

## New UST Operating Rules

New state rules governing the operation of underground tanks were adopted by DNR's Hazardous Waste Management Commission in August and are expected to become effective on December 30, 2011.

The final version of the rules is very similar to the proposal previously outlined in *Latest Leaks*. One notable change is that the requirement for more stringent leak detection methods at "high throughput" facilities will apply to UST systems dispensing more than 800,000 gallons per month, instead of 500,000 as proposed.

The new rules will be published on November 30 and will be posted on <http://www.pstif.org>.

## UST Operator Training?

The Missouri General Assembly passed a bill that gives the PSTIF responsibility for collecting ideas and opinions from interested persons, then deciding whether to create and fund a UST operator training program for Missouri.

PSTIF is planning how best to approach this new assignment and expects to begin a dialogue this fall. Currently, about thirty states have implemented some type of operator training program.

## "Stage II" Equipment No Longer Required?

Rarely does a government rule get "erased," so when it happens, it's newsworthy!

The U.S. EPA published a notice in July proposing to eliminate the requirement for gas stations in certain areas to have "Stage II vapor recovery equipment," as of June 20, 2013. The EPA is accepting comments on its proposal, then will have to publish a final decision. The reason for the proposed "erasure" of this rule is that the majority of vehicles on the road today have "on-board" equipment that accomplishes the same purpose.

If the rule is eliminated, stations in the St. Louis area would no longer be required to have special equipment on their nozzles. The Department of Natural Resources will be working with EPA and awaiting the final rule before finalizing its plan for how it will respond to the change.

## Inspections

The contractor working for the PSTIF and the DNR inspected 978 UST facilities and 264 AST facilities in the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2011.

The same contractor, Rounds & Associates, has already begun inspections for the current fiscal year. Owners whose tank sites will be inspected will be notified by letter.

## Is It Fuel?

When people spot a slimy, oil-colored residue or "sheen" on wet ground or in slow-moving creeks near a gas station, their first thought is – understandably – that it might be gasoline. Sometimes it is.

But sometimes it's not. Sometimes it's caused by iron bacteria, a naturally occurring microorganism that poses no harm to health or the environment. These deposits are particularly likely to be seen after heavy rainfall like Missouri has experienced this year.

There's a simple technique you can use to distinguish between a fuel spill/leak and iron bacteria: Break up the oily sheen on the water with a stick or by throwing a small pebble into the water. If the sheen immediately goes back together the substance is likely a petroleum product. If the sheen stays broken up into pieces, then it is most likely iron bacteria. (*Thanks goes to Antea Environmental Group for this tip.*)



## BioFuels Guide

EPA has published a new guidance document to assist owners/operators in determining whether their underground equipment is compatible with various biofuels. It is available at <http://snipurl.com/pstif035>.

## New Monitoring Well Rules

Tank site owners and their consultants should note that DNR's new monitoring well rules have been published and are effective as of July 31, 2011. The new rules are available on the PSTIF's web site under "Laws and Regulations," or at <http://snipurl.com/pstif036>.

## Final FR Rule for ASTs

Missouri's rule requiring regulated AST owners/operators to have pollution liability insurance is now in final form. It is available on page 11 of <http://snipurl.com/pstif037>.

## Industry Leaders from Missouri

Congratulations to Sonny Underwood, Mid-South Steel Products in Cape Girardeau, who was recently elected as vice-president of the Steel Tank Institute/Steel Plate Fabricators Association, and Ron Houston, J.L. Houston Company in Hopkins, who was recently elected as treasurer of the STI/SPFA. Both will also serve three-year terms on the STI/SPFA Board of Directors.

Congratulations to Heather Peters, Environmental Specialist with the Department of Natural Resources, who was recently recognized as State Employee of the Month for her work on the UST rules. Ms. Peters works with tank owners and equipment companies to promote sound leak prevention and leak detection efforts.

## "Attend" Meetings from Home

The Department of Natural Resources is now providing "live streaming" of most of its Commission and Board meetings, including meetings of the Hazardous Waste Management Commission, the body that governs UST operations and cleanups. Videos of past meetings are also available for viewing and can be found at <http://snipurl.com/pstif038>.



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