



TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF AN UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK

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The following information provides a summary of the temporary closure requirements for underground storage tanks. The state of North Dakota has promulgated rules for underground storage tanks; the rules became effective December 1, 1989. The state rules are no more stringent than the Federal Underground Storage Tank (UST) Regulations - 40 CFR Part 280.

1. When an underground storage tank system is temporarily closed, owners and operators must continue operation and maintenance of corrosion protection in accordance with section 33.1-24-08-21 of the North Dakota Underground Storage Tank Rules, and any release detection in accordance with sections 33.1-24-08-30 through 33.1-24-08-35. Owners and operators must comply with the release reporting, investigation and confirmation requirements contained in the North Dakota UST rules if a release is suspected; if a release is confirmed, owners and operators must comply with the release response and corrective action requirements. However, release detection is not required as long as the underground storage tank system is empty. The underground storage tank system is empty when all materials have been removed using commonly employed practices so that no more than two and five-tenths centimeters (1 inch) of residue, or three-tenths of one percent by weight of the total capacity of the underground storage tank system, remain in the system.
2. When an underground storage tank system is temporarily closed for three months or more, owners and operators must also comply with the following requirements:
 - a. Leave vent lines open and functioning; and
 - b. Cap and secure all other lines, pumps, manways, and ancillary equipment.
3. When an underground storage tank system is temporarily closed for more than twelve months, owners and operators must permanently close the underground storage tank system if it does not meet either performance standards in section

33.1-24-08-10 for new underground storage tank systems or the upgrading requirements in section 33.1-24-08-11, except that the spill and overflow equipment requirements do not have to be met. Owners and operators must permanently close the substandard underground storage tank systems at the end of this twelve-month temporary closure period in accordance with sections 33.1-24-08-61 through 33.1-24-08-64, unless the Department provides an extension of the twelve-month temporary closure period. Owners and operators must complete a site assessment in accordance with section 33.1-24-08-62 before they apply for such an extension.

NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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