



Act 13

POLLUTION PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM

(aka "Pump and Plug Program")

GRANTING AUTHORITY:

Grants are authorized under Section 711 of Act 13 of 1998 amending Act 32 of 1989.

Funds are authorized under the Pollution Prevention Grant Fund under Act 13.

PURPOSE:

Up to \$1 million per year has been set aside for the Pollution Prevention Grant Fund. Grants are issued to eligible tank owners of underground storage tanks to accomplish the following activities:

1) pumping out and disposal of regulated product from the tank; 2) cleaning the insides of the tank; and 3) if the tank will be put into temporary closure, plugging the fill pipe. This pertains to any underground storage tank regulated pursuant to Act 32 of 1989 (as amended).

ELIGIBILITY:

The following must be met in order to be eligible for a reimbursement grant:

- Tank owners must own six or fewer regulated underground storage tanks;
- Storage tanks must be registered and all fees paid prior to closing the tanks;
- A contractor, certified by DEP in the proper category, must be used for tank cleaning;
- The work was done after July 1, 1998.

SCOPE:

DEP will grant money for pumping and disposing of regulated substance from tanks until the tank is empty (contains less than one inch of product), cleaning the inside of tanks and, if the tank will be put into temporary closure, grouting the fill pipe(s) with a permanent material so that the tank is rendered inoperable. Temporary closure is good for up to 12 months, or no later than December 22, 1999 for non-upgraded tanks. It is the tank owner's responsibility to permanently close the tank during this time period. Tank owners may determine that it is in their best interest to remove or

permanently close a tank when pumping, disposal and cleaning is done. Costs beyond pumping, disposal and cleaning will not be reimbursed under the grant program.

The reimbursement grant will not exceed \$2,500 per tank. Reimbursement is retroactive to July 1, 1998. Work that was done prior to this date is ineligible. The Department may withhold reimbursement until delinquent registration fees, fines or violations are resolved, or for omission, falsification or submissions of inaccurate information.

HOW TO APPLY:

Contact DEP's Storage Tank program at 1-800-428-2657 to request a grant application. Return the completed application and all requested information to:

Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Watershed Conservation
Division of Storage Tanks
P.O. Box 8762
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8762

APPLICATION REVIEW:

Applications will be processed on a first-come, first-serve basis. When the available funds are committed for the year, no more money will be granted until the next year. Those applications unfunded in the prior year will be given first consideration for money available in the next year. All applications will be reviewed as soon as possible upon receipt.

REIMBURSEMENT:

Upon completion of the project, the applicant must submit the reimbursement application, along with the documentation that the storage tank's contents were disposed of at a DEP-permitted disposal/treatment facility, and a detailed, account of all costs associated with the pumping, disposal, cleaning, and if applicable, grouting. Other required documentation include a W-9 form and a completed Registration/Permitting of Storage Tanks form. These forms are included with the application package. Incomplete applications or applications that do not have all required documentation

will be returned to the tank owner. Failure to submit required information will result in a delay of processing the reimbursement.

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS:

The following regulatory requirements for closure are not reimbursable under the Pollution Prevention Grant Program. Refer to the Department's Technical Document on closure requirements for more information.

An underground storage tank system is considered to be in Temporary Closure when the following requirements are met:

- The tank is empty when all materials have been removed using commonly employed practices so that no more than one inch of residue, or 0.3% by weight of the total capacity of the underground tank system, remain in the system.
- If the tank has corrosion protection, it must be maintained.
- If the tank is in temporary closure status for three months or more, then all lines, pumps and ancillary equipment must be capped and secured, following standard industry practices. (Although this isn't required for three months after pumping the tank, DEP recommends this be done at the time of pumping, cleaning and grouting the tank, since it reduces the risk of product seeping back into the tank after it has been pumped and cleaned.)
- Vent lines must be left open and functioning.

- An amended Registration/Permitting form indicating the change in status of the tank(s) must be submitted to DEP.
- Registration must be kept current, insurance coverage must continue to be maintained, and all fees associated with such must still be paid as invoiced.
- Temporary closure status may not be more than 12 months.

The Department encourages permanent closure be undertaken at the time the pumping, disposal and cleaning activities occur.

To accomplish permanent closure, the following requirements must be met in addition to pumping and cleaning:

- Conduct a site assessment.
- Either close-in-place by filling the tank with a non-shrinking, or solid inert substance (usually sand or concrete, or remove tank and piping.
- Close and cap all piping, following standard industry practices.
- Submit an amended Registration/Permitting form to DEP indicating the change in status of the tank(s)

PLEASE NOTE: Any excavation to access the tank or piping is considered to be a Tank Handling Activity and requires the services of a DEP certified individual with certification in the UMR category.

This fact sheet and related environmental information are available electronically via Internet. For more information, visit us through the Pennsylvania homepage at www.state.pa.us or visit DEP directly at www.dep.state.pa.us (choose Subjects/Watershed Conservation/Storage Tanks).