SC DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Question & Answer: Underground Storage Tanks (UST)

1. **Question: Is there any guidance on reporting suspected releases or reporting unusual operating conditions for Underground Storage Tanks (UST)?**

   Answer: Please reference the following document: D-3177.pdf, Suspected releases must be reported within 24 hours and sent to the address or fax number listed on the release document. SCDES regulatory guidance for releases can be found here: USTReleaseDetectionSuspectedReleaseTriggers.pdf

2. **Question: Can you tell me about the proper procedure for "Reporting a Suspected Release" or an "Unusual Operating Condition of a UST"?**

   Answer: *SC UST Control Regulations, R.61-92, Part 280, SECTION 280.50. REPORTING OF SUSPECTED RELEASES:*

   Owners and operators of UST systems must report to the Department within 24 hours and follow the procedures in Section 280.52 for any of the following conditions:

   (a) The discovery by owners and operators or others of released regulated substances at the UST site or in the surrounding area (such as the presence of free product or vapors in soils, basements, sewer and utility lines, and nearby surface water).

   (b) Unusual operating conditions observed by owners and operators (such as the erratic behavior of product dispensing equipment, the sudden loss of product from the UST system, an unexplained presence of water in the tank, or liquid in the interstitial space of secondarily contained systems), unless:

   (1) The system equipment or component is found not to be releasing regulated substances to the environment;

   (2) Any defective system equipment or component is immediately repaired or replaced; and 41 42

(3) For secondarily contained systems, except as provided for in Section 280.43(g)(2)(iv), any liquid in the interstitial space not used as part of the interstitial monitoring method (for example, brine filled) is immediately removed.

(c) Monitoring results, including investigation of an alarm, from a release detection method required under Sections 280.41 and 280.42 that indicate a release may have occurred unless:

(1) The monitoring device is found to be defective, and is immediately repaired, recalibrated or replaced, and additional monitoring does not confirm the initial result;

(2) The leak is contained in the secondary containment and:

(i)Except as provided for in Section 280.43(g)(2)(iv), any liquid in the interstitial space not used as part of the interstitial monitoring method (for example, brine filled) is immediately removed; and

(ii)Any defective system equipment or component is immediately repaired or replaced;

(3) The alarm was investigated and determined to be a non-release event (for example, from a power surge or caused by filling the tank during release detection testing).

3. **Question: How do I use the "Suspected Release Form" (D-3177)? Do I call the phone number listed, is it a 24-hour line with a person to report to then mail it in?**
   Answer: The number listed on the D-3177 form (24-hour release report) is the main UST Division number. This line is only active during business hours. After business hours, you may call 888-481-0125 (this is the 24-hour SCDES response line). Keep in mind, the D-3177 form is intended for the owner/operator to report a release within 24-hours of occurrence. The UST Management Release Coordinator is Ms. Denise Place. She may be reached at (803) 898-0647 or denise.place@des.sc.gov.

4. **Question: Is there any upcoming training for UST?**

   Answer: UST does one-on-one in-depth training. Contact the UST program to get scheduled. UST program staff can go over paperwork and equipment for each individual facility. Find helpful guidance documents and information on the SCDES UST Program Page: Underground Storage Tanks | South Carolina Department of Environmental Services.