

Guidance for Risk Based Decision-Making Drafted

Missouri's transition to a risk-based decision-making (RBDM) framework for tank site cleanups continues. An initial draft of a Guidance Document for Tank Sites is under review by PSTIF staff and other interested parties. The Department of Natural Resources plans to make revisions and release a second version by mid-December. Anyone interested in reviewing the first draft may call 800-765-2765 for information.

Questions are arising about the 1500 properties which are currently "in the process" of being cleaned up. Will the old regulations and guidance still apply to these sites, or the new? If a corrective action plan has been designed to achieve cleanup, as defined under the old guidance, will PSTIF pay to implement the plan and will DNR issue a "No Further Action letter" when it is complete? Who decides whether to use the old guidance or the new?

Many of these questions have been addressed in a "Transition Issues Memo," jointly drafted by DNR's Tanks Section and PSTIF; it is available on our web site, www.pstif.org or by calling 800-765-2765.

RBDM Training for Consultants

Initial one-day training sessions for environmental consultants and contractors were held on 8/26 and 9/17. The sessions provided a basic

overview of Risk Based Decision Making, introduced some of the framework and definitions Missouri will use, and focused on what data is required to do a risk assessment.

Additional training sessions are planned for January and February 2004; these will be complete sessions intended to cover the entire Missouri RBDM process.

MEGA is here!

MEGA is the "Missouri Environmental Geology Atlas," GIS software that contains various "data layers" of interest to environmental consultants. It includes data on geology, wells, losing streams, caves, etc.

The software uses a shareware version of ArcExplorer, and can be purchased two ways: a CD and manual for \$25; or a CD, manual and training session for \$40. Training sessions are tentatively planned for December; the price includes lunch. Contact DNR's Geological Survey and Resources Assessment Division, (573) 368-2101 for more information.

Thermoplastic Piping Failures

Reports of thermoplastic piping "swelling" or "elongating" or "turning mushy" are increasing, both in Missouri and elsewhere. If you have this type of underground piping, look in your sumps to see if the piping is pulling away from sump entry hardware, curving in strange ways, or otherwise looks strange.

If you see a problem, contact your installer immediately and demand replacement piping.

We have several pictures of thermoplastic piping failures we can send via email to help show you what to look for. Anyone with questions is welcome to contact the PSTIF office at 800-765-2765; if you're not sure whether you have a problem, we'll gladly send someone to look at your piping with you.

Deadline for Fire Suppression Systems

Speaking of non-metallic piping, be aware that the Division of Weights and Measures has set a deadline of December 31, 2005 by which time you must have a fire protection or suppression device beneath every dispenser where you have non-metallic piping. (This includes products like Total Containment's Enviroflex, OPW's Pisces, and various fiberglass products.)

This requirement applies to *all* retail tank sites, both UST and AST. The deadline will appear in a proposed rulemaking to be published soon.

Rule Changes for UST "Tail Coverage"

The PSTIF Board of Trustees approved a recommendation from its Advisory Committee to publish proposed rule changes which would allow PSTIF to offer "Extended Reporting Periods" to insured UST owners/operators. The proposed

regulations will appear in the December 1 State Register, online at www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/moreg/moreg.asp. The public comment period will run from December 1 to December 31, 2003.

A similar change was made two years ago which allows insured AST owners to purchase an "extended reporting period."

Finances

The June 30 balance sheet for the PSTIF showed a cash balance of \$45.7 million. Revenues for FY03 were just over \$25 million. Total expenses were \$44.8 million, which includes an adjustment to reserves made in response to the recent actuary report. The year-end financial reports are posted on our web site, www.pstif.org.

An independent audit of the PSTIF's FY03 financial statements, performed by KPMG Kansas City, was presented to the PSTIF Board on October 29 and is on our web site.

Twice yearly, the PSTIF Board reviews projected income and expenses; the most recent projections were reviewed at the October 29 Board meeting and are posted on our web site.

Advisory Committee

The PSTIF Advisory Committee will meet on November 19. The agenda includes an overview of Missouri's new RBDM process, review of the Fund's projected financial position, a report on private insurance, and discussion of ideas for improving the operation of the Fund.

TPA Contract

The PSTIF Board recently rebid its service contract for third-party administration services, and received two proposals. Williams & Company, the Board's current service provider, was selected to continue providing services related to policy applications, renewals and claims services.

During the next few months, changes will be made to enable PSTIF policyholders to renew their insurance policies electronically, including electronic funds transfer capability for paying premiums. Watch your mail and this newsletter for more information.

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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Dan Schuette

Executive Director

Carol R. Eighmey
PO Box 836
Jefferson City, MO 65102
573-522-2352

Third Party Administrator

Williams & Company Consulting, Inc.
1-800-765-2765

Send address changes to:
PSTIF, PO Box 104116
Jefferson City, MO 65110

Petroleum Storage Tank
Insurance Fund
P.O. Box 104116
Jefferson City, MO 65110