

## Public Hearing Comments

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Comments on Docket #2020-R-WH-0005 (Underground Storage Tank Regulations)

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### Comments:

Across the country, we've seen the impact of groundwater contamination on communities. Regardless of source, it is absolutely paramount to our long-term well-being that we do all in our power to ensure our natural resources are protected to the fullest extent of the law. Underground storage tanks hold toxic materials, usually gasoline and waste oil, substances known to have harmful effects on public health and even graver impacts to children in developmental stages of life. As a result, it is important that all necessary steps are taken to ensure, at minimum, federal EPA requirements to prevent leaking of those toxic substances due to corrosion are mitigated. The risk of a leak going undetected, especially in communities in Delaware who rely on small groundwater systems or private water wells to get their water, is simply too great. Both DNREC and the Delaware General Assembly have recognized the need to ensure preventative measures are sufficient and that any leak is quickly addressed. The clarification and revision of 7 DE Admin. Code 1351 "Underground Storage Tank Systems" may seem a small step to take in efforts to protect groundwater, but ensuring Delaware is compliant with federal regulations is critical to DNREC's and the Delaware General Assembly's success in this area and is a positive step toward the ultimate goal.