

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

40 CFR PART 280

What is a UST?

An underground storage tank system (UST) is a tank and any underground piping connected to the tank that has at least 10% of its combined volume underground.



Why be concerned?

Until the mid-1980s, most USTs were made of bare steel, which is likely to corrode over time and allow UST contents to leak into the environment. Faulty installation or poor operating maintenance procedures can cause USTs to release their contents into the environment.

The greatest potential hazard from a leaking UST is that the petroleum or other hazardous substance can seep into the soil and contaminate groundwater, the source of drinking water for nearly half of all Americans. A leaking UST can present other health and environmental risks, including the potential for fire and explosion.



Is removal and cleanup costly?

Contaminated UST sites vary significantly. Some impact drinking water resources and may involve years of cleanup activities costing millions of dollars. Other sites may involve relatively minor or no groundwater contamination that may allow cleanup contractors to restore the site more quickly and at less cost. Some contaminated sites have impacted only surrounding soil and have not involved groundwater—if handled properly these impose minimal costs to the owner/operator.



Who do I contact?

Contact **GEM Engineering Inc.** concerning:

- Site checks
- UST Removal & Closure Reports
- SOTRA – (Tank Removal Account)
- Corrective Action Plans
- Soil & Groundwater Assessments
- Soil & Groundwater Remediation
- State Reimbursement Fund

GEM's reimbursement specialists can assist you in obtaining eligibility for assistance with the Office of the Petroleum Storage Tank Environmental Assurance Fund (OPSTEAF).

The OPSTEAF may reimburse the necessary and reasonable costs associated with a release from a petroleum UST system, and the removal of USTs under the SOTRA account.

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