

Internet Seminar for Consultants A Success

When 162 people registered to participate via 92 telephone lines, PSTIF staff were not sure whether the Internet seminar offered to consultants and contractors would be a success or a disaster....! But the live presentation and subsequent discussion - on "UST Closures Under MRBCA" - was well worth the one hour of time, and was well-received.

The single biggest benefit was consultants and contractors having an opportunity to ask questions and hear responses from both PSTIF and DNR staff. We believe this format is so beneficial that we are scheduling additional sessions in future weeks and months.

Anyone who does environmental work for tank owners, or is interested in doing such work, is welcome to participate. Email announcements will be used to notify people of these events, so if you did not receive the first announcement, call 800-765-2765 and give us your email address. If you missed the first forum on July 20 - or want to hear it again - both the audio and video portions are available on the RBCA portion of our web site, www.pstif.org.

RBCA Tip

As noted in the last issue of Latest Leaks, consultants who prepare Risk Assessment reports must present a conclusion, with supporting documentation and explanation, on what the "Reasonably Anticipated Future Use," or RAFU, of the property is. Both the PSTIF and the DNR require adequate documentation to support the conclusion - whether it is that the RAFU is residential, or that the RAFU is non-residential.

If you conclude that the RAFU of a property is non-residential and

DNR concurs, and the representative concentrations of chemicals of concern are below the Tier 1 or Tier 2 standards for all exposure pathways of concern, no further corrective action is needed. In other words, no additional cleanup, no deed restriction, nor any other "Activity and Use Limitation" is required.

If you conclude that the RAFU is residential, but that conclusion is not supported by adequate justification, the PSTIF may request that you either re-consider or provide evidence to support the conclusion.

Finally, whatever the RAFU is - be it residential or non-residential - the PSTIF will pay for corrective action to address pertinent exposure pathways for that use, but will only pay for the most cost-effective action available.

PSTIF Coverage Cancels When Property is Sold

Tank Owners Beware: When you sell your tanks, your PSTIF insurance protection automatically ends.

As previously discussed in this newsletter, you now have the option of continuing your liability protection into the future by purchasing an extended reporting period. But once you are no longer the tank owner, you have no insurance.

Recently, an owner sold his convenience store, but failed to inform the PSTIF. The new owner failed to buy coverage at the time of the sale. When a leak subsequently occurred, no one had insurance coverage. Don't let this happen to you! Contact the PSTIF *in advance* of any property transactions!

SPCC Plans (Again!)

Just as the last issue of *Latest Leaks* was being mailed, the US EPA announced plans to postpone its deadline for amending SPCC

Plans - from August 17, 2004 to February 17, 2006.

But be wise. If you store more than 1,320 gallons aboveground, you must have an SPCC Plan on hand and in effect today. It is only the *amendments* to your Plan which must be written by February 17, 2006, and *implemented* by August 18, 2006.

Tank owners are invited to contact the MO Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association for further information and assistance on this matter; phone 573-635-7117, or www.mPCA.org.

Claim Payment Request Form

A new "Payment Request Form" was introduced by the PSTIF in February 2004 and made mandatory for all new invoice submissions as of April 1, 2004. Our goal is to streamline the invoice review process by asking you to provide important information in one place.

As with any change, some questions have arisen as the form is used. Please note: A form is required with *each* batch of invoices submitted for reimbursement. Also, the consultant and the person seeking PSTIF benefits must *both* sign the form.

We will accept a photocopy or fax of the form. However, we will not accept forms where the consultant signs on behalf of the owner or responsible party; the declarations on the form must be acknowledged by the owner/responsible party's signature.

Pay close attention to the payee designation and mailing address. Generally the address should match the address of the party being invoiced.

Comments or suggested revisions are welcome. Contact the Fund Administrator at 800-765-2765.

Tank Lining Repairs

Owners of underground tanks that were lined to comply with the 1998 upgrade standards are required to have the linings inspected periodically. There has been some confusion recently about whether flaws in the lining can be repaired.

Both DNR regulations and the PSTIF require that you conduct lining inspections 10 years after installation and every five years thereafter. If the inspection reveals flaws, they can and must be repaired. It is not necessary to add cathodic protection to the tank, or remove and replace the tank, as long as the lining is properly repaired.

Cathodic Protection Problem?

A tank owner called recently to report a discovery of interest to others. He had trouble getting "passing readings" on his sacrificial anode cathodic protection system. Sometimes it passed, sometimes it didn't.

A thorough investigation revealed that the company who installed the anodes had failed to properly isolate the tanks from the riser pipes on the pumps, and the cathodic protection system for the tanks was attempting to distribute current throughout the entire store!

The moral of the story? There may be more to the story than you, your maintenance staff or your vendor know. Be thorough in your investigation of any problems with cathodic protection systems!

Cathodic Protection Training Course

The Steel Tank Institute is again offering a training and certification program for anyone who tests and needs to understand cathodic protection systems. It will be held October 13-14 in St. Louis. The cost is \$425; group discounts are available.

Interested persons may obtain information and register at http://steeltank.com/library/pubs/PC_PA_Brochure.pdf, or may call 847-438-8265.

Cleaning Tank Probes

UST owners who use automatic tank gauges should be aware that microbial activity in the tank/fuel will cause a build-up of "algae" on the probe itself, which impairs its function.

Make it a regular part of your maintenance schedule to check and clean the tank probes.

Audit & Actuarial Study

The PSTIF Board of Trustees has recently contracted for an audit of its FY04 financial statements. The audit will be performed by KPMG Kansas City for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004.

In addition, the Board has invited proposals from actuarial firms to conduct its biannual actuarial study, to be completed by the end of 2004.

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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