USTs exempted in Rule 8.01 of the *UST Regulations*, all UST systems that lack secondary containment must be retired in accordance with the following schedule:

(A) Single-walled tanks and/or piping installed before May 8, 1985 must

be permanently closed by Dec. 22, 2017.

(B) Single-walled tanks and/or piping installed between May 8, 1985 and July 20, 1992 must be permanently closed within 32 years of the date of installation.

Rule 8.01 exempts UST systems that store heating oil consumed on-site solely

for heating purposes. These systems may remain in place while they remain in use but must be properly closed once permanently out of service.

For information on the closure application process, refer to the article entitled "Finding Closure" on Page 2 of this newsletter.

### Fast Facts

Approximately 581,000 USTs are in use nationwide for the storage of petroleum or hazardous substances.

### Stats

UST Management Program compliance inspectors visited 210 UST facilities between Oct. 1, 2012 and Sept. 30, 2013.

**82%**  
were compliant with release prevention requirements.

**69%**  
were compliant with release detection requirements.

**65%**  
were compliant with both requirements.

### Next Issue

- Ride along with a compliance inspector
- UST Review Board funding explained

# Finding closure

## So, you want to remove a tank...

USTs regulated by the UST Management Program are subject to certain closure requirements. These requirements include the submittal of an application for closure to the UST Management Program. The following paragraphs summarize the application process.

**Step 1:** Determine if the tank is regulated. If the tank is a residential tank (UST storing heating oil consumed at a one-, two-, or three-family dwelling) with a capacity of less than 1,100 gallons, it is not regulated under the UST Management Program. Otherwise, most USTs that store hazardous materials or petroleum products fall under our jurisdiction.

**Step 2:** Select a tank removal contractor and, if required, an environmental consultant. An environmental consultant is required

to oversee closures of regulated USTs storing hazardous materials. Closures of heating oil tanks do not require the oversight of an environmental consultant unless a release or evidence of a release is observed while the closure is underway.

**Step 3.** Fill out a *Permanent Closure Application for Underground Storage Tanks*. This form is available on-line at the link at the bottom of this article. Information required includes information about the UST facility and technical information as to how the closure will be completed. Tank removal contractors generally assist with the completion of this form. The tank owner's signature is required on the form, as is the signature of the local fire official.

**Step 4:** Submit the application, along with associ-

ated fees, to the Office of Management Services for initial processing, after which it is forwarded to the UST Management Program. It can take two business days for the application to reach the UST Management Program; thus, we ask that inquiries as to the status of an application be held for three business days. In most cases, you will hear

from us first. After reviewing the application, we will call the contact identified on the form, either for more information (if missing from the application) or to schedule a closure date. We do our best to accommodate requested dates, with most closures scheduled within three weeks of approving the application.

### To fee, or not to fee

The *Permanent Closure Application for Underground Storage Tanks* application process includes submittal of a closure fee, along with any outstanding annual registration fees. These fees, which are assessed per tank, are as follows:

Closure fee (all tanks):	\$75/tank
Registration (residential 1 to 3-family)	No fee
Registration (municipalities and farms)	No fee
Registration (all others)	\$75/tank/year

Fees for abandoned tanks are assessed as above, with registration fees assessed for one year only.

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/waste/pdf/ustclosr.pdf>

## Operator certification requirements explained

All UST facilities are required to have operators that are certified according to Rule 8.22 of the *UST Regulations*.

The *UST Regulations* require that all Class A and Class B operators pass an open-book exam administered by the International Code Council to be considered certified in Rhode Island.

If you originally submitted a non-ICC certification from another state, you must submit your Rhode Island ICC certification to RIDEM within one year of the date of your

original non-ICC certification to remain in compliance with the *UST Regulations*. Rhode Island recognizes an ICC certification from another New England state for five years provided that the UST facility remains in compliance with the *UST Regulations* for the duration of that period.

The ICC certification exam for Rhode Island UST facility operators is offered at Pearson Vue testing centers located in East Providence and Warwick, as well as ICC testing centers located in Massa-

chusetts and Connecticut.

Visit the RIDEM UST Operator Certification website at the web address shown below for information on registration requirements, study materials and important forms. The website also offers information on training workshops and an on-line workshop video to assist you in preparing for the ICC exam.

For more information, contact Jillian Thompson at (401) 222-2797, extension 7031.

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/waste/usttrain.htm>

All Class A and Class B operators must pass an open-book exam administered by the ICC to be considered certified in Rhode Island.

# Meet our interns

This summer RIDEM's Office of Waste Management welcomed four interns representing four colleges and three majors.

Joining OWM were Mariela Lemus, Nicholas Noons, Kyle Dubuc and Matthew Muto. Mariela, as a seasonal clerical aide, spent much of her time assisting the Waste Facility Management Program with permit renewals, compliance issues, mailings, and serving as the primary contact for problems and questions related to the programs. She also assisted with administrative activities throughout the OWM.

"Mariela's work was instrumental in getting the 2013 hazardous, medical, and septage transporter permits issued on time," says Alyson Brunelli of the Waste Facility Management Program. "In addition, Mariela personally called approximately 1,100 companies in an effort to collect contact information for businesses with 50 to 100 employees. This project enabled us to bring hundreds of companies into compliance with the Rhode

**Kyle Dubuc**  
 Seasonal Technical Support Intern  
 Hometown: East Greenwich, R.I.  
 School: Assumption College, Class of 2014  
 Major: environmental science with a concentration in environmental policy



Island Annual Recycling Report."

Nick, Kyle and Matt worked as seasonal technical support interns for all OWM divisions, assisting with routine UST inspections and closures, inspections to verify compliance with Environmental Land Use Restrictions, and other field assignments. They also assisted with various administrative projects.

"Nick, Matt, and Kyle were the ideal interns," states Jillian Thompson of the UST Management Program. "They were enthusiastic about their work, asked great questions, and thoroughly completed every project they were given."

"From research groups to government entities to consulting firms, engineers and scientists must often collaborate to solve an abundance of environmental problems," Jillian continues. "These three proved that they have the ability to thrive in that teamwork setting. They accomplished so much for the Office of Waste Management this summer and we are very grateful for their help."

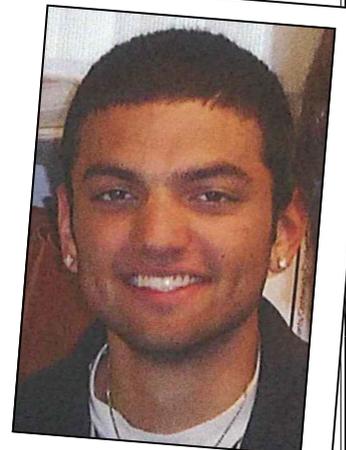
**Mariela Lemus**  
 Seasonal Clerical Aide  
 Hometown: Warwick, R.I.  
 School: Hamline University, Class of 2015  
 Major: creative writing, Music minor



**Nicholas Noons**  
 Seasonal Technical Support Intern  
 Hometown: North Dighton, Mass.  
 School: Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Class of 2014  
 Major: environmental engineering



**Matthew Muto**  
 Seasonal Technical Support Intern  
 Hometown: Exeter, R.I.  
 School: University of Rhode Island, Class of 2014  
 Major: environmental science





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## Going green!

Send us your e-mail address  
to receive your copy of  
*Tank Talk* electronically!

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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

## CONTACTS

*Comments or questions on the following may be directed to the individuals listed below:*

Closure applications and *Tank Talk* :

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Operator certification:

Jillian Thompson (401) 222-2797 ext. 7031 [jillian.thompson@dem.ri.gov](mailto:jillian.thompson@dem.ri.gov)

Registration invoices and tank tightness testers licensing:

Leslie Gerundio (401) 222-2797 ext. 7524 [leslie.gerundio@dem.ri.gov](mailto:leslie.gerundio@dem.ri.gov)

Rhode Island UST Review Board:

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Environmental Results Program:

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General information:

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