

\$100 Million and Still "Ticking"

The Petroleum Storage Tank Insurance Fund paid out its first dollar for cleanup of a tank site in June 1993. In December, the PSTIF paid out its 100 millionth cleanup dollar.

We are proud of the impact that \$100 million has had on local economic development efforts, and of the direct benefit to public health and the environment. Yet it could not have been accomplished without the efforts of literally thousands of individual property owners, consultants, contractors, lawyers, realtors, insurance agents, bankers, city/county/state employees, DNR, and our staff. Celebrate with us!

ERP for UST Sites

UST policyholders will soon have the opportunity to purchase an "extended reporting period" when they sell an insured tank site.

Regulations implementing the change were proposed in the December 1 State Register, and no comments or concerns were expressed. The PSTIF Board is expected to approve the final rulemaking at its meeting on January 28. Individual policyholders will then receive letters from the PSTIF Administrator.

New Form Required

Working with our Advisory Committee, the PSTIF has created a new form which will now be required each time a batch of invoices is submitted for payment.

The new form consolidates several pieces of information which previously had to be submitted in a letter or other document, and provides an easier way

for claimants to tell us what bills you are sending in, for what work, and where to mail your check. It also requires the claimant to attest that he/she is not also receiving payment for the work from another source.

The form is available under the "Claims" heading on our web site, www.pstif.org, or by calling 800-765-2765.

Report on Private Insurance

State law requires the PSTIF Advisory Committee to regularly "report to the general assembly on the availability and affordability of the private insurance market." The Committee recently completed its report, which is posted on PSTIF's web page, www.pstif.org.

Several PSTIF policyholders expressed satisfaction with the coverage and service provided by the PSTIF. Though commercial insurance is available to most tank owners, there are concerns about volatility in price and availability of private insurance products.

Most significantly, no insurance company can pay to clean up sites contaminated in years gone by, when the tank owner had no pollution liability insurance and before today's environmental regulations were in place. The Committee concluded that this aspect of the PSTIF is vital.

The report recommends a more thorough evaluation be conducted as the PSTIF's sunset date of 2010 nears, to "fully evaluate the options available, and to understand the consequences for tank owners and the general public."

Cathodic Protection Tester Training

The Steel Tank Institute is offering a training seminar on cathodic protection testing on March 17-18 at the KCI Marriott in Kansas City. Those completing the course will obtain STI certification and learn practical troubleshooting techniques. The same training course will be held in St. Louis later this year.

Interested persons may contact Lorri Grainawi at 847-438-8265, ext. 244, or may register at www.steel-tank.com.

RG/PE Clarification

The Department of Natural Resources recently announced it will accept reports for tank sites from either professional engineers or registered geologists. Both professions are governed by registration boards who have authority to take disciplinary action if a registered professional does poor work that endangers public health or safety, or does work which extends beyond his/her training and expertise.

PSTIF has always accepted reports from any qualified professional, as long as the report contains the required information.

Ball Floats and Suction Piping Don't Mix

It has been brought to our attention that some owners have ball float valves as their "overflow prevention device" on tank systems that have suction piping. This device does not work properly on suction piping systems, and therefore does not meet DNR or EPA requirements.

If you have ball float valves on a suction system, you should change to a

different type of overfill prevention device.

Don't Let Line Tests Cause Leaks!

A tank owner called recently to report finding a leaky valve after a contractor had done line tightness tests on his UST system. His comment, "You ought to alert every tank owner to personally open every dispenser and look carefully at all the valves after a line test. Sometimes contractors leave things open or loose, and the guy doing your tests can actually cause you to have a leak. Then, even if you're insured, you end up spending your \$10,000 deductible because somebody else wasn't careful."

Good advice. In some cases, the leaky valve may not be evident except when you are dispensing fuel, so it's a good idea to activate the dispenser while looking inside the dispenser cabinet.

Lawmakers at Work

Missouri's General Assembly began work on January 7 and will adjourn on May 14. Two bills of interest have been filed; others may still be filed.

SB901 (Goode) - Amends parts of state law to shift some authorities relating to underground storage tanks from DNR's Clean Water Commission to its

Hazardous Waste Commission.

SB739 (Klindt) - Similar to last year's SB36; requires a "regulatory impact report" be prepared before certain state agencies, including the PSTIF Board of Trustees, issue regulations that "prescribe environmental conditions or standards."

Stay tuned!

UST Installation Bulletin

A new technical bulletin on UST installations is available from the Department of Natural Resources. See www.dnr.mo.gov/oac/pub1298.pdf

Free SPCC Seminars

EPA is holding a statewide SPCC videoconference on January 28 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. It will help you decide whether you need an SPCC Plan, what the Plan must include, and what is required for employee training, security, transportation and record keeping.

The free videoconference is available in Camdenton, Jefferson City, Kirksville, Mexico, Park Hills, Nevada, Poplar Bluff, Portageville, Reeds Spring, and Salem. Call Alan Hancock, 913-551-7647 for more information, or see www.epa.gov/oilspill.

Check out our web site:
www.pstif.org.

Latest Leaks is a newsletter of the Missouri Petroleum Storage Tank Insurance Fund.

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