Overview of US EPA’s Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program

Tribal Lands and Environment Forum
August 2017
Presentation Overview

- Environmental Importance
- Indian Country Objectives and Initiatives
- Budget
- Implementing Updated Regulations
Environmental Importance

• Approximately 558,000 underground storage tanks (USTs) nationwide store petroleum or hazardous substances.

• USTs are in every community

• Contamination to ground water, the source of drinking water for nearly half of all Americans.
USTs in Indian Country

• About 2,600 USTs at 900 active facilities
• About 6,000 USTs closed since 1988
• 271 cleanups not yet completed
• As of 2016:
  – 8 confirmed releases
  – 30 cleanups not yet completed
Objectives and Initiatives

Indian Country Program

Continue to strengthen

• Partnerships
• Communication
• Collaboration
• Information sharing
• Tribal UST program capacity
Objectives and Initiatives

Prevention

Reduce future releases

- Implement the Energy Policy Act
- Updated regulations
- Transition to alternative fuels
- Improve significant operational compliance (SOC) rates
UST Significant Operational Compliance Rates

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**Indian Country**

**National**

**Target**
Objectives and Initiatives

Cleanup

Protect human health and the environment

- Reduce cleanup backlog
- Ensure viable financial responsibility to pay for cleanups
- Ensure optimal remediation approaches
- Facilitate revitalization of sites benefitting communities
Budget

• President’s Budget
• Appropriation Committee Bills
• More To Come
EPA’s Extramural UST Indian Country Budget
(in millions)

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<th>LUST PREVENTION</th>
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2015 UST Regulation

- EPA initially issued UST regulations in 1988
- Revised regulations became effective October 13, 2015
- Revisions will help ensure all USTs in the United States, including those in Indian country, meet the same minimum standards.
Key Deadline
October 13, 2018

- Each designated operator must be trained
- Begin
  - ✓ Walkthrough inspections
  - ✓ 3-year testing for spill prevention equipment and containment sumps for interstitial monitoring of piping
  - ✓ Annual testing for release detection equipment
EPA Assistance

- Publications for USTs in Indian Country
- Conference calls
- Training, conferences, and webinars
- UST grants
- Operator exam
- Inspector training
- Technical compendium for regulations
Regulatory Challenges & Key Lessons Learned

• Sump Water
  ✓ Can sump testing water be re-used?
  ✓ What needs to be done with water once testing complete?
Regulatory Challenges & Key Lessons Learned

- Spill bucket and containment sump testing
  - At least once every 3 years to ensure equipment is liquid tight
  - There are several testing options
  - Concern for potentially finding increased confirmed releases once spill bucket testing commences (i.e. significant number of failures)
  - OUST is considering developing guidance about if/when spill buckets fail testing
Resources

• EPA publications for USTs in Indian Country
  https://www.epa.gov/ust/underground-storage-tanks-usts-program-indian-country#pubs

• Training, conferences, and webinars
  ✓ National training on compliance assistance for Indian country
  ✓ Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council (ENIPC) http://enipc-oeta.org/
  ✓ National Tanks Conference and Expo http://www.neiwpcc.org/tanksconference/
  ✓ Tribal Lands & Environment Forum http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confr_tlef
  ✓ Training Resources for Managing USTs in Indian Country
    https://www.epa.gov/ust/underground-storage-tanks-usts-program-indian-country#pubs

• Technical compendium for regulations
  – Questions & answers of technical clarifications and applicability determinations
Questions and Contacts

• Any questions?
• For more information contact the OUST Tribal Team
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