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BULLETIN NO.

95-1D

Date: **September 1995**
Supersedes Bulletin No. 88-8

Subject: **Removal/Abandonment of
Underground Storage Tanks
Regulated by the DEP**

Reference: **N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.11B**

When tanks listed on page 1 of Bulletin No. 95-1C are to be placed out of service, a prior approval is always required by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The approval is granted after the applicant submits a closure approval plan that is acceptable to the DEP. The DEP issues a single-sheet closure approval. This closure approval must be submitted to the enforcing agency prior to the issuance of a demolition permit. Code officials may also request a copy of the closure approval plan so that the specific techniques being employed to remove/abandon the tank are available.

Approval for Abandonment:

When contamination is found, it should be reported to the DEP hotline. Often, the DEP will require that contaminated soil be taken to an appropriate facility. As long as the excavation is filled (presumably with clean material from another site), a Certificate of Approval can be issued, even if mounds of contaminated soil remain on site. If new construction is proposed on a site where contamination from a tank was discovered, the owner has two options. The owner can wait for a "No Further Action" letter from the DEP, or the owner can proceed at his or her own peril. A No Further Action letter means that the soil samples taken reveal no contamination and that any contaminated soil has been properly disposed of. If an owner chooses to proceed at his or her own peril, additional in-situ remediation methods may be required.

The following checklist is provided as an aid to code officials. It is recommended that code officials use the checklist and make it part of the permit file.

BULLETIN

CHECKLIST FOR THE CLOSURE OF UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

Owner of the Tank: _____

Address of the Site: _____

Lot and Block No: _____

Certified Contractor: _____

The items on this checklist are practices currently accepted by the DEP. Further explanation can be found in Appendix B of NFiPA 30 and the American Petroleum Institute's Bulletin 1604, entitled "Recommended Practice for Abandonment or Removal of Used Underground Storage Tanks."

- ___ 1. Owner/contractor reports that the tank was properly cleaned of residual material.
- ___ 2. Owner/contractor reports that all residual material, including water used in cleaning, was properly containerized for proper off-site disposal.
- ___ 3. Inspection reveals that all affected piping was disconnected/capped/removed.
- ___ 4. For abandonment in place, tank was observed to be filled and sealed with an appropriate inert material.
- 5. For removal:
 - ___ a. Owner/contractor has determined that the tank has been disposed of properly.
 - ___ b. The tank was rendered free of flammable vapors [e.g., contractor has tested tank with proper monitoring equipment, such as an explosive gas indicator (egi) explosion meter].
 - ___ *c. The tank excavation was observed to be free of obvious evidence of contamination (e.g., odors, stained soil, free product)
 - ___ d. Contaminated soil was properly staged on plastic and covered with plastic or equivalent.
 - ___ *e. The removed tank was free of obvious corrosion holes or structural failure.

*If NO, then immediately contact the 24-hour DEP Hotline at (609) 292-7172 to report a discharge.

It is recommended that an excavation which indicates contamination remain open for investigation, where possible. It should, however, be secured for safety reasons.