

## Fact Sheet:

# Single-Wall Closure Deadline



### The basics:

- All federally-regulated single-walled underground storage tanks (USTs) and single-walled product pipelines installed prior to May 8th, 1985 are required to be permanently closed and removed prior to December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017
- All federally-regulated single-walled underground storage tanks (USTs) and single-walled product pipelines installed between May 9th, 1985—July 20th, 1992 are required to be permanently closed and removed within 32 years of the date of installation
- If the interstitial space of double-walled product pipelines was unable to be tested and a single-walled variance request was granted by DEM, the piping is required to be removed prior to December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017
- This requirement applies to all single-walled USTs or product pipelines which contain, or are used for, gasoline, diesel, kerosene, jet fuel, or any heating fuel intended for distribution
- This requirement **DOES NOT** apply to systems storing heating oil that is used solely on-site for heating purposes that are less than <1,100 gallons (e.g., typical home heating oil systems)

### How do I remove a UST?

- All UST and product piping must be removed with oversight from DEM, and in most cases a Closure Assessment Report will be required and must be conducted by a qualified Environmental Consultant
- A completed Permanent Closure Application must be submitted at least 4 weeks in advance of the anticipated closure date. An electronic version of this form with instructions is available on our website at: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/waste/pdf/ustclosr.pdf>. In most cases, the contractor can fill this out on behalf of the owner
- For more information on removing a UST or piping system, contact Frank Vogel at (401) 222-2797 extension 7522 or via email at [frank.vogel@dem.ri.gov](mailto:frank.vogel@dem.ri.gov)

### When did this happen?

- This requirement was included in the 2002, 2005, 2007, 2008 and 2011 revisions of the Rules and Regulations for Underground Storage Facilities Used for Petroleum and Hazardous Materials, and is also required by Rhode Island General Law (RIGL) § 46-12-3, section 21

### Why is this happening?

- Single-walled USTs and product piping have no protection against the release of hazardous materials in the event of damage, excessive wear, corrosion, or age-related failures and have been banned from installation since 1992
- A disproportionately high percentage of hazardous materials releases to the environment are the result of single-walled UST or product piping failure

### When should I do it?

- As soon as possible! As the deadline gets closer, costs are likely to rise due to increased demand for contractors and consultants and you may have less flexibility
- There are a limited number of qualified companies that are able to perform UST closures and Closure Assessments, and their availability may become limited as the deadline approaches. If you wait until the last minute, you may not be able to find someone able to perform the work before the deadline
- Keep in mind that all single-walled components must be removed **PRIOR** to the deadline or you may be subject to financial penalties or other enforcement action

### Can I replace my system?

- New double-walled USTs and product piping can usually be installed at the same time the single-walled system is being removed, however this depends on many factors. For more information about the installation of new tanks, Contact Greg Yekhtikian at (401) 222-2797 extension 7521 or via email at [gregory.yekhtikian@dem.ri.gov](mailto:gregory.yekhtikian@dem.ri.gov)

### What if I do nothing?

- DEM has no plans to issue waivers, variances, or extensions to this deadline
- The owner(s) of any single-walled UST, UST system, or product piping required to be permanently closed may be subject to financial penalties or other administrative enforcement action if the components are not removed by the deadline
- Any single-wall UST system that is not closed by the deadline will become ineligible for the UST Reimbursement Fund and the owners may be liable for 100% of clean-up and remediation costs