

Reclamation Manual

Directives and Standards

Subject: Underground Storage Tank Management

Purpose: To provide guidance for Reclamation personnel involved with the operation and maintenance of underground storage tanks (UST). It instructs Reclamation staff to take actions to meet design specifications, reporting requirements, and spill/leak responsibilities that comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) final regulations for UST's published December 22, 1988.

Authority: Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) (40 CFR 280 and 281)

Contact: Environmental and Planning Coordination Office, D-5100

1. Underground Storage Tanks.

- A. Reclamation will comply with all Federal, State, and local requirements regarding UST management.
- B. All Reclamation-owned UST's will be removed unless overriding reasons exist for continued use.
- C. New petroleum or hazardous liquid storage systems shall not be installed at Reclamation facilities or on Reclamation lands unless it is impractical to utilize offsite commercial sources. Where onsite liquid storage is necessary, such storage shall be aboveground if possible. Where no reasonable, legal alternatives to underground installation exist, new UST's shall meet all applicable Federal, State, and local regulations and shall be listed immediately on the regional and Denver lists of UST's (see paragraph D below). The decision to install new storage systems or to continue existing storage shall consider the cost of monitoring and potential liability of contamination.
- D. Installation of new UST's and continued operation of existing UST's on Reclamation land require Regional Director approval. A documented evaluation outlining the need for and liabilities of the UST shall be reviewed by the Regional Director (or his designated representative) and a copy provided to the Hazardous Materials Coordinator (D-5100).
- E. Where removal or replacement is not feasible, UST's shall be upgraded to meet standards for year 1998 published by EPA (40 CFR 280) as adopted or modified by the state in which the UST's are located. The reasons for any UST's remaining in service shall be documented in the regional office. UST's shall not be filled with inert material and abandoned unless there is a compelling reason to do so, such as possible damage to another structure if the UST is removed.

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- F. In coordination with the Regional Hazardous Materials Coordinator, an individual appointed by the Regional Director shall provide EPA or designated State agency (or ensure that they are provided) with notice of any UST's (including tanks, piping, and associated monitoring and protection devices) being installed by Reclamation or by contractors on Reclamation property.
- G. Each Regional Hazardous Materials Coordinator shall maintain a list of all UST's owned by Reclamation, or on Reclamation lands in the region, specifying age, size, type, location, uses, owner, operator, inventory reconciliation results, tightness testing results, upgrades, removal or closure, and other relevant information. At the end of each fiscal year, an update of this information shall be sent to the Hazardous Materials Coordinator who shall maintain a consolidated list of all UST's on Reclamation property. In addition, the Regional Hazardous Materials Coordinator shall ensure the state or EPA is notified of any UST failure or release of product and shall send immediate written notification to the attention of D-5100.
- H. All Reclamation-owned and/or -operated UST's including Reclamation-owned UST's that are managed by another agency or by a private entity shall be tested for leaks. Copies of the test results shall be maintained at the facility and in the regional office. The same documentation requirement shall apply to periodic testing specified by regulation.
- I. In accordance with Federal, State, and local laws and regulations, all leaking UST's must be (1) repaired, (2) removed, or (3) flushed, filled with an inert material, and abandoned. The extent of environmental contamination shall be determined and appropriate cleanup measures initiated immediately. Cleanup shall be the responsibility of the Regional Director (or designated representative). Costs are to be borne by the operator. The state and EPA shall be consulted to determine appropriate cleanup measures. The Hazardous Materials Coordinator shall be notified of all leaking UST's and cleanups.
- J. The area offices will monitor all UST's for leaks with leak detection equipment or a program of inventory monitoring combined with regular testing as required by 40 CFR 280 and 281. Copies of the monitoring and/or testing records shall be kept at the project office and by the Hazardous Materials Coordinator in the regional office.
- K. Proof shall be obtained from all private or public entities who own or operate UST's on Reclamation land of financial responsibilities to pay for damage which could result from a leaking or spilled product (40 CFR 281). Regional Hazardous Materials Coordinators shall maintain copies of these records. UST's shall not continue to operate on Reclamation land without such proof.