

Dear Applicant,

Under Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulations, the responsible party is required to: report contamination; clean up soil and groundwater contamination to an Act 2 standard; and provide cleanup documentation to DEP if contamination of the ground is found at the time of tank removal.

The following information is meant to provide guidance and details to help you understand the DEP regulations and manage your cleanup effectively.

1. INITIAL CLEANUP ACTIVITIES

The actions taken to promptly contain and remove contamination after first discovering a release are vital. Effective interim actions may fully resolve a problem or reduce the severity of a problem making the site cleanup easier and less expensive. Some typical interim actions include:

- a. Determining if any private or public water supplies exist in the vicinity of the release and sampling these supplies for the designated parameters associated with the substance released. If your release does impact private or public water supplies, you should immediately provide a temporary water supply for all affected users. Within a short time thereafter, a permanent water supply should be in place. Treatment to remove or prevent contamination of a public water supply may require a permit from DEP. We recommend that you contact the regional Water Supply Management Program (WSM) at 484.250.5980 prior to any planned treatment installations on a public source. If you are unsure if a well is classified as a public water source, WSM can advise you.
- b. Removing substances from all leaking tanks, containers or drums. Addressing hazards posed by vapors or free product.
- c. Excavation and disposal of contaminated soil unless the extent of contamination is so extensive that on-site treatment is considered more appropriate
- d. This letter is notifying you that the Township is informing you of the State Department of Environmental Protection Agency requirements to ensure public health and safety is protected.

DEP no longer accepts requests for "Temporary Discharge Approval" (TDA) for discharges of treated groundwater from petroleum-contaminated sites. Instead, a General Permit (GP-5, Discharges from Petroleum Product Contaminated Groundwater Remediation Systems) will take its place. The GP is good for five years and will cover dewatering activities, pump tests, and other remediation related discharges. Application for the GP should be made immediately upon confirmation of a gasoline release that may require a discharge as part of the remediation process.

Prompt submission of the GP application will provide us sufficient time to process the application so that the discharge is appropriately covered by an NPDES permit. Questions concerning Temporary Discharge Approvals should be directed to the regional Water Management Program (WM) at (484) 250 -5970.

2. FINAL CLEANUP DOCUMENTATION

To complete your cleanup, you have two basic options:

The first option involves utilizing the DEP Land Recycling Program, also known as Act 2. Act 2 and the associated regulations provide a clear administrative process and contain cleanup standards for both soil and groundwater. When a party demonstrates attainment of these cleanup standards, Act 2 affords environmental liability protection to both present and future property owners. DEP strongly recommends you consider the benefits of addressing a release by utilizing Act 2. If you choose this option and have questions or need assistance, you may contact a DEP case manager by calling 484.250.5760.

The second option involves completing needed cleanup to an Act 2 standard without following the Act 2 administrative process. This would require submitting cleanup documentation in the form of a Final Cleanup Report. DEP is not obligated to review or formally approve such submissions made outside the Act 2 process; however, this documentation is maintained in our files. Also, environmental liability protection is not afforded to sites where the Act 2 process is not followed.

Regardless of the option selected, sampling as described in the attachment may adequately assess the site following a surface release or tank removal.

3. DOCUMENTS

Many documents and other references can be found on the DEP website www.dep.pa.gov by selecting DEP Keywords for a list of topics or can be obtained by calling the contact numbers mentioned above.

4. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Up to \$4000 in grants may be available for some non-regulated underground storage tank heating oil releases. Contact our Corrective Action Section at 717.783.9475 for information.

If you participate in the Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Fund (USTIF) you may obtain financial assistance to help you pay for remediation of your release. This is your insurance fund administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Insurance. Financial coverage for cleanups and third party claims may be available to tank owners or operators with eligible underground storage tank systems.

Claims must be reported to USTIF within 60 days after confirmation of your release in accordance with Sections 245.304 and 245.305, or USTIF will deny your coverage. USTIF may be reached at 717.787.0763 or 800.595.9887 (PA only) or e-mail ra-ustif@state.pa.us.

If you have filed a claim, all reports required by the corrective action regulations should be submitted to both USTIF and DEP within the timeframes established in the regulations.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection strongly recommends that you proceed with your cleanup in a timely fashion using one of the reporting options described in item 2 above. Please remember that failure to address the release may subject you to enforcement under the provisions of the Clean Streams Law or Solid Waste Management Act by the DEP.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Dana Kutz at (484) 250-5770.