

Questions & Answers: Faulty Dispenser Nozzles

Eric Cathcart, Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program

Recently we received these questions concerning faulty dispenser nozzles that don't shut off properly causing a release.

1. What are the regulations for gas station dispenser nozzle shut offs?

UST Control Regulations (R.61-92 Part 280) do not regulate the installation or maintenance of "gas station dispenser nozzle shut offs." Emergency petroleum system shut off switches, however, must be identified to the store operator as part of South Carolina UST Control Regulations R.61-107.258, section 35 (Operator Training). During daily operations, a trained employee must be present at the facility and oriented with the operation of an emergency shut off switch or other means to stop the flow of fuel in the event of a mechanical failure or accident.

2. What state and/or federal agency would handle complaints about faulty fuel dispenser nozzles?

UST Control Regulations R.61-107.258 do not regulate petroleum dispensing equipment located above the level of concrete at a dispenser island. Tank systems are defined as underground storage tank(s), connected underground piping, underground ancillary equipment, and containment systems. However, in such cases where a complaint is received by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) concerning faulty fuel dispenser nozzles, DHEC will refer the facility to the office of the local fire marshal for fire hazard and protection or at times to the S.C. Department of Agriculture (DOA). Under the S.C. Weights and Measures Law, the Consumer Services Division is responsible for inspecting commercial fuel dispensers to ensure they are delivering the correct amount of fuel and

operating properly. In addition to the inspection of dispensers, DOA is responsible for inspecting the quality of petroleum fuels sold in the state. Visit their website at <https://agriculture.sc.gov/content.aspx?ContentID=613>.

3. What if a spill occurs from a nozzle?

UST Control Regulations R.61-107.258 address reporting and cleanup of spills and overfills. In accordance with section 53 of the regulations, owners and operators of UST systems must contain and immediately clean up a spill or overfill and report to DHEC within 72 hours and begin corrective action if the spill or overfill of petroleum results in a release to the environment that exceeds 25 gallons or that causes a sheen on nearby surface water.

Please contact the Division of UST Management for any further information at **(803) 898-0589** or **(803) 898-2544**.



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REMINDER: Secondary Containment Requirement

In our summer 2012 newsletter, DHEC reminded readers about an upcoming regulatory responsibility for a specific population of single-walled UST system owners and operators in South Carolina. With the due date drawing closer, we are continuing to inform the regulated community on the regulation and research impacts of the regulation.

The regulation reads as follows – "according to R.61-92, Part 280.25 – no later than December 22, 2018; all underground storage tank (UST) systems located within 100 feet of an existing water supply well, a coastal zone critical area, or state navigable waters must be either secondarily contained or permanently closed."

If you have such a system or have concerns that your system may be affected, call Carolyn Keisler at **(803) 898-0669**.



Unregulated Petroleum Releases

Chris Doll, P.G., Manager, Assessment Section

On August 1, 2013, the Assessment Section of the UST Management Division took over management of 197 releases involving petroleum products from non-regulated sources. These include aboveground storage tanks, heating oil tanks, hydraulic lift tanks, surface spills, unpermitted dumping of petroleum-contaminated soil, and others.

The primary focus of this effort has been to consistently apply standards of the Risk-Based Corrective Action (RBCA) for Petroleum Releases across all petroleum releases, regardless of the source.

The RBCA methodology has been in use for releases from regulated underground storage tanks since 2001. These releases are managed by the Assessment Section and are divided between two geologists based upon assignment of specific counties.

On August 1, 2013, about 70 percent of the transferred projects had seen no significant activity in the previous year. Efforts expended since then to re-start those idle cases have been significant.

Over the last eleven months, the UST Management Division has closed 48 releases and about 75 percent of active cases now have outstanding directives for new work.



Notes from Permitting

Alison Hathcock, Permitting Coordinator, UST Program

TOPIC: Introduction of New Fuel Designation

NOTES: There has been a rise in different fuel designations and a reduction in alternative fuels. Some retailers have created names such as Puremax for their ethanol-free gasoline. This is considered pure gasoline with no percentage of ethanol added. Gasoline retailers, in recent months, have been taking their E85 tanks out of service, cleaning them and refilling with non-ethanol-based fuel. DHEC strives to maintain an accurate database. Therefore, if you change from alternative fuel to other fuel such as Puremax, remember to notify Alison Hathcock at **(803) 898-0587**.

TOPIC: Permitting Time Frames

NOTES: As a reminder, UST permits are typically issued within three business days of receipt. Permits for facilities located in the eight coastal counties (Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Georgetown, Horry or Jasper) must be reviewed by DHEC's Office of Coastal Resource Management and may take an additional 4 to 6

weeks. Please coordinate your equipment/tank arrival, installation and store opening dates accordingly.

TOPIC: New Owner Operator Training

NOTES: The operator training website is currently not operational. Training, however, remains a requirement for new owners and operators. Until the on-line system is restored, contact the UST Program's Operator Training Coordinator – Alison Hathcock – at **(803) 898-0587**, to schedule training. (Please note that Jessica McClain (Price) is no longer the DHEC contact for operator training.)

Topic: Operator Retraining

NOTES: All A/B operators for facilities that incur violations following compliance inspections must be retrained on the subject covered in the violation. The inspector will typically retrain the A/B operator at the time of inspection, but only if the A/B operator is available at that time. If the A/B operator is not available, then he or she must contact Alison Hathcock at **(803) 898-0587** to complete retraining within the required time period.

NEW CERTIFIED SITE REHABILITATION CONTRACTORS

PERMIT #	CONTRACTOR	DATE CERTIFIED
UCC-0439	Bhate Environmental Associates, Inc.	09/30/2013
UCC-0440	Red Oak Environmental Solutions, Inc.	10/29/2013
UCC-0441	Blue Ridge Geological Service, Inc.	10/29/2013
UCC-0443	Elite Techniques, Inc.	11/25/2013
UCC-0444	Georgia Oilmens Services, Inc.	05/01/2014
UCC-0445	Contour Environmental, LLC	05/27/2014

DECERTIFIED SITE REHABILITATION CONTRACTORS

PERMIT #	CONTRACTOR	DATE DECERTIFIED
UCC-0149	Advent Environmental, Inc.	10/09/2013
UCC-0389	Advanced Environmental Services, Inc.	11/18/2013
UCC-0432	W. Walker Environmental	03/07/2014
UCC-0300	Atlantic Environmental Services	03/07/2014
UCC-0351	Bascor Environmental, Inc.	03/07/2014