

# UST

QUARTERLY



Volume 1, Issue 4  
Winter 2010

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 This newsletter is published by the Underground Storage Tank Branch with state funds and printed on recycled/recyclable paper when printed.

For more information, comments or story suggestions, please contact the editor of the UST Quarterly, Virginia Lewis. She can be reached at [Virginia.Lewis@ky.gov](mailto:Virginia.Lewis@ky.gov) or 502-564-5981, ext. 4024.

To report a release or suspected release call the ERT hotline.  
**1-800-928-2380**

**Q:** What is the average number of UST sites

on a technical reviewer's site list?

Find the answer on Page 2 ...

## New Life for UST Properties

For over 20 years, the UST program has been serving the people of our Commonwealth. From large fueling stations to little country stores to UST properties that are being repurposed and reused, we are here to help you, your neighbors and your communities. Our duty is to ensure that Kentucky UST sites comply with regulatory requirements in the prevention and cleanup of UST-related petroleum contamination. These requirements serve to preserve the resource quality and diversity that make Kentucky a great place to live, work and play.

Our state is fortunate to have a funding mechanism that provides financial assistance to eligible UST owners and operators for cleanup costs, and in certain cases the removal of old UST systems. The cleanup funds available through our program come from the Petroleum Storage Tank Environmental Assurance Fund (PSTEAF) and are from an assurance fee of \$0.014 assessed on each gallon of gasoline and special fuels imported to Kentucky. This has helped and continues to help many UST owners who in many cases do not have the financial viability to self-fund the cost of removal and cleanup.

Through cleanup, former UST sites can be an asset to their communities. Old vacant UST properties in cities and towns are often on busy street corners and main thoroughfares, making them potential opportunities for economic development, community development, and neighborhood revitalization. In working with our program and the resources provided through it, cleanup has taken place and new businesses, public facilities and recreational areas have been developed on the sites where unused gas pumps, old canopies and vacant buildings once stood.



In Morehead, Ky., this UST site on Main Street was redeveloped by the owner into a credit union.



Have you helped to give an old UST property new life?  
If so, call the UST Quarterly editor Virginia Lewis to tell your success story.  
We may feature it in an upcoming issue of this publication.



# Cleanup Funds and Ranking

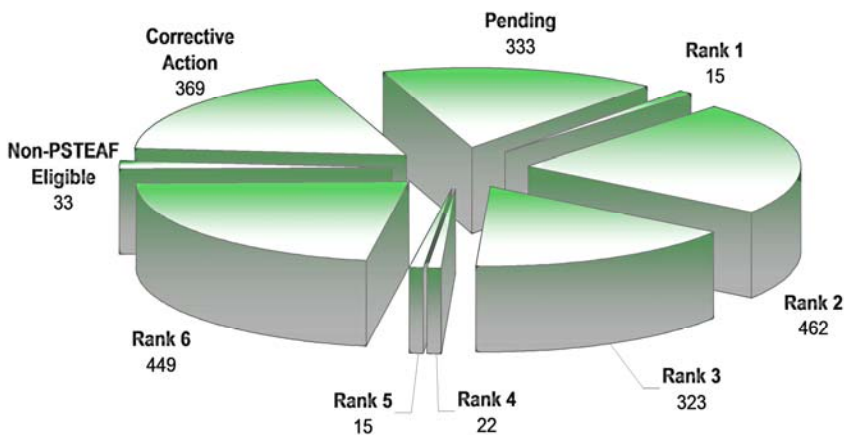
In the January 2010 legislative session, Kentucky lawmakers will determine the amount to be appropriated for Petroleum Storage Tank Environmental Assurance Fund (PSTEAF) reimbursement funding for the next two fiscal years beginning July 1, 2010.

Every two years the state legislature passes a budget bill that allocates a finite level of funding to the PSTEAF for the purpose of reimbursement. The funding allocated to the PSTEAF hasn't been enough to provide reimbursement at all the UST facilities in need of cleanup. These cleanup funds have to be used where they're needed most—on those facilities posing the greatest threat to human health and the environment. Facilities seeking reimbursement are ranked per 401 KAR 42:290. In this ranking system, facilities are ranked 1 through 6 with Rank 1 facilities being those that pose the greatest threat to human health and the environment and Rank 6 posing the least threat. Facility work is directed in sequential order based on the rank of the facility. For example, work will be directed on Rank 2 facilities before Rank 3 facilities.

This chart gives the breakdown of the 2,021 UST facilities on the UST Facility Ranking List as of January 2010. Currently, we are able to evaluate Rank 1 through 5 facilities. We hope to begin evaluating Rank 6 facilities soon. Others outside of the ranking process that are being evaluated are those in corrective action, non-PSTEAF eligible UST facilities and pending UST facilities that include new closures, site checks, initial abatement sites and those with insufficient information to rank.

The full UST Facility Ranking List and UST Facility Ranking Summary can be located on our Web site. These documents are updated on a monthly basis.

Due to business ventures and time constraints some owners choose to clean up their sites without PSTEAF reimbursement. Note that work may be directed by the USTB without regard to the ranking system at the request of the UST owner to proceed without PSTEAF reimbursement.



**UST Facility Ranking Summary as of January 2010**

**A:** (from Page 1)  
As of the first of this year, the UST program has 21 technical reviewers, so the average number of UST sites on a technical reviewer's site list is 96 sites.

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## How Can UST Releases be Prevented?

Part of the regulations for UST systems requires them to be protected from spills, overfills, and corrosion. This is a four-part series on what you can do to prevent UST releases.

### PART 1 of 4 : Spill Protection

#### Correct Filling Practices

Spills can occur at the fill pipe when the delivery truck's hose is disconnected. Although these spills are usually small, repeated small releases can cause big environmental problems. Nearly all of these spills can be avoided by following the industry standard practices for tank filling that are required by the federal UST regulations. For example, make sure there is room in the UST for the delivery so that when the delivery hose is disconnected, the hose is empty.

#### Spill Buckets

In case these small spills happen, USTs must have spill buckets to contain them. Spill buckets are also called catchment basins or spill containment manholes. Basically, a spill bucket is a basin sealed around the fill pipe and should be large enough to contain what may spill when the delivery hose is uncoupled from it. A typical delivery hose

can hold about 14 gallons of fuel. Spill buckets range in size from those capable of holding only a few gallons to those that are much larger--the larger the spill bucket, the more spill protection it provides. Spill buckets must be kept clean and empty. Manufacturers may



This spill bucket contains liquid.

*A spill bucket that is allowed to crack or fill up with debris is useless as spill protection.*

equip spill buckets with either a pump or drain to remove liquid or a spark-free hand pump may be purchased. Some spill buckets can collect enough water and sediment, along with spilled product, to make draining this mixture into the tank unwise. If this happens, the liquid may be pumped out of the spill bucket and properly disposed.

#### It Takes More Than Equipment

Remember that it takes more than equipment to be in compliance and to have a safe site. Equipment must be properly operated and maintained over time or there will be no benefit in having it. Failure to operate and maintain equipment can lead to new releases, which can be very costly and time consuming.

More information on industry codes and standards for UST systems can be found on the Environmental Protection Agency's Web site at [www.epa.gov/oust/cmplastc/standard](http://www.epa.gov/oust/cmplastc/standard).

## Talk to Us ... We're Listening

**Tell us what you think.** We want to hear from you. Do you have a cleanup success story? Can we improve on something? Do you need more information? Is there something you would like to see in the UST Quarterly? Help us help you and tell us what you think.

**Let us know if you can convert from a paper to electronic subscription.** This publication is best viewed electronically and is e-mailed to our subscribers quarterly. If you received a paper copy, please contact us to subscribe to future full color issues via e-mail.

Contact the editor of the UST Quarterly, Virginia Lewis.

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Visit us on the Web today at [www.waste.ky.gov/branches/ust](http://www.waste.ky.gov/branches/ust).



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Important  
Program  
Information  
Enclosed!

## Owner Notification

Beginning this year the Underground Storage Tank Branch will be issuing site-specific notifications to all owners of active and temporarily closed USTs. Your letter will list the specific components of your tank system and what compliance tests are required on those components by law.

The required compliance tests are dependent on the components of your UST system. It is very important that you closely review the information for your site and report any discrepancies to our office.

Knowing your underground storage tank system and what it takes to maintain it is one of the first steps in successful system maintenance and leak prevention. Maintaining operational compliance through leak detection, corrosion protection, overfill and spill prevention and performing routine tank and line tightness tests are critical aspects of leak prevention.



### Know the Required Tests

*For Your Active and Temporarily Closed UST Systems*

Depending on your UST system components, you may be required to submit the following tests:

- ◆ Cathodic Protection Survey
- ◆ Line Tightness Test
- ◆ Tank Tightness Test
- ◆ Line Leak Detector Test

It is very important that you know your UST system and the compliance tests it requires. If you don't know, please contact us for assistance.