Kentucky UST Operator Training
Under Development and on the Horizon
By Stephen Kent, UST Branch Compliance Section Supervisor

Development of Kentucky UST operator training, as required by federal regulation passed in 2005, is nearly complete.

UST owners and operators will be notified by the UST Branch upon the final completion of the training system, Kentucky Tank Operator Online Learning System (KY TOOLS). At that time, deadlines for designated compliance manager (DCM) designation and completion of the online training will be established. Here are details about the training:

- The combined Class A/B operator training, KY TOOLS, will include up to 16 site-specific lessons to be completed by a DCM for each UST facility. “Site-specific” refers to the fact that a DCM will only be required to take lessons that pertain to their UST system.
- Completion of each lesson will be followed by a site-specific quiz that covers the training material.
- KY TOOLS will have the added benefit of providing a site-specific compliance management plan that can be printed by the DCM for future reference.
- The training will be required to be completed every 12 months from the date the first training was completed.
- Owners can choose to have one or more DCMs, but at a minimum, at least one must be trained.
- The training will be free of charge.

For more information on Kentucky UST operator training and the revised deadlines, contact Leslie Carr at Leslie.carr@ky.gov or 502-564-5981, ext. 4778.
EPA Releases Semiannual Report of UST Performance Measures

How does the Kentucky UST program compare to other states?

Twice each year, EPA collects data from states and territories regarding UST performance measures (as defined by EPA) and makes the data publicly available. The data includes information such as the number of active and closed tanks, releases reported, cleanups initiated and completed, facilities in compliance with UST requirements, and inspections. EPA compiles the data and presents it in table format for all states, territories, and Indian country.

In EPA terms, there are 10 Regions. Kentucky is part of Region 4 along with Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Snapshots of part of the Region 4 report data are shown to the right and below.

For the entire report, definitions, and additional supporting information, go to EPA’s website.

www.epa.gov/oust/cat/camarchv.htm

Reclassification Responses 30% Still Needed

The UST Branch has issued 1,092 letters to UST owners and operators requesting reclassification information. As of the beginning of June, 70 percent (771) of the reclassification responses have been received. While everyone’s efforts are greatly appreciated, reclassification information is still needed for 30 percent of the requests.

Within the new Kentucky UST regulations that went into effect on Oct. 6, 2011, the Classification Outline and the ranking system were revised. As a result, it is necessary for all UST facilities to be reclassified according to the new regulations, with the exception of those UST facilities that submitted a Notice of Intent or reported a release prior to April 18, 1994.

Once a UST facility is reclassified, it can then be re-ranked. In most cases, a reimbursable directive cannot be issued until the UST facility is re-ranked.

Clearly, it is important that the reclassification information be submitted as soon as possible so directives can be issued and the cleanup process can continue.

Responses to these requests (i.e., Facility Classification Guides and supporting documentation) may be submitted online through the UST Branch electronic submittal service.

The Energy and Environment Cabinet does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, ancestry or veteran’s status and provides, on request, reasonable accommodations including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in all services, programs and activities. To request materials in an alternative format, contact the Underground Storage Tank Branch, 200 Fair Oaks Lane, 2nd Floor, Frankfort, KY 40601 or call 502-564-5881, ext. 4024. Persons with hearing and speech impairments can contact the agency by using the Kentucky Relay Service, a toll-free telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD). For voice to TDD, call 800-648-6057. For TDD to voice, call 800-648-6056.
The Commonwealth spends significant dollars on facility restoration, including the replacement of paving and concrete in parking lots. These dollars don’t support protection of human health or the environment. They are, rather, spent to repair the unfortunate collateral damage that results from corrective action.

Requests are often received from UST facility owners to reimburse the costs of replacing surface materials outside the immediate area where the corrective action occurred. Damage to these areas could potentially be avoided by employing construction mats.

Construction mats, also known as rig mats, event mats, access mats, ground protection mats, etc., are durable, reusable, flexible, portable surfaces, which will protect parking lots from construction traffic and heavy equipment. These mats have traditionally been made of heavy timber; however, many manufacturers are now offering mats made of recycled tires, laminated wood, and high-density polyethylene.

Modern construction mats are light-weight (4’ x 8’ sheets weighing between 60 and 100 pounds), easy to transport, and can be placed in any configuration. They are designed to handle all types of equipment, including excavators, trucks, cranes, and drilling rigs. Depending on the type of mat selected, they will typically support weights between 40 to 150 tons.

It is incumbent upon all of us, who want to see our tax dollars spent wisely, that we avoid spending our limited dollars on items which do not further the protection of human health and the environment.

While contractors determine their own work practices, the UST Branch will continue to restrict reimbursements to the replacement of surface material removed during corrective action activities. Using construction mats will help to prevent undesirable, collateral damage to parking lots and will reserve funds for better uses.

For more information on the use of construction mats, contact Edward Winner at Edward.winner@ky.gov or 502-564-5981, ext. 4782.

Hughes Recognized as Geologist of the Year

The Kentucky Section of the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIGP) presented the 2012 Outstanding Geologist of the Year Award to Larry Hughes. Hughes, a professional geologist, heads the Kentucky UST Branch Corrective Action section and is an important part of the UST Branch leadership.

“The committee, after reading and hearing comments about this year’s nominations, selected Larry Hughes unanimously due to his invaluable contributions to the profession,” said Trenede Garrison, Kentucky AIGP President Elect.

Hughes has used his professional expertise in making great contributions to the UST community, as well. On the cleanup side of the UST program, he has been persistent in his focus on applying site-specific corrective action.

“In order to implement a timely and successful remedial strategy based on an appropriate remedial goal, the primary determining factor should be based on a thorough and accurate understanding of the local geologic and other subsurface interactions at a specific site,” says Hughes.

Hughes and other professionals in the UST Branch work with UST owners and their contractors to evaluate their properties and select the most effective cleanup strategies. For more information, or to talk with UST personnel about your property, call 502-564-5981.

2012 Annual Tank Fee Invoices  Potential Delay
By Lola Lyle, UST Branch Administrative Section Supervisor

It is that time of year again. Annual tank fees ($30 tank fee for each UST in active or temporary closure status) are assessed on July 1 of every year. Due to database upgrades and maintenance, the invoice mailing for these fees may be delayed. If this is the case, the payment due date will be adjusted accordingly. Please wait until you receive your invoice to make payments.

Two quick and easy ways to pay annual tank fees (with your invoice):

Mail .................................
If paying by mail, make checks payable to the Kentucky State Treasurer.

Mail payments to:
Kentucky Dept. for Environmental Protection
UST Branch
200 Fair Oaks Lane, 2nd Floor
Frankfort, KY 40601

Online ...............................
Paying online is
> Free
> Secure
> Easy to use

To take advantage of this service and make your transactions easier, visit the UST Branch website at http://waste.ky.gov/ust.

For questions regarding annual tank fees, contact the UST Branch Administrative Section at 502-564-5981.