

Operation & Maintenance Requirements For Aboveground Storage Tank Systems

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Owners and operators of aboveground storage tank systems (ASTs) have new requirements they must perform as operations and maintenance of ASTs. The new requirements became effective on August 15, 2003 as part of the newly revised Title 20 Part 5 of the New Mexico Administrative Code, *Petroleum Storage Tank Regulations*. Some of these requirements shall be performed monthly and others periodically say, for instance, after a rainstorm. All equipment associated with an AST that routinely contains a regulated substance will be kept fully operational at all times.

Also, the owner and operator have to adopt an Operations & Maintenance Plan. The plan can simply be a copy they buy of a standard for inspection, repair, and alteration of ASTs that is applicable to their tank. They can draft their own O&M Plan and submit the plan to the Department for written approval. If the plan is approved it will be kept and followed for the life of the AST.

Monthly

The following shall be performed monthly:

- 1) Visually inspect the tank and all components that are readily accessible.
- 2) Visually inspect any piping that has been installed in a trench.
- 3) Check for the presence of water in the tank and remove it to the extent technically possible. Any liquid

removed from the tank shall be disposed of properly.

- 4) Inspect a vaulted system from the outside of the vault.

Periodically

The following shall be performed periodically:

- 1) Within one week of a rainfall event, or thunderstorm, all water and debris shall be removed from all catchment basins, trenches, and sumps. Any liquid removed shall be disposed of properly.
- 2) Remove water, regulated substances, and debris from within all secondary containment systems, spill containment devices, sumps, and, trenches as needed in order to maintain the highest level of containment.
- 3) Monitor an impressed current system associated with an AST every 60 days and keep the log of monitoring up to date.
- 4) Test all cathodic protection systems within 6 months of installation and every 3 years thereafter.
- 5) Internal inspection or tank tightness test the AST 10 years after installation unless it has been installed within a secondary containment system that

meets the requirements of subsection C of 20.5.4.401 NMAC.

Annually

The following shall be performed annually:

- 1) Inspect all sensors used to monitor interstitial spaces in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.
- 2) Visual inspection the interstice of double-walled tank for the presence of water.
- 3) Enter and inspect the interior of a vaulted system.