

Operator training in full swing

Jessica Price, Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program, Regulatory Compliance Section

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) has developed an online training course for Class A/B Operators. This training is available free of charge to all tank owners.

Anyone wishing to receive training as a Class A/B Operator can simply register online and complete the portions that are specific to the site(s) for which they are responsible. To access the online training, visit **www.scdhec.gov/ust**. Click on OPERATOR TRAINING and then click on UST ONLINE OPERATOR TRAINING. Fill in all information, creating your own user name and password and continue on to the training.

Operator training began in South Carolina on Aug. 8, 2009. As of Dec. 1, 2009, there have been 288 individuals trained as A/B Operators, representing 310 facilities. By using this online course, 214 of these individuals were trained. An additional 123 individuals were registered online, but have not yet completed the training. All A/B Operators must be trained before Aug. 8, 2011.

Once someone successfully completes online training, they will receive a packet of information containing a log sheet and their certificate. If an individual completes training by another format, they will receive the same packet. The operator must use the log sheet to record the monthly tasks that the Class A/B Operator now is required to either perform themselves or by a representative. Required quarterly visits by the class

A/B operators also must be documented on the log. The monthly log may be furnished by DHEC or another source.

The following tasks must be performed:

- required release detection monitoring has occurred;
- required release and equipment monitoring records are kept;
- required equipment and system testing has been accomplished;
- unusual operating conditions or release detection system indications have been reported and investigated;
- routine operations and maintenance activities have been accomplished (see training for details);
- spill, overfill and corrosion protection systems are in place and operational; and
- Class C operators have been designated and trained.

In addition to performing monthly tasks, trained Class A/B Operators are subject to retraining. If the facility is found out of compliance at any time, the A/B Operator will need to be retrained on the area(s) found to be out of compliance. For the most part, this retraining can occur during the inspection and will be performed by the inspector. If the Class A/B Operator, however, is not present at the inspection or there are multiple violations, an appointment will need to be made with DHEC staff to get this accomplished.



Overall, it is the responsibility of the Class A/B Operator to receive retraining within 30 days of the violation. As such, it benefits the person to be on-site for the compliance inspections in order to receive any required retraining on site.

All of these requirements begin immediately after an individual has been trained, not in 2011. Our inspection will include determining compliance with these new regulatory requirements during the inspection process

If you have any questions, contact Jessica Price at **(803) 896-6650** or **priceje@dhec.sc.gov**.

Inside . . .

Noteworthy Numbers:	
Confirmed Versus Closed	2
Check oil/water separators for waste dumping	2
Certified, Decertified UST Contractors	2
Environmental Excellence Awards	3
Replacing a dispenser?	3
Estabrook Ezy 3 Locator Plus: Is it for you?	4

Noteworthy Numbers: Confirmed Versus Closed

Lee Monts, Manager,
Corrective Action Section

As of Dec. 1, 2009, DHEC has confirmed 9,346 releases from underground storage tank (UST) systems.

A confirmed release is one where levels of chemicals of concern are detected above laboratory detection levels. When these levels are above standardized risk-based screening levels, DHEC requires the owner/operator to conduct site rehabilitation activities in accordance with Subpart F of the S.C. UST Control Regulations R. 61-92, Part 280 and the SUPERB Site Rehabilitation and Fund Access Regulations R. 61-98.

Once all activities are completed to the satisfaction of DHEC, the release is closed and no further actions are necessary.

Of the 9,346 confirmed releases, 6,411, or 68.5 percent, have been closed. DHEC's UST program plans to give frequent updates to the number of confirmed releases and closures in future issues of the newsletter so that you can see the progress that our staff and the regulatory community are accomplishing.

**Celebrate
EARTH DAY
on April 22!**

For more information, visit
www.scdhec.gov/earthday.

Check oil/water separators for waste dumping

Mallori McAllister, UST Inspector, Columbia EOC Office

Your oil/water separator should not smell like raw sewage. Most importantly, your oil/water separator grate should not be clogged with toilet paper. Most truck stops with diesel islands are equipped with oil/water separators. These are designed to catch runoff from the diesel fueling area and parking lot. With increasing frequency, DHEC regional offices are receiving reports of oil/water separators being utilized as dumping grounds for campers or pump out trucks.

If your facility is equipped with oil/water separators, it's a good idea to routinely check your grates for evidence of waste dumping. Oil/water separator runoff is typically discharged into storm drains or on-site ponds that are not equipped to handle raw sewage. If sewage is going into your oil/water separator, more than likely, sewage is entering your local streams! Keep a watchful eye for these activities at your facility. Contact your DHEC regional EOC office with questions and concerns.

Certified, Decertified UST Contractors

UST contractors who are involved with routine investigative activities and interpretation of geologic data associated with releases from UST's must be certified in accordance with the SUPERB Site Rehabilitation and Fund Access Regulations R.61-98. The following tables show newly certified contractors in 2009; as well as contractors who are no longer certified to conduct activities as defined by R.61-98. A complete listing of certified site rehabilitation contractors can be found at www.scdhec.gov/environment.

NEW CERTIFIED SITE REHABILITATION CONTRACTORS

PERMIT #	CONTRACTOR	DATE CERTIFIED
UCC-0393	Ecological Resources, Inc.	08/24/2009
UCC-0394	Enercon	09/03/2009
UCC-0395	Delta Environmental Consultants, Inc. (Columbia Office)	12/09/2009

DECERTIFIED SITE REHABILITATION CONTRACTORS

PERMIT #	CONTRACTOR	DATE DECERTIFIED
UCC-0260	Palmetto Environmental Group, Inc.***	08/24/2009
UCC-0184	Armstrong Environmental	08/25/2009
UCC-0036	Earth Tech, Inc.	08/25/2009
UCC-0203	ENSR Consulting & Engineering	08/25/2009
UCC-0102	Hayes Seay Mattern & Mattern, Inc.	08/25/2009
UCC-0145	Environmental Enterprise Group	09/15/2009
UCC-0354	SEI Environmental, Inc.	09/18/2009
UCC-0333	T N & Associates, Inc.	10/07/2009
UCC-0064	Carolina Geological Consultants, Inc.	10/09/2009
UCC-0374	Enviro Logical Solutions, Inc.	12/9/2009

*** **NOTE:** Palmetto Environmental Group, Inc. has changed their corporate structure. Their new name is Ecological Resources, Inc.

Environmental Excellence Awards

LARGE RETAIL:

Mansfield Oil Company

Chris Runnells of Mansfield Oil Company has been nominated for the multi-site retail environmental excellence award. He and the company – headquartered in Gainesville, GA – are most deserving of the environmental excellence award. The Nu Way 10 Facility in Waterloo, SC has consistently achieved in compliance status over the past 11 years. Each time the inspector arrives at the facility, Runnells is on site and ready to do the heavy lifting. The facility is maintained on a regular basis because all of the equipment is in good repair and functioning well. During facility inspections, Runnells presents a highly organized compliance notebook, including all required documents as well as installation details and maintenance records. Additionally, he is prepared to repair/replace many of the parts of the UST system that get frequent use (lids, caps, fittings, etc.) and may require normal replacement during inspection. This ensures the system will operate at peak performance and the tanks will not collect water. The DHEC regional inspector reports that it is a pleasure

working with Mansfield Oil Company and Runnells over the past three years and he looks forward to many more years of compliance.

SMALL RETAIL:

Lawhons Corner Grocery

Lawhons Corner Grocery in Darlington County has been nominated for the small retail operations category. This site has a history of being in compliance since 1996. Compliance records are always present and organized at the time of inspection and testing is completed on time.

NON-RETAIL:

S.C. Army National Guard

The S.C. Army National Guard (SCANG) facility in Rock Hill has been in compliance for the past 12 years. They always go above and beyond to attain compliance. Following a recent purchase of their Newberry County facility, representatives from the SCANG accompanied the inspector on the first site visit to ensure a smooth transition with the new operator. Because of their efforts, SCANG has been nominated for the non-retail operations category.

Replacing a dispenser?

Mallori McAllister,
UST Inspector,
Columbia EOC Office

In the past few months, owners and operators have received a lot of information regarding the new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requirements for under-dispenser containment, double-walled systems and interstitial monitoring. As part of the new regulations, under-dispenser containment is now required when dispensers are replaced on pressure systems.

Containment is not required when reinstalling the original equipment following repairs. In accordance with UST Control Regulation 280.71 (a), at least 30 days before replacing previously installed piping or previously installed dispensers, owners and operators must notify DHEC of their intent. Notification will help you avoid re-hiring contractors to return to your facility to install necessary equipment or to collect samples.

Contact Alison Hathcock at **(803) 896-6942** or **hathcoam@dhec.sc.gov** with any questions.



PREVIOUS WINNER: South Carolina Electric and Gas was the Non-retail winner of the Environmental Excellence Award winner for Summer 2009.



South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

UST NEWS STAFF

Editor: **Eric Cathcart**
Publishing Editor: **Donna M. Owens**
Distribution: **SC Division of Health UST Management**

(803) 896-7957 ■ FAX: (803) 896-6245

www.scdhec.gov/ust

Newsletter printed on RECYCLED paper.

OR-0888 1/10

Estabrook Ezy 3 Locator Plus: Is it for you?

Trey Morgan,
Compliance Coordinator,
UST Compliance Section

For those of you who are required to conduct a Tank Tightness Test (TTT), but don't want to purchase additional loads of fuel in order to have the testing performed, there is an alternative. The tank can even be completely empty.

Many vendors now offer a tank testing method that does not require a fuel delivery called the Estabrook EZY 3 Locator Plus method. Brad Estabrook of Essexville, Michigan, created this test method.

In 2004, I traveled to Estabrook headquarters to learn about this system and protocols. The testing methodology is simple because it tests the tanks and lines at the same time.

Basically, the testing is accomplished by pulling a vacuum on the tank system and listening for sounds that would indicate a leak. Technicians must be

trained by the Estabrook Company and recertified every two years.

Before testing begins at your facility, the technician will shut off power to the pump and dispensers. Just like any other testing method, you cannot sell fuel during the test.

Now, how does a technician know if the tank system is actually leaking? Simple – a "hissing" sound would indicate air entering the tank above any liquid in the tank and a "bubbling" sound would indicate air coming in below product level. If groundwater is above the bottom of the tank, a water sensor is used to find water intrusion.

For tanks that have ethanol or alcohol-blended fuel like E85, water intrusion would be nearly impossible to find using the

water sensor mentioned until the fuel reached the point of phase separation.

Due to the water consuming properties of alcohol-blended fuels, this system is only a viable test method if no groundwater is found or if the tank is empty when tested if groundwater is present. If there were no fuel to consume water, the sensor would not be able to find water coming in as intended.

For these reasons, Estabrook Company, Inc. is working on a new sensing probe that measures the "mass" of the liquid in the tank. This new probe that measures changes in liquid mass would replace the existing conductivity water probe. Once the new probe is introduced, tank systems with alternate fuels would not have to be pumped out for testing if groundwater was present.



Return Service Requested

Columbia, SC 29201
2600 Bull Street
S.C. DHEC

Underground Storage Tank Program