



## Tanks and Emergency Response Section Fact Sheet

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road North  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194

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### Loan and Reimbursement Options Available for the Removal, Replacement or Upgrade of Underground Storage Tanks

New or existing regulated underground storage tank systems installed before 1988 must be upgraded with spill, overfill and corrosion protection by December 22, 1998. This fact sheet will describe the upgrade requirements and loan and reimbursement options for underground storage tank (UST) systems made available by the Minnesota Legislature.

**Requirements:** All regulated USTs will need to have spill, overfill and corrosion protection. Also, all regulated USTs should be monitored for leak detection. You need to choose from the following options before the 1998 deadline for your existing USTs. You can:

- add spill, overfill, and corrosion protection;
- close the existing UST; or
- replace the closed existing UST with a new UST that meets or exceeds the new federal regulations.

**Loans:** Up to \$10,000 is available for tank **replacements or upgrades** in the form of loans. Small gasoline retailers that dispensed less than 500,000 gallons of motor fuel during the previous year may be eligible. An eligible applicant can own only one facility where motor fuel is dispensed. To obtain the loan, the eligible applicant must demonstrate the ability to repay the loan. The terms of the loan include three percent interest per year for a maximum of seven years. Replacement or upgrade activities must take place between January 1, 1997, and January 1, 2000.

Please call Bob Ahlin of the Department of Trade and Economic Development (DTED) Underground Petroleum Tank Replacement Loan Program at (612) 296-6858 with questions or for a loan application.

#### **Reimbursements:**

For those facilities removing tanks, money is available for **removal** of USTs until January 1, 2000. Up to 90 percent reimbursement for tank removal, closure in place, backfill, resurfacing, and utility service restoration is available to applicants meeting certain criteria, whether or not a release has occurred at the site.

To qualify as a small gasoline retailer, an applicant must:

- own only one location in Minnesota and no locations in any other state where motor fuel was dispensed into motor vehicles, watercraft, or aircraft;

- own or operate a tank at that location;
- have dispensed less than 500,000 gallons of motor fuel (during the last year in which petroleum products were dispensed to the public at that location); **and**
- have removed tanks on or after January 1, 1996.

An applicant may qualify as a small gasoline retailer if:

- the applicant owns only one location in Minnesota or any other state where motor fuel was dispensed into motor vehicles, watercraft, or aircraft but who did not dispense motor fuel at that location;
- the previous tank owner or operator at the location was a small gasoline retailer that dispensed less than 500,000 gallons of motor fuel (during the last year in which petroleum products were dispensed to the public at that location); **and**
- the applicant acquired legal or equitable title to the property after January 1, 1996.

Up to 95 percent reimbursement is available to small gasoline retailers who dispensed less than 250,000 gallons of motor fuel (during the most recent calendar year that petroleum products were dispensed at that location).

Up to 90 percent reimbursement for tank removal is available to "small business owners" if the person:

- has no more than \$250,000 per year in sales;
- owns only one facility where motor fuel was dispensed to the public into motor vehicles;
- did not dispense motor fuel at that location;
- owns tanks never registered with the state; **and**
- removed the tanks on or after January 1, 1998.

This part of the law expires January 1, 2000. If you have questions regarding the reimbursement program, please call Petrofund at the Minnesota Department of Commerce at (612) 297-1119.