

Legislative Proposal

Bills have been introduced in both the Missouri House of Representatives and Missouri Senate to extend the “sunset date” of the Petroleum Storage Tank Insurance Fund to 2020.

SB907 and HB2196 also contain other provisions, including authority for DNR to “red tag” any UST that does not meet the 1998 upgrade standards or does not have leak detection equipment. Both bills also contain a provision requiring ASTs that are regulated by the Division of Weights and Measures to have “financial responsibility,” (FR), starting in 2011. About 25% of regulated ASTs are currently insured by the PSTIF; owners would have the option of obtaining FR from the PSTIF or another source. The bills contain other technical changes and clarifications.

As of this writing, the Senate has amended and passed SB907. To become law, a bill must be approved by both the House and the Senate by May 16, when the Legislature adjourns for the year, then must be signed by the Governor.

New UST Inspection Standard

The Petroleum Equipment Institute has published a new industry standard titled, “Recommended Practices for the Inspection and Maintenance of UST Systems.” The document contains information applicable to underground tanks, piping, and ancillary equipment where petroleum products are stored and dispensed as vehicle fuel. It provides guidance to tank owners and operators, equipment companies, and others on how to properly inspect and maintain underground tank systems, enhance the longevity and trouble-free performance of the equipment, promote fire protection and safety, promote protection of human health and the environment,

promote regulatory compliance, reduce liability, and promote early identification of potential problems with equipment.

Information from published and unpublished sources was compiled by a diverse committee of experts that included equipment companies, regulators, UST owners, and UST inspectors. Sonny Underwood, President of MidSouth Steel and member of the PSTIF Advisory Committee, served on the committee. Also on the committee was Brian Wiegert of Rounds and Associates, inspection manager for Missouri’s joint inspection program administered by the DNR and the PSTIF.

The Standard may be referenced as “RP900” and may be purchased from PEI at <http://www.pei.org> or by calling 918-494-9696.

Potential Remedial Claims

The PSTIF has undertaken a project to identify and contact owners of properties where regulated USTs were registered with the Department of Natural Resources, (DNR), in the late 1980’s or early 1990’s and were taken out of use by December 31, 1997, but the DNR database does not indicate a “No Further Action” letter was issued.

Persons who owned and operated these USTs could be subject to regulatory directives if documentation was not provided to DNR indicating there was no petroleum impact left in the ground that exceeded DNR’s corrective action standards. DNR and PSTIF staff worked together to run various queries of the DNR database, and to review several hundred files, in an effort to identify these properties.

PSTIF is now working to identify the current owner of these properties and plans to inform them of the opportunity to file a “remedial claim.” The project was undertaken to assure that these property

owners have adequate time to make a claim before the Fund’s 2010 “sunset date.” If the Legislature extends the operation of the Fund, the PSTIF Board of Trustees may reconsider whether to continue this project.

Equipment Companies

State law now requires any company who manufactures a tank or piping, or who installs or repairs a UST or AST system, to register with the Department of Agriculture’s Division of Weights and Measures and to demonstrate “financial responsibility” for cleanup of leaks caused by faulty workmanship.

Tank owners may refer to a list of companies who have met this requirement at <http://snipurl.com/pst003>.

In addition, the Department of Natural Resources is amending its UST installation form so it will provide information on what equipment is being installed and who is doing the installation. DNR expects to implement the new form in May 2008.

Online CP Certification

The Steel Tank Institute has announced a new, online examination is available to persons who are currently certified by STI or NACE International as cathodic protection testers and who wish to renew their certification.

To register for the interactive exam, visit <http://www.steeltank.com> where a library of downloadable review materials is available. After obtaining the materials, a tester has 59 days to take the recertification exam.

(Excerpted from STI’s Tank Talk newsletter)

Phytoremediation

Plants have amazing capabilities for breaking down chemicals that are considered hazardous to humans, including chemicals contained in petroleum.

Research into using plants and trees to remediate various types of pollutants has been underway since the early 1990's.

Some of that research is being done at our own Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla; see <http://snipurl.com/pst004>. Additional information is available at <http://snipurl.com/plants339>.

The PSTIF will fund innovative remediation techniques and encourages consultants to explore such possibilities.

Fire Safety Info

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has cautioned that traditional foams used to fight gasoline fires may not be effective for ethanol fires. Alcohol-resistant foams may be needed to fight fires involving E10 or other ethanol/gasoline blends. The NFPA and other associations plan to conduct additional research.

Battery Recycling

Cell phones, cordless phones, two-way radios, pagers, laptops, digital cameras, and many similar devices contain rechargeable batteries. When the battery is replaced, or the device itself is replaced, what do you do with the old one? Disposal in a landfill is prohibited by federal regulation for many of these batteries.

The battery industry has created the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corpora-

tion, RBRC, to facilitate recycling of these batteries. Businesses that routinely use and discard these batteries can get free, pre-addressed, freight prepaid collection boxes from RBRC. For more information, see <http://www.call2recycle.org> or call 877-2-recycle.

Meet Your Trustees

Though he is a lifelong resident of Miller County, Danny Opie has trucks traveling through 48 states, carrying a variety of products to American consumers. Danny is president and owner of Opie's Transport, Inc., which means he must stay informed of a host of government regulations, deal with ever-rising fuel costs, and manage all the other aspects of running a business.



Danny serves as the PSTIF Trustee representing "commercial users of petroleum." He is active in the Missouri Motor Carriers Association where he has held offices from Board Member to Chairman. He currently serves as the American Trucking Association Vice President for Missouri; is Secretary to Traffic Insurance, Ltd., a Board Member of Capital Region Hospital Foundation in Jefferson City, and volunteers for several organizations in Eldon.

Danny is married and has four children. How he finds time to serve as a PSTIF Trustee is a mystery, but we're grateful for his four years of service!

Latest Leaks is a newsletter of the Missouri Petroleum Storage Tank Insurance Fund.

www.pstif.org

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