New Requirements for Tanks

All new tanks installed within 1,000 feet of an existing community water system or any potable drinking water well must have secondary containment and monitored for leaks.

New Requirements for Pipes

All new piping installed within 1,000 feet of an existing community water system or any potable drinking water well must have secondary containment and monitored for leaks and must include under dispenser sumps.

New Requirements for Existing Pipes

If over 25 feet of existing piping, located within 1,000 feet of an existing community water system or potable drinking water well is replaced after January 1, 2009, then the entire pipe run must have secondary containment and must include under dispenser sumps. Replaced systems must be designed, constructed and installed to allow for proper leak detection.
Underground Storage Tanks Defined

Underground storage tank is defined as any one or combination of tanks that (1) is used to contain an accumulation of “regulated substances,” and (2) whose volume (including connected underground piping) is 10% or more beneath the ground. Some examples are underground tanks storing: 1. gasoline, used oil or diesel fuel, and 2. industrial solvents, pesticides, herbicides or fumigants.

What Tanks Are Excluded?

1- farm or residential tanks of 1100 gallons or less capacity used for storing motor fuel for noncommercial purposes; 2- tanks used for storing heating oil for consumptive use on the premises where store.

Protection against Release

Spill Protection: USTs must have catchment basins to contain spills. Catchment basins are also called "spill containment manholes" or "spill buckets." Basically, a catchment basin is a bucket sealed around the fill pipe.

Overfill Protection: USTs must have overfill protection devices to protect the tank from overfilling. The three main types of overfill protection devices are automatic shutoff devices, overfill alarms, and ball float valves.

Corrosion Protection: Steel tanks and pipes must be protected from corrosion.

Leak Detection: Tank systems must have a monthly leak detection to monitor for leaks.

Plans & Specifications

To ensure new tank systems are installed according to state regulations and meet DENR requirements, plans and specifications must be submitted to the Ground Water Quality Program for review and approval at least 30 days before the tanks are installed.

Closing Temporarily

You may temporarily close your UST for up to 12 months by following these requirements:

Continue to monitor for leaks by maintaining the UST’s leak detection. (If your UST is empty, you do not need to maintain leak detection.) Also, continue to monitor and maintain any corrosion protection systems. If a release is discovered, quickly stop the release, notify DENR, and take appropriate action to clean up the site.

If the UST remains temporarily closed for more than 3 months, leave vent lines open, but cap and secure all other lines, pumps, manways, and ancillary equipment.

After 12 months of temporary closure, you have two options:

1. UST systems that meet current compliance requirements and have had all products removed from them, may be left in temporary closure provided an assessment has been done to show no leakage has occurred.

2. USTs may be left in place longer than 12 months provided certain specific site conditions are met. Please contact DENR’s UST section to discuss the conditions.

Closing Permanently

If you decide to close your UST permanently, follow these requirements:

Notify the Department of Environment and Natural Resources at least 30 days before you close your UST.

Perform a site assessment to determine if the tank has leaked. The simplest form of a site assessment is to collect soil samples under each tank (in the case of removal) or as close to the tank basin (in the case of in-place closure), and also from beneath the dispenser. A soil sample must also be taken from under the distribution line if it is more than 25 feet long. A qualified Environmental Consultant must be present to certify that the samples were collected from beneath the required locations. These samples must be sent to a laboratory to be analyzed for the presence of contamination.

The test results must be sent to the DENR. If the test results show samples are free from contamination, you will receive a tank closure letter from DENR. If there is contamination, you may have to take corrective action.