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BULLETIN NO.

95-1D

Date: **September 1995**
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Subject: **Removal/Abandonment of
Underground Storage Tanks
Regulated by the DEP**

Reference: **N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.11B**

When tanks listed on page one of Bulletin 95-1C are to be placed out of service, prior approval is always required by the Department of Environmental Protection. Obtaining confirmation that the prior approval has been issued is all that the code official is required to obtain in these cases. The approval is granted when the applicant receives a single sheet closure "Notice of Intent Document" issued by the DEP. This closure "Notice of Intent Document" must be submitted to the enforcing agency prior to the issuance of a demolition permit. Code officials may also request a copy of the closure plan so that the specific techniques that are being employed to remove the tank are available.

Approval for Abandonment:

If contamination is found, it shall be reported to the DEP hotline 1-877-927-6337 (1-877-WARNDEP). Often, DEP will require that contaminated soil be taken to an appropriate facility. As long as the excavation is filled, with certified clean material, a certificate of approval can be issued, even if mounds of contaminated soil remain on site. If new construction is proposed on a site where contamination from a tank was discovered, the owner has two options. The owner can proceed at his or her own risk to abandon the tank or can wait for a "No Further Action" letter from DEP. Such a letter means that all cleanup activities have been taken and documented pursuant to the Technical Requirements for Site Remediation (N.J.A.C. 7:26E) and that any contamination, which is at or migrated from the site or area of concern, has been remediated in accordance with applicable remediation regulations. Information on DEP's Voluntary Cleanup Program may be obtained by calling the DEP's Bureau of Initial Notice and Case Assignment at (609) 633-0708.

The following checklist is provided as an aid to code officials. It is recommended that code officials use the checklist and make it part of the permit file.

BULLETIN

CHECKLIST FOR THE CLOSURE OF UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

Owner of the Tank: _____

Address of the Site: _____

Lot and Block No: _____

Certified Contractor: _____

The items on this checklist are practices currently accepted by the DEP. Further explanation can be found in Appendix B of NFPA 30 and the American Petroleum Institute's Bulletin 1604, entitled "Recommended Practice for Abandonment or Removal of Used Underground Storage Tanks."

- ___ 1. Owner/contractor reports that the tank was properly cleaned of residual material.
- ___ 2. Owner/contractor reports that all residual material, including water used in cleaning, was properly containerized for proper off-site disposal.
- ___ 3. Inspection reveals that all affected piping was disconnected/capped/removed.
- ___ 4. For abandonment in place, tank was observed to be filled and sealed with an appropriate inert material.
- 5. For removal:
 - ___ a. Owner/contractor has determined that the tank has been disposed of properly.
 - ___ b. The tank was rendered free of flammable vapors [e.g., contractor has tested tank with proper monitoring equipment, such as an explosive gas indicator (egi) explosion meter].
 - ___*c. The tank excavation was observed to be free of obvious evidence of contamination (e.g., odors, stained soil, free product).
 - ___ d. Contaminated soil was properly staged on plastic and covered with plastic or equivalent.
 - ___*e. The removed tank was free of obvious corrosion holes or structural failure.

**If NO, then immediately contact the 24-hour DEP Hotline at 1-877-927-6337 (1-877-WARNDEP) to report a discharge.*

It is recommended that an excavation which indicates contamination remain open for investigation. Where possible, it should, however, be secured for safety reasons.