

SUBCHAPTER 7. RELEASE REPORTING AND INVESTIGATION

7:14B-7.1 Suspected releases

(a) The owner or operator of an underground storage tank system shall complete an investigation of a suspected release in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 7:14B-7.2(a) within seven calendar days of the discovery of the suspected release, when any of the following situations have occurred:

1. Inventory control records maintained in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:14B-6.5(a)1 indicate a release may have occurred in excess of one percent of the tank's monthly flow-through plus 130 gallons;
2. Inventory control records for an underground storage tank system maintained in accordance with the manual tank gauging requirements of N.J.A.C. 7:14B-6.5(a)2 indicate that a release of hazardous substances may have occurred;
3. There is evidence of a hazardous substance or resulting vapors in the soil, in surface water, or in any underground structure or well in the vicinity of the facility;
4. There is water in the underground storage tank not attributable to condensation or deliveries;
5. Product dispensing equipment exhibits erratic behavior such as the loss of, or decrease in, line pressure;
6. There is the sudden loss of product from the underground storage tank system;
7. Test results from a single precision test of an underground storage tank system performed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:14B-6.5(a)3 that indicates that a release may have occurred; or
8. Any other method of discovery of a suspected release.

7:14B-7.2 Investigating a suspected release

(a) The owner or operator of an underground storage tank system shall confirm or disprove a suspected release by conducting an investigation in accordance with all of the applicable following procedures:

1. Check inventory control records for mathematical accuracy;
2. Conduct a visual inspection of all readily accessible physical facilities for evidence of leakage or discharge;

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3. Check the calibration of all dispenser meters associated with hazardous substance withdrawal and if necessary perform calibration;

4. Check for a malfunction of the monitoring system; or

5. If the release is suspected due to the results of a previously conducted precision test which indicated that a release occurred, then an additional precision tank test shall be conducted on the underground storage tank system in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:14B-6.5(a)3, if the test results indicated the following:

i. The results were inconclusive due to failure of the test to take into account and compensate for those factors outlined in N.J.A.C. 7:14B-6.5(a)3; or

ii. There were loose fittings not associated with any product bearing part of the tank system or above the holding capacity of the tank where an overfill device has been installed pursuant to this chapter.

(b) If the investigation conducted in accordance with (a) above is inconclusive in confirming or disproving a suspected release, the owner or operator shall within 60 calendar days of discovery of a suspected release conduct and complete a site investigation designed to confirm or disprove a suspected discharge in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26E-3.3. If a discharge is confirmed, the owner or operator shall initiate action pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:14B-7.3. Documentation of an investigation in accordance with this section which disproves a suspected discharge shall be kept at the facility and made available for inspection by the Department for the operational life of the underground storage tank system.

7:14B-7.3 Confirmed discharges

(a) Any person, including, but not limited to, the owner or operator of an underground storage tank system or individual certified pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:14B-13 hired to install, remove, test or perform a subsurface evaluation on an underground storage tank system, shall, upon confirming a discharge, immediately report the discharge to the appropriate local health agency in accordance with local requirements, and to the Department's Environmental Action Hotline 877-927-6337. Discharges may be confirmed on the basis of the following:

1. Test, sampling or monitoring results from a discharge detection method specified in N.J.A.C. 7:14B-6.2, 3, 4, and 5 that indicate that a discharge has occurred;

2. Analyses by a laboratory, certified pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:18, of soil or ground water samples which indicate the presence of contamination in the soil or ground water immediately beneath and/or in the immediate vicinity of the underground storage tank system;

3. Results from a closure plan conducted in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 7:14B-9.2(b) or 9.3(b) which indicate the presence of contamination in the

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soil or ground water immediately beneath and/or in the immediate vicinity of the underground storage tank system;

4. Any other method, including visual and olfactory inspection, and field screening analyses, that confirms that a discharge has occurred; or

5. A discharge is confirmed based upon the site investigation conducted pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:14B-7.2.

(b) When notifying the Department in accordance with (a) above, the following information shall be provided:

1. The type and estimated quantity of substance discharged;

2. The location of the discharge;

3. The actions being taken to contain, remediate, and or remove the substance discharged;

4. The existing case number if a discharge had been reported previously for a separate area of concern; and

5. Any other relevant information which the Department may request at the time of notification.

(c) The owner or operator of an underground storage tank system shall take remedial action as set forth in N.J.A.C. 7:14B-8 when a discharge is confirmed.

(d) The owner or operator of an underground storage tank system shall implement the release response plan required by N.J.A.C. 7:14B-5.5 when a discharge is confirmed.

(e) The owner or operator of an underground storage tank system containing hazardous substances other than petroleum or waste oil shall report a discharge of the substance, over its reportable quantity, to the National Response Center in accordance with the provisions of 40 CFR Part 302.

7:14B-7.4 Unknown sources

If the Department has information indicating that a facility may be the source of a discharge, the Department shall require the owner or operator of the facility to perform a site investigation of the underground storage tank system(s) at the facility in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26E-3.3 and to prepare a site investigation report in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:26E-3.13 within 90 calendar days after the Department's written request for a site investigation. The Department shall require the owner or operator of a facility that is the suspected source of a discharge to perform additional investigation(s) as the Department determines to be necessary.