

From a gas station to a park...

A Brownfields grant assists in converting an eyesore to a community asset.

Thom Berry, Media Relations

Motorists traveling through the Aiken County town of Jackson used to stop at Campbell's Service Center for gasoline, oil changes and other vehicle repairs. The Main Street property is now being transformed into what will be a roadside park benefiting the community and the environment.

"The site was a mess in more ways than one," said Mark Berenbrok, petroleum Brownfields coordinator in the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's (DHEC) Bureau of Land and Waste Management. "The owner died in 1995 leaving behind a service station with five underground petroleum tanks. None of the heirs accepted the property. It fell into disrepair and local taxes went unpaid. Many of the windows were broken out and weeds and other vegetation took over.

"The property was sold at a county delinquent tax sale but the buyers backed

out once they learned of the costs and liability involved in taking over and cleaning up the property."

Berenbrok said DHEC's initial assessment in 2000 found petroleum contamination. Working with the town of Jackson and Aiken County, DHEC applied for and received a Brownfields grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) in 2004 to assess the petroleum contamination from the underground storage tanks (UST). The town of Jackson expressed an interest in acquiring the property to establish a roadside park.

"The town paid for the removal of asbestos from the old building and a county crew tore down and removed the structure," Berenbrok said.

Berenbrok said Aiken County provided equipment and personnel for the UST removal. Chase Ingram of Garvin Oil Company provided technical oversight to assist Aiken County in the removal. An

environmental assessment, completed in May, determined how much cleanup was needed.

"This is a classic example of why the Brownfields grant program exists," Berenbrok said. "The town of Jackson, Aiken County and local businesses are contributing resources to address a problem site. Once the environmental concerns have been addressed, this property can be developed and put to beneficial use."

SUPERB Fund gets \$5 million boost.

Kent Coleman, Assessment and Corrective Action Division

The S.C. General Assembly has included \$5 million in this year's state budget to help bolster the SUPERB cleanup fund. This action comes as a result of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) warnings that the SUPERB fund falls short of having the necessary dollars to cleanup underground storage tank (UST) leaks in a timely manner.

The U.S. EPA warning goes on to commend the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control for having a well-managed UST program, but states that the SUPERB fund cannot

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Left: Campbell's Service Center had fallen in disrepair.

Bottom Left: Heavy equipment met the challenge of tank removal, but was stymied by an obstinate hydraulic lift. It eventually won the day.

Below: Berenbrok (far left) consults with county and oil company officials about the best means for safe removal of old petroleum tanks in Jackson.



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Remember to hang those registration certificates.

Patti Ellis, Regulatory Assistance Section

The time of year has come when new annual tank registration certificates should appear in underground storage tank (UST) facilities.

Invoices for annual registrations were mailed to tank owners in early June. Tank owners had until the end of July to pay the fees and receive their new certificate before the 2006-2007 certificate expired on July 31. Remember, the UST Program cannot issue a certificate until the invoice is paid in full.

All regulated tanks that are in the ground are subject to fees even if they are empty. Only tanks that have been properly closed (removed from the ground or filled in place with a solid, inert material) were not invoiced. Persons who received an invoice for a tank that had been sold or properly closed prior to July 1, 2007, should contact the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control in writing to document the transaction. Please include the date of closure or transfer of ownership.

Remember, the State Underground Petroleum Environmental Response Bank Act requires that the registration certificate be displayed prominently so the fuel transporter can verify that the tank is properly registered with the state before product delivery. If you have any questions concerning your certificate, please call the UST Program at **(803) 896-7957**.

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meet current and future liabilities without additional capital. The \$5 million is a positive move forward, however, U.S. EPA Region IV officials say more is needed.

Without additional funding, the U.S. EPA could disqualify the SUPERB fund as a financial responsibility mechanism for South Carolina tank owners. This would mean tank owners would have to purchase commercial insurance or find another means to satisfy the \$1 million federal financial responsibility requirement.

There IS a method to the assessment process.

Art Shrader, Assessment Section

Once the Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program confirms that a release has occurred from a UST system, the project is forwarded to the Assessment Section of the Corrective Action Division to define the extent of the problem. The Assessment Section project manager uses the information that the UST Program received in the original tank closure report or site check to determine the next step in the assessment process.

Generally, if the original report confirmed soil contamination, the Assessment Section project manager will require a single monitoring well be installed. This activity is known as an Initial Ground Water Assessment (IGWA). The report from the IGWA will document the levels of soil impact above the water table and if groundwater has been impacted. The UST Program has set the SUPERB allowable cost for an IGWA at \$1,345 for the coastal counties of Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Georgetown, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Marion and Williamsburg. For all other counties, the SUPERB allowable cost for an IGWA is set at \$1,545. The cost difference is based on the anticipated depth of the monitoring well since the depth to groundwater is generally deeper away from the coast than in the coastal counties. If the contamination is associated with a waste oil tank, the project manager also will ask the laboratory to report if metals are present in the soil and groundwater samples. The additional laboratory cost for metals analysis for one soil and one groundwater sample is \$290.

When the IGWA assessment, tank closure report or site check indicates groundwater has been impacted, the Assessment Section project manager will ask for a combination of eight soil borings and three groundwater monitoring wells to try to pinpoint the location of the release and to determine the characteristics of groundwater flow at the location. One of the monitoring wells will be installed in the area with the highest soil impact. The other two wells are installed so that the direction of groundwater flow and background levels of petroleum chemicals may be determined. This assessment is called the Tier I Assessment. The UST Program has set the SUPERB allowable cost for a Tier I assessment at \$10,230 for the coastal counties and at \$11,230 for other counties. Again, if the release is associated with a waste oil tank, the project manager will ask the laboratory to report if metals are present in the soil and groundwater samples collected at the three groundwater monitoring wells. The additional laboratory cost for metals analysis for three soil and groundwater samples is \$870.

If the IGWA or Tier I initial assessments document impacted groundwater, additional assessment will be required to define the extent of soil and groundwater impact. Additional soil samples will be collected and additional groundwater monitoring wells with screens that bracket the top of the water table, and that sample deeper in the water table, will be installed to define the extent of the problem. Typically two wells, one with a shallow screen and one with a deep screen, will be installed in the vicinity of the area with the highest soil impact. Additional shallow wells will be installed in the impacted area and around its edges. Groundwater samples will be collected periodically to determine if the contaminant plume is stable, decreasing in size or moving farther from its source. This assessment is known as the Tier II Assessment. There is not a set or fixed cost for the Tier II Assessment since the number of soil borings and monitoring wells varies depending on the depth to groundwater and the size of the contaminated area.

Once the size and severity of a release is defined, the release is forwarded to the Corrective Action Section project manager for that county. The Corrective Action Section project manager, based on the information provided in the assessment, determines if action is needed to reduce the levels of petroleum chemicals to protect a receptor or if monitoring the natural decay of the chemicals is appropriate.

NEW FEATURE: Compliance Statistics

This table below depicts the past year from an inspection results standpoint. As shown, most South Carolina facilities do a good job of complying with the requirements to prevent releases (spill, overflow, and corrosion protection). The lowest percentage is at 80 percent compliance.

Although the facilities don't do quite as well at complying with the requirements for release detection (watching the tanks and lines on a monthly basis to detect a leak as small as 0.2 gallons per hour) – the lowest percentage is 75 percent – they are still doing fair.

When looking at both these numbers simultaneously, however, the compliance rates are disheartening. The state and its resources deserve better than overall compliance in the 65 to 75 percent range.

Number of facilities per owner	Number of inspections 07/2006 – 06/2007	In compliance with release prevention	In compliance with release detection	In compliance with both measures
1	1258	86%	75%	69%
2	226	82%	82%	71%
3	130	84%	81%	68%
4	80	80%	76%	64%
5-24	659	87%	84%	76%
25-49	430	87%	90%	81%
50+	586	87%	92%	82%
TOTAL	3369	85.75%	82.34%	73.96%

HOW GOOD COULD THE STATE BE?

Facility Type	Inspections	In compliance with release prevention	In compliance with release detection	In compliance with both measures
Federal Facilities	29 Inspections	100%	100%	100%
State Facilities	138 Inspections	96%	96%	93%
County Facilities	84 Inspections	94%	89%	85%
Municipal Facilities	54 Inspections	94%	93%	87%

UST RELEASE/CLEANUP UPDATE

Releases and Cleanups	June 2007	May 2007	April 2007
New Releases	18	24	16
Cleanups Completed	21	30	25

Cumulative Summary	As Of June 30, 2007
Total Releases Historical	8923
Total Cleanups Completed	5698
Total Cleanups Remaining	3225

This update will become a regular feature in each newsletter. If you have questions or would like to be updated on other items, contact Kent Coleman at **(803) 896-6241** or e-mail colemakm@dhec.sc.gov.

UST Environmental Excellence Awards for Summer 2007

NOMINEES

NON-RETAIL:

- SRS Trans 715 – Savannah River Site
- GMMC Campus – Greenville Hospital System)
- South Carolina State University – Orangeburg
- Newberry School Bus Shop

SMALL RETAIL (less than 10 tanks):

- Boulevard Express – Bennettsville
- Horton's Grocery – Bethune
- Walt Shoals Junction Station – Hodges

LARGE RETAIL (10 or more tanks):

- Markette 7 (West Oil) – Lamar
- Flying J Travel Plaza – Columbia
- Hess Station 40257 – North Charleston

WINNERS

SRS Trans 715 – Savannah River Site

– This facility and the others at SRS have been in compliance for as long as UST compliance records have been kept. This is a real tribute to Tim McCormick and the previous UST managers at this facility. Congratulations!

Boulevard Express – Bennettsville

– This small retail facility has it all. Mrs. Nolan owns and runs the store as well as cutting hair full-time. I expect everything to be right when I go there. She implemented a plan to check her sumps monthly a few years ago and has done well since.

Markette 7 – Lamar – This facility is one of the best of a really good operation – due mainly to the efforts of Camp Segars, the operations and compliance manager.

SPECIAL MENTION

Pilot Truck Stop Compliance Team

– Gary Douglas and staff have worked really hard to move their facilities into compliance and keep them there. Their responsiveness is especially noteworthy.

Notes from Permitting

Alison Hathcock, Regulatory Assistance Section

Our goal is to give you quick, professional service and to ensure the UST systems going into the ground provide leak-free service. The following procedures will help us help you better!

■ **Issue:** Line Leak Detector Function Check

□ **Recent Scenario:** Line leak detector function checks were not being performed when new line leak detectors were installed (during construction or as part of regular operation and maintenance for a UST system).

□ **Correct Procedure:** Because new line leak detectors can malfunction "out of the box," the permitting office is now requesting line leak detector function check results along with the tank and line precision testing results that accompany the Permit to Operate application. Additionally, compliance inspectors will be looking for function check results on replacement line leak detectors.

■ **Issue:** Closure Reports

□ **Recent Scenario:** Owners have failed to submit a closure report for tank closures when

a sampling variance had been granted.

□ **Correct Procedure:** A closure report is required when the tank system is closed. This report establishes the closure date and documents site conditions that were observed during the closure. If a sampling variance has been granted, the closure report should still be submitted minus the sampling results.

■ **Issue:** Tank Closure

□ **Recent Scenario:** The number of requests to close tanks by filling them with an inert substance has increased

□ **Correct Procedure:** The Program strongly discourages filling tanks in-place. Although tanks that are filled in place are technically properly abandoned, tanks that remain in the ground continue to be a source of concern for lending agencies and potential buyers during real estate transactions. Additionally, where the tank owner does not own the real estate, the Program will not approve an in-place closure without property owner coordination.

■ **Issue:** Permit Applications

□ **Recent Scenario:** The Program is receiving permit applications on outdated forms.

□ **Correct Procedure:** The UST Permitting forms were updated at the end of 2006. These forms are available on our Web page. If you are putting together an application, please make sure the form is dated 2006 (date is in bottom left corner of the form). Since these forms contain new and expanded directions and information, the Permitting Office cannot accept applications on the old forms. If you need copies of the new forms and cannot download them from the Web site, please call the Permitting Office at **(803) 896-6942**.



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