

Storage Tanks Closure Guidance Revisions

Division of Storage Tanks
2/26/2025

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Pennsylvania
Department of
Environmental Protection



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UST Closure Guidance

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Pennsylvania
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Closure Requirements for Underground Storage Tank Systems

Bureau of Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

www.dep.pa.gov

263-4500-601 / October 5, 2024 / Page ii

Closure Guidance for Underground Storage Tank Systems, Technical Guidance Number 263-4500-601

- Revisions made to align TGDs with current Chapter 245 regulations and Program policies.



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Summary of Revisions:

- Temporary Removal from Service (Out-of-Service)
- Release reporting requirements.
- Certification and Site Assessment requirements for replacing product piping within existing chase.
- Classifying and sampling soils.
- Vapor Intrusion screening.
- Electronic submissions.
- Editorial revisions.

AST Closure Guidance



Closure Guidance for Aboveground Storage Tank Systems,
Technical Guidance Number 263-4200-001

- Revisions made for consistency between UST and AST Closure TGDs.

Closure Guidance Revisions

Public Notice

Notice of Revisions to both TGDs published in the *PA Bulletin* on 4/6/2024

- 30-day public comment period ended 5/6/2024.
- No comments received.

Publication

- Closure Requirements for Underground Storage Tank Systems (263-4500-601)
 - Published as FINAL in *PA Bulletin* 10/5/2024
- Closure Requirements for Aboveground Storage Tank Systems (263-4200-001)
 - Published as FINAL in *PA Bulletin* 8/24/2024

Closure Guidance Revisions

Temporary Removal from Service (Out-of-Service):

Revisions to clarify regulatory requirements consistent with most current publication of Chapter 245.

Replaced "temporarily closed" with "temporarily removed from service (out-of-service)."

A UST system is not temporarily out-of-service until it has been emptied.

Previous: "A UST system is required to be emptied within 30 days of being placed temporarily out-of-service."

New: "A UST system is required to be emptied prior to being placed temporarily out-of-service."

Closure Guidance Revisions

Suspected Releases and Release Reporting:

Replaced “indication of a release” with “suspected release.”

Replaced “reportable release” with “release.”

“An owner or operator must immediately initiate corrective action after a release is confirmed and notify the appropriate DEP regional office as soon as practicable, but no later than 24 hours after the confirmation of a release, in accordance with 25 Pa. Code § 245.305(a) and (b).”

“In addition, certified installers must submit a *Notification of Release/Notification of Contamination* form to DEP within 48 hours of observing any of the following while performing tank handling activities: a release of regulated substance; suspected or confirmed contamination of soil, surface water, or groundwater from regulated substances; or a regulated substance in a containment structure or facility. This reporting is required by 25 Pa. Code § 245.132(a)(4) and (6) (*relating to standards of performance*).”

Closure Guidance Revisions

Certification and Site Assessment requirements for replacing product piping within existing chase piping:

Revisions to clarify requirements consistent with Technical Bulletin published 2/24/2021.

Previous:

“Note that closure operations which pull or lift piping out of the ground without excavation are considered closure-in-place for purposes of site assessment, as they do not allow a thorough inspection and visual evaluation of the conditions in the vicinity of the piping.”

Addition 1:

“As a matter of policy, sampling is not required when existing double-walled product piping is removed from an existing piping chase and is replaced with new double-walled product piping, unless evidence indicates that the previous double-walled product piping or the existing piping chase is/was in poor condition, is/was damaged, or otherwise is/was no longer structurally sound.”

Closure Guidance Revisions

Addition 2:

“Sampling is required for closure of double-walled piping contained in an existing chase when (1) the chase is removed or (2) the product piping is not replaced within the existing chase.”

Addition 3:

“Sampling is required when existing single-walled product piping is removed from an existing chase and replaced with new double-walled product piping, unless the existing chase and the previous single-walled product piping are both tested, and both are found to be tight within 30 days prior to the single-walled product piping removal.”



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Closure Guidance Revisions



Classifying and Sampling Soils, Section VI.C. “Site Assessment”

Added explicit prohibition of blending obviously contaminated soils with presumably uncontaminated soils to meet numeric limits for on-site reuse, consistent with regulatory requirements.

Modified sampling protocol for on-site reuse of obviously contaminated soil. For up to 100 cubic yards:

Previous: one discrete sample for each 50 cubic yds

New: one discrete sample for each 25 cubic yds



Closure Guidance Revisions



Soil Vapor Intrusion (VI) Screening, Section VI.C. “Site Assessment”:

Clarified existing requirements for VI screening where localized contamination is observed.

- Proximity distances to inhabited buildings for petroleum and non-petroleum.
- Additional confirmatory sampling requirements: “An additional confirmatory soil sample must be collected from each sidewall of the localized contamination excavation that is closest to the inhabited building(s) located within the appropriate proximity distance.”

AST and UST Closure Reports

2630-FM-BECB0159 Rev. 7/2024

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP AND BROWNFIELDS

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK SYSTEM CLOSURE REPORT FORM

Facility I.D.

Facility Name

_____ Municipality _____ County

Date Prepared

Name of Person Submitting Report
(Please Print)

Company Name
(If Applicable)

Title

Closure Method (Check all that apply):

- UST Removal
- UST Closure-In-Place
- UST Change-In-Service
- Partial UST System Closure

Site Assessment Results (Check all that apply):

- No Obvious Contamination - Sample Results Meet Standards/Levels
- No Obvious Contamination - Sample Results Do Not Meet Standards/Levels
- Obvious, Localized Contamination - Sample Results Meet Standards/Levels
 - Site Characterization Report in accordance with 25 Pa. Code § 310(b) (Complete Section IV in addition to other required sections)
- Obvious, Localized Contamination - Sample Results Do Not Meet Standards/Levels
- Obvious, Extensive Contamination

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Underground Storage Tank System Closure Report
Form (2630-FM-BECB0159)

and

Aboveground Storage Tank System Closure Report
Form (2630-FM-BECB0514)

Both revised to align with TGD revisions and for clarity,
consistency, and ease of use.



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The Department of Environmental Protection's mission is to protect Pennsylvania's air, land and water resources and to provide for the health and safety of its residents and visitors, consistent with the rights and duties established under the Environmental Rights Amendment (Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution).



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