

# THINK



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# ANK

## U.S. EPA Grant Money available for Petroleum Brownfields Properties

by Karen Bowen - USEPA Region III

In January 2002, the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act ("Brownfields Law") was signed. Brownfields are "real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant." The federal Brownfields law expands the original U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields program by including relatively low-risk petroleum sites as eligible sites for Brownfields assessment and cleanup grant funding, and by allotting 25 percent of the funding strictly for petroleum brownfields cleanup and assessment activities. In 2003, U.S. EPA awarded close to \$23 million in federal Brownfields grants to assess and clean up petroleum-contaminated sites. Funding will be used to address abandoned sites such as gas stations, industrial and retail properties that contain, or are perceived to contain, contamination from petroleum.

For petroleum-contaminated sites to be eligible for federal Brownfields funds, the state or EPA must meet the following criteria:

- the sites are of "relatively low-risk" compared with other "petroleum-only" sites in the state;
- the sites have no viable responsible party;
- the funding will be used by a party that is not potentially liable for the petroleum contamination to assess, investigate, or clean up the site.

In addition, petroleum-contaminated sites must not be subject to a corrective action order under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

A number of entities, including states, local governments, redevelopment authorities and non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for federal Brownfields grants. New applications for funding are due by November 12, 2004. Proposal guidelines and the application process can be found on the Region 3 website at [http://www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/underground\\_storagedev.htm](http://www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/underground_storagedev.htm). For further information on petroleum brownfields call Karen Bowen, EPA Region 3 at (215) 814-3382.

### Delaware's Brownfields Development Conference

In addition to the federal Brownfields program, Delaware has its own Brownfields program. On Thursday, October 14, 2004 Delaware will hold a Brownfields Development Conference at the Bank One Center on the Wilmington waterfront. For information on Delaware's Brownfields program, please contact Marcus Henry at (302) 739-4403.

Where: Bank One Center  
800 South Market Street Wilmington

When: October 14, 2004  
8:00AM - 4:30PM

Who: Bankers, Developers, Engineers,  
Community groups, Real Estate  
Professionals, Environmental  
Attorneys, Remediation Consultants

Cost: \$50.00 — includes continental  
breakfast, lunch

To register or for information: Call Charles  
Bussey at (302) 395-2600.

# Data Management In The Tank Management Branch

Emil Onuschak, Jr., PG

## Introduction

Data management in Delaware's Tank Management Branch is organized to uniquely number each tank facility—whether underground or aboveground—in the state and to identify any environmental investigations at these facilities. This makes it possible to track the status of each tank facility, the status of any ongoing environmental investigations occasioned by an indicated release and to enable reporting in fulfillment of State and federal requirements.

## Tank Facility Numbering System

Each tank facility in Delaware is uniquely numbered according to the following plan:

Facility #	Facility Type	County
1-nnnnnn	UST	Kent
3-nnnnnn	UST	New Castle
5-nnnnnn	UST	Sussex
6-nnnnnn	AST	Kent
7-nnnnnn	AST	New Castle
8-nnnnnn	AST	Sussex
9-nnnnnn	Miscellaneous	Any County

Within each classification (the “nnnnnn” part shown above), facilities are numbered sequentially in the order in which they are registered. If a facility has more than one kind of tank, they are grouped together under the facility's identification number. The facility registration form requires identification and description of each individual tank onsite at the facility regardless of the facility's areal extent. If one owner or operator has more than one facility at different geographic locations, a separate registration is required for each location and a separate identification number is assigned to each.

All data administered by the Tank Management Branch is filed by its unique tank facility number.

## Project Number

When a release is *confirmed* at a tank facility in Delaware, it is assigned a *project number* according to the following plan:

County identifier (K, N or S), year of confirmation (2 digits), month of confirmation (2 digits), sequential number of the confirmed release identified *anywhere in the State* that year (3 digits).

For example, a project number S9110230 identifies a release in Sussex County (S) that was confirmed in 1991 (91), specifically October (10). And it

was the 230<sup>th</sup> release confirmed in Delaware that year.

Project numbers are not as straightforward as facility numbers. And they can involve a certain amount of subjectivity. For example, in the absence of observed free-phase product, the TMB accepts only laboratory analyses of soil and ground water as confirmation that an actionable release has occurred. Everything else is merely an *indication* of a release. So, if an underground storage tank is removed from the ground and the soil smells strongly of petroleum, for example, but the laboratory is slow in providing its original analytical report, or the contractor puts a “hold” on the report until he is paid by the Responsible Party for his services, or the press of other Branch business delays Department staff from entering the analytical results into the database, or the paperwork is lost in the mail, it may be days or even weeks until a release is *confirmed, identified and assigned a project number*. The TMB has experienced each of these scenarios in the past while administering its programs.

Insistence on original laboratory analyses serves as a data quality control measure. It has happened that a Branch inspector has been onsite at a tank removal and has noted unmistakable *indications* of a release via soil staining or strong product odors, yet the laboratory reports “non-detectable” contaminant concentrations. In these cases, the Branch has required the Responsible Party to re-sample the site under close scrutiny and sample custody procedures. Fortunately, these situations have become less common as the program has matured and unscrupulous operators have fallen by the wayside.

## Projects Separated In Space

Then there are areally extensive sites with local tank installations situated throughout the property. The whole property has one facility number, but environmental investigations associated with different local tank installations will likely be assigned different project numbers to facilitate tracking the different investigations associated with each local installation. This can become complicated if the Responsible Party's consultant submits a *combined* report for multiple local investigations at the same facility. Such a report has to be disassembled, or selected sections photocopied or cross-referenced in the Branch's facility files to maintain continuity of multiple project records under a single unique facility number.

## Projects Separated In Time

Finally, one facility may undergo multiple environmental investigations, sometimes years apart. The first question is, Is this investigation based on a new release or residuum from an old release that was already addressed? This is usually a subjective judgment call by the project officer because it cannot be known with certainty (and because of staff turnover and the general passage of time, different releases at the same facility may have different project officers).

A new investigation may be initiated under an existing project number with or without any indication of its “new” status. Or it may be initiated under an existing project number with an appended separator (a, b, c, ...etc.). Or it may be initiated with an entirely new project number!

The precise chronology of a confirmed release (“When did it begin?”) is almost never known with certainty, especially with underground storage tanks. Even releases from aboveground storage tanks may be difficult to date if the release is through the floor of the tank, for example. Thus, while it may be tempting to think of a project number as indicating an individual *release*, this is not usually the case and it may be misleading.

To be sure, there are cases where different project numbers at a facility indicate different releases. An

ordinary service station, for example, may have a confirmed release from its tank field and, at a later time, another release may be confirmed at a leaking dispenser on the other side of the property. But documented instances of this scenario are in the minority.

## Implications

Data management has important implications for tracking, reporting and funding environmental investigations, especially if the monies are from public or insurance sources.

Filing all information by unique tank facility number assures that all data pertaining to a specific geographic location will be found together, which facilitates GIS (Geographic Information System) searches, whether by Department staff or by the public.

A common question is to ask that the “number of releases” be reported. Easy enough to ask, but not so easy to answer. The number of *investigations* is easy to determine, but whether or not one investigation equals one release is a judgment call as discussed above.

Funding of cleanup work at a confirmed release site depends on how specific public programs or insurance contracts are written.

## Find The Word

by Tara Chambers-Susee

The following words are all included in the puzzle. They may be forward or backward, and either horizontal, vertical, or diagonal. Bonus: TMB employee names are also hidden in the puzzle. See how many you can find.

F	I	R	S	T	F	U	N	D	S	J	B	F	J	X	D	J	L	V	V	E	L	V	K	N		
J	O	E	C	C	B	R	I	A	N	O	V	G	R	O	U	N	D	W	A	T	E	R	M	O		
O	A	T	H	O	H	U	K	C	H	U	N	K	I	N	H	D	O	L	P	J	R	E	E	F		
D	B	R	R	M	E	S	U	N	D	E	R	G	R	O	U	N	D	B	O	I	I	G	O	U		
A	A	O	I	P	A	J	L	C	U	P	E	R	G	R	A	D	E	Y	W	S	R	M	C	U	A	R
V	N	F	S	L	L	U	E	L	L	A	A	N	J	E	N	N	Y	R	E	H	L	B	T			
X	D	I	C	I	T	H	Y	D	R	O	G	E	O	L	O	G	I	C	E	L	U	A	O	H		
Z	O	T	O	A	H	K	M	F	R	O	N	V	O	Y	R	A	G	S	C	L	A	T	V	E		
U	N	F	N	K	L	T	G	S	O	I	L	T	H	I	N	K	O	O	E	G	I	E	R			
T	M	R	T	C	E	N	M	C	O	L	I	N	E	L	E	S	S	E	V	N	L	O	G	A		
A	E	A	R	E	M	H	B	K	D	N	R	E	C	S	A	R	B	Y	E	D	S	N	R	C		
N	N	N	A	D	I	F	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	K	E	N	T	O	R	N	D	S	O	T		
K	T	K	C	M	L	A	B	A	N	K	O	N	W	A	S	T	E	R	Y	S	B	B	U	I		
S	R	O	T	C	C	J	S	C	O	N	S	U	L	T	A	N	T	S	R	S	E	Y	N	O		
I	I	L	O	B	L	N	O	I	T	A	R	T	S	I	G	E	R	E	G	I	N	K	D	N		
H	P	C	R	L	H	K	I	G	A	S	O	L	I	N	E	D	L	T	L	R	Z	S	O	K		
S	P	E	N	V	I	R	O	N	M	E	N	T	F	U	N	I	L	U	A	B	E	Y	Q	X		
A	D	H	A	W	L	X	D	A	V	E	G	I	R	L	O	P	Z	G	B	M	N	U	B	K		
F	N	O	I	T	A	I	D	E	M	E	R	O	I	B	A	W	S	E	I	P	E	R	U	B		
E	D	L	K	B	E	T	I	J	O	A	N	N	V	C	E	L	L	T	S	R	F	J	T	E		
T	A	I	L	A	B	K	C	S	E	L	P	M	A	S	Y	C	K	E	O	A	L	O	A	C		
Y	V	N	K	A	T	H	Y	O	K	E	N	N	A	Z	U	S	K	O	L	R	E	B	R	D		
L	I	D	R	S	M	L	W	I	F	A	C	I	L	I	T	Y	P	Y	N	G	A	L	A	I		
B	D	A	I	P	E	T	E	S	W	F	C	H	R	I	S	L	A	J	I	L	L	G	E	A		
P	U	N	A	E	L	C	O	R	E	S	O	U	R	C	E	S	T	L	A	V	O	M	E	R		

TMB	SOIL
MTBE	NOFURTHERACTION
DNREC	RESOURCES
ABOVEGROUND	ENVIRONMENT
UNDERGROUND	AIR
TANKS	WASTE
STORAGE	COMPLIANCE
FIRST FUND	REGISTRATION
ECDI	FEE
CONTRACTOR	CONSULTANTS
GASOLINE	SAMPLES
VAPOR RECOVERY	HEALTH
FACILITY	SAFETY
HYDROGEOLOGIC	REGULATIONS
BIOREMEDIATION	RELEASE
TAME	UPGRADE
DERBCAP	RETROFIT
CLEANUP	BOILERS
GROUNDWATER	VESSEL
REMOVAL	PUMPKIN
ABANDONMENT	CHUNKIN
BENZENE	

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## Announcements

*Tara Chambers Susee* - married Kenneth Susee May 1, 2004. Tara and Kenny enjoy water activities, particularly boating and fishing.

## Public Hearing Scheduled for Proposed Changes to AST Regulations

by Erich Schuller

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (the Department) in collaboration with the AST Technical Advisory Committee has proposed revisions to Delaware's *Regulations Governing Aboveground Storage Tanks* (the Regulations) which became effective June 11, 2004. The proposed revisions to the Regulations include signage requirements for ASTs, revisions to the financial responsibility requirements for AST owners, and clarifications to the out of service requirements, site assessment requirements, removal requirements, permanent closure in place requirements, and permanent change in contents requirements for ASTs.

The Department held a public workshop on September 30, 2004 to present the proposed revisions and to answer questions concerning the proposed revisions. A Public Hearing is scheduled for 6:00 PM, November 22, 2004 at 391 Lukens Drive, New Castle. Please contact the TMB at (302) 395-2500 for further information.

DNREC/TMB  
391 Lukens Drive  
New Castle, DE 19720

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