

**Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection**  
**Division of Storage Tanks**  
January 5, 2004

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE TO UST INSTALLERS AND INSPECTORS**

Whenever flammable vapors are purged from storage tanks prior to entry or removal, the vapors should be vented at a minimum height of twelve (12) feet above grade and three (3) feet above any roof lines as specified by API 1631 "Interior Lining of Underground Storage Tanks," API RP 1604 "Closure of Underground Petroleum Storage Tanks" and NFPA 326 "Safeguarding of Tanks and Containers for Entry, Cleaning, or Repair." The vapors are to be expelled into a safe area, downwind of any ignition sources. It may be necessary to add extension piping to an eductor to prevent the vapors from accumulating at ground level. The eductor connection to the tank must be airtight as well as the connections to/between any duct extensions to keep flammable vapors from escaping near ignition sources. Duct extensions are to be made of steel, and the extension piping and the eductor must both be grounded to prevent problems with static discharges.

Strict adherence to these standards will limit the possibility of creating a potentially hazardous work environment during tank handling activities. Failure to follow the established safety guidelines may jeopardize the health and safety of your employees, facility employees, and local area residents and may result in enforcement action by the Department.

If you have any questions or desire any clarification of the above, please contact the Department's Division of Storage Tanks at (717) 772-5599.