

Closure Requirements for UST Systems

When closing a UST system, either temporarily, or permanently, the first thing owners and operators must do is to notify PSTB. The notification must be submitted at least 30 days before closing activities start or within another reasonable time frame if approved in writing by the Bureau. Also, the notification can be either oral or in writing.

If owners and operators of a UST system who want to bring their system back into service from temporary closure are required to give a 30-day notice. The notice must be given at least 30 days before placing a regulated substance into the tank. Also, it is required that before a regulated substance is placed into a UST system that has been empty and in temporary closure its integrity must be checked.

At a minimum, the 30-day notices mentioned previously must contain the following:

- 1) Facility name, facility ID number, address, and telephone number.
- 2) Owner name, owner ID number, address, and telephone number.
- 3) Change in status of UST system (Are you going to close the UST system, or is this a change-in-service?).
- 4) Expected date closure or change in status will occur, along with the date the form is completed.
- 5) Signature of the owner or his authorized representative.

During the closing of UST systems owners and operators shall give PSTB staff an opportunity to be present. There are important activities that occur during the closing of UST system which are termed "critical junctures." Owners and operators must give PSTB staff 24-hour notice before any critical juncture begins.

Critical Junctures

- 1) Completion of the excavation of the UST and piping.
- 2) Rendering the tank inert.
- 3) Cleaning the shell of the tank.
- 4) Removal of the UST or its associated piping from the ground.
- 5) Closing or filling a UST in place.
- 6) Assessment of the tank site for contamination by regulated substances.

Temporary Closure

Owners and operators who wish to stop operating their UST system on a temporary basis can do so as long as they do the following:

- 1) Notify PSTB 30 days in advance of the temporary closure.
- 2) Maintain corrosion protection such as impressed current systems to include 60-day monitoring just as if the UST system is in operation.
- 3) Remove regulated substances from UST to a level of one inch or less, but if you cannot do this you must continue using a method of release detection.
- 4) If the UST system does not meet the performance requirements in Part 4 of 20.5 NMAC it must be permanently closed 12 months after being placed into temporary closure.

Change-in-Service

A change-in-service of a UST system is where the system will no longer be used to store substances regulated under 20.5 NMAC. A change-in-service

could be taking a UST that once held gasoline and using it to hold storm water. A change-in-service will require a 30-day notice be submitted to the Bureau. The UST will be emptied and cleaned by removing all liquid and accumulated sludge before placing a non-regulated substance in the tank. Also, during a change-in-service owners and operators will assess the site for possible contamination by taking soil samples for laboratory analysis where contamination is most likely to have occurred.

Permanent Closure

Owners and operators who wish to stop operating their UST systems permanently must perform the following:

- 1) Notify PSTB 30 days before the start of any closure activities.
- 2) Empty the tank and associated piping of all regulated substances.
- 3) Inert the tank.
- 4) Remove the tank and associated piping or fill the tank with an inert material in accordance with industry codes and standards.
- 5) Assess the site for possible contamination at all places where contamination is likely to occur.
- 6) Provide PSTB with a copy of the site assessment report.

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Closure Requirements for Underground Storage Tank Systems



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