

Over the last few years, thousands of underground storage tanks containing petroleum and hazardous chemicals have begun to leak into the surrounding soil and groundwater.

Congress recently passed a law requiring that all tanks newly placed in the ground and intended to contain petroleum and other hazardous materials must be designed, constructed, and installed to prevent leaks. The law states:

"INTERIM PROHIBITION"*

"...no person may install an underground storage tank for the purpose of storing regulated substances unless such tank (whether of single or double wall construction)—

(A) will prevent releases due to corrosion or structural failure for the operational life of the tank,

(B) is cathodically protected against corrosion, constructed of noncorrosive material, steel clad with a noncorrosive material, or designed in a manner to prevent the release or threatened release of any stored substance, and

(C) the material used in the construction or lining of the tank is compatible with the substance to be stored."

This Interim Prohibition went into effect on May 7, 1985 and will remain in effect until EPA issues new underground tank standards, expected in late 1987.

It is important that tank protection last for the entire operational life of the tank. For this reason, simple paint or asphalt coatings are not adequate. A fine of up to \$10,000 per day for each tank can be levied for violation of this prohibition.

* This prohibition is contained in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) section 9003 (g), passed in November 1984. It includes old tanks which are newly installed. Regulated substances include petroleum, diesel fuel, and other substances defined as hazardous in section 101 (14) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, except those regulated as hazardous wastes under RCRA.

Exception: The only exception to the interim prohibition on installing tanks without corrosion protection is where soil tests conducted in accordance with the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Standard G57-78 show that soil resistivity where the tank is to be installed is 12,000 ohm-cm or more.

Notification

Owners of new or old underground storage tanks are required to notify the state in which the tank is located of the existence of such tanks, and to provide the tank's age, size, type, location, and uses by May 8, 1986. Forms required for notification are available from designated agencies in each State. (A list of these agencies can be obtained from EPA Regional Offices listed below.)

EPA Region 1

JFK Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203
(617)223-6883
Connecticut, Massachusetts,
Maine, New Hampshire,
Rhode Island, Vermont

EPA Region 2

26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10007
(212) 264-0504
New Jersey, New York,
Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands

Field Component

Caribbean Field Office
P.O. Box 792
San Juan, PR 00902
(809) 725-7825

EPA Region 3

6th and Walnut Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19106
(215) 597-0908
Delaware, Maryland,
Pennsylvania, Virginia,
West Virginia, District of Columbia

EPA Region 4

345 Courtland Street NE
Atlanta, GA 30365
(404) 881-3016
Alabama, Florida, Georgia,
Kentucky, Mississippi,
North Carolina, South
Carolina, Tennessee

EPA Region 5

230 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 886-7435
Illinois, Indiana,
Michigan, Minnesota,
Ohio, Wisconsin

EPA Region 6

1201 Elm Street
Dallas, TX 75270
(214) 767-2645
Arkansas, Louisiana,
New Mexico, Oklahoma,
Texas

EPA Region 7

726 Minnesota Avenue
Kansas City, KA 66101
(913) 236-2852
Iowa, Kansas, Missouri,
Nebraska

EPA Region 8

1860 Lincoln Street
Denver, CO 80295
(303) 293-1162
Colorado, Montana,
North Dakota, South
Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

EPA Region 9

215 Fremont Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 974-8119
Arizona, California, Hawaii,
Nevada, American Samoa, Guam,
Trust Territories of the Pacific

EPA Region 10

1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 442-2782
Alaska, Idaho, Oregon,
Washington

United States
Environmental Protection Agency
Washington DC 20460

November
1985



The Law on New Underground Tanks

Interim
Prohibition on
Installing
Unprotected
Tanks

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Library, Room 2404 PM-211-A
401 M Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20460

HW
EPAX
8608-
0070