UST Program Overview
August 2012
Briefing Overview

• What Is An UST
• UST Universe
• Typical Gas Station
• Program Framework
• How The UST Program Works
• Program Funding
• Key Objectives And Initiatives
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What is an UST?

Statutory Definition:

The term “underground storage tank” means any one or combination of tanks (including underground pipes connected thereto) which is used to contain an accumulation of regulated substances and the volume of which (including the volume of the underground pipes connected thereto) is 10 per centum or more beneath the surface of the ground. SDWA 9001(10)
Underground Storage Tank System
What Is The UST Universe?

- Closed Tanks 1.8 million
- Tanks That Are Not Federally-Regulated 1.5 million
- Active Federally-Regulated Tanks 590,000
- Active Federally-Regulated Tanks in Indian country 2,500
Typical Gas Station
Program Framework

• Prevention and cleanup programs established through
  – 1984 HSWA Amendments; regulations published in 1988
    • Leak prevention, leak detection, financial responsibility, assessment and cleanup
  – 2005 Energy Policy Act as it applies to Indian country
    • Expanded eligible uses of LUST Trust Fund to include some release prevention activities
    • Directed EPA to prepare a report to Congress on implementing and enforcing the UST program in Indian country
    • EPA is preparing regulations to apply the Energy Policy Act to Indian country
Program Framework

• EPA sets national policy, develops regulations, and provides financial assistance

• States implement UST program in states

• Indian county
  – EPA legally responsible for implementing the program in Indian country
  – Federally-credentialed tribal staff are increasingly performing inspections in Indian country
  – EPA works with tribes and provides financial support to develop UST program capability
How The UST Program Works

- Regulatory Requirements for Prevention/Detection*
  - Routine and catastrophic leak detection
  - Corrosion, spill, and overfill protection
  - Compatibility
  - Notification and proper closure

*We are proposing to revise these requirements. Comment period for proposal closed 4/16/12
Spill Prevention

• Spill Prevention Equipment
Overfill Protection

- Automatic Shutoff Device
- Ball Float Valve
- High Level Alarm
Corrosion Protection - Tanks

- Fiberglass Clad
- Fiberglass
- Corrosion protected steel
- Internal Lining
Corrosion Protection - Piping

- Steel With corrosion protection
- Fiberglass
- Other approved technologies
Underground Storage Tank Release Detection

- **Internal Methods**
- **External Methods**
- **Interstitial Methods**

**Manual Methods**
- Automatic Tank Gauging

**Interstitial Monitoring**

- Ground Water Monitoring
- Vapor Monitoring
How The UST Program Works

Regulations Require:

• Prompt reporting and investigation of releases

• Prompt action to contain release and any immediate hazard (fire, explosion, vapors, etc.)

• Site assessment and remediation

• Financial responsibility
Abandoned Gas Station(s) 
Leaking UST 
Contaminated Groundwater 
Gasoline Fumes in Basement 
Contaminated Drinking Well 
Contaminated Soil 
Contaminated Groundwater 
Abandoned Gas Station(s) 
Leaking UST
Initial Cleanup Steps

- Monitor Fumes
- Close Drinking Well
- Excavate Contaminated Soil and Remove Tank and Piping
- Remove Free Product
Potential Remedies

Supply Homeowner With Drinking Water

Clean Up Contaminated Ground Water

Remove Vapors From Basement

Replace Contaminated Soil With Clean Fill

Land Available For Reuse

Supply Homeowner With Drinking Water

Clean Up Contaminated Ground Water

Replace Contaminated Soil With Clean Fill

Land Available For Reuse
Tribal UST Program Funding

OUST Tribal Funding by Appropriation

*STAG Appropriations were replaced with LUST Prevention Appropriations
**For use in existing HQ and R8 tribal cleanup contracts from FY09 - FY11
Key Objectives and Initiatives

Prevention

Reduce future releases by:

• Implementing Energy Policy Act
• Updating regulations
• Ensuring successful transition to alternative fuels
Key Objectives and Initiatives

Cleanup

Protect human health and the environment from LUST sites by:

• Reducing cleanup backlog
• Ensuring viable financial responsibility
• Facilitating revitalization of petroleum brownfields
• Ensuring current and appropriate remediation approaches
Key Objectives and Initiatives

Tribal

Bring performance in Indian country up to national level by:

• Building tribal capacity
  – Tribal grants
  – Training
  – Inspection credentials

• Maintaining and improving relations
  – Regular communication
  – True partnership

• Funding cleanups
  – New contract in place

• Implementing EPAct
  – Inspections
  – New regulations
Questions and more information

• Any questions?
• For more information
  – Contact the OUST Tribal Team
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