Note:

A change in location of an AST System is considered a change in service, owners and operators shall follow requirements for permanent closure for removing the system from on site. When bringing the AST System back into service at another location the owners and operators shall follow requirements set forth for installation in Part 4 of 20.5 NMAC

PSTB Prevention & Inspection Staff

Albuquerque

Keith Chavez (keith.chavez@state.nm.us) 222-9559
Bart Butler (bart.butler@state.nm.us) 222-9556
Dan Lopez (dan.lopez@state.nm.us) 222-9549
Bob Miller (robert.miller@state.nm.us) 222-9548

Carlsbad

Elmer Smith (elmer.smith@state.nm.us) 885-9023

Clovis

Bill Bryant (bill.bryant@state.nm.us) 762-3728

Farmington

Tom Gray (tom.gray@state.nm.us) 566-9745
Bob Bouren (robert.bouren@state.nm.us) 566-9748

Las Cruces

Joe Godwin (joe.godwin@state.nm.us) 524-6300
Lowell Watkins (lowell.watkins@state.nm.us)
524-6300

Las Vegas

Adrian Jaramillo (adrian.jaramillo@state.nm.us)
Telephone: 454-2808

Roswell

Len Murray (leonard.murray@state.nm.us) 624-6123

Santa Fe

Kal Martin (Kalvin.martin@state.nm.us) 476-4390
Ron Trueblood (ron.trueblood@state.nm.us)
Telephone: 476-4391

For more information write or call:

New Mexico Environment
Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau
1301 Siler Road, Bldg B
Santa Fe, NM 87507

(505) 476-4397

Closure Requirements for Aboveground Storage Tanks

New Mexico
Environment Department
Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau
1301 Siler Road, Bldg. B
Santa Fe, NM 87507

Closure of Aboveground Storage Tank Systems

Owners and operators of aboveground storage tank (AST) systems who wish to close their tank systems, or are required to close their tank system may use this document as guidance. ASTs regulated by 20.5 NMAC, New Mexico Petroleum Storage Tank Regulations, that don't meet the requirements set forth under these regulations must be properly closed in accordance with these regulations. Owners and operators have several options available to them in closing their tank system as follows:

Temporary Closure

Owners and operators of aboveground storage tank systems who take their AST Systems out of service temporarily shall meet requirements set forth in Part 8 of 20.5 NMAC, which are listed below. Also, if the owners and operators of AST Systems that have not met the deadlines for upgrades choose to temporarily close their AST System for a period of twelve (12) months or less, they shall meet the following requirements:

1) Notify the Department thirty (30) days before closing the AST System.
2) Continue operation and maintenance of corrosion protection.
3) Continue using a method of release detection if the tank contains more than one inch of regulated substance.

If AST Systems are closed for three months or more the following are required:

1) Vent lines are left open and functioning.
2) All pumps, man-ways, and ancillary equipment are capped and secured. After the tank is emptied and cleaned all associated piping is disconnected and capped.

Owners and operators shall meet the following requirements when bringing their Field-erected AST System back into service after temporary closure:

1) Perform an internal inspection.
2) Perform a tightness test on all associated piping.
3) Perform a functionality check on any automatic line leak detector installed on piping.

Permanent Closure

Owners and operators of AST Systems who wish to permanently close their systems are required to perform the following:

1) Notify the Department thirty (30) days before commencement of closure activities.
2) Empty and clean the tank by removing all liquids, accumulated sludge, and vapors. All liquid and sludge shall be disposed of properly.
3) Assess the installation zone for any possible contamination before completion of the closure in accordance with Part 7 of 20.5 NMAC.

In New Mexico, the owners and operators are responsible for the safe removal of AST Systems. The tanks should be removed from site as soon as possible and taken to a disposal yard or stored in an area where the tanks are secured from the public. The disposal yard should be supervised by a person familiar with the dangers associated with the storage of petroleum storage tanks.

If the owner sells the tank after removal the transfer of ownership should be with a bill of sale that contains the following information:

1) Serial Number issued by manufacturer (if available).
2) Date of removal.
3) Disclaimers.
4) Name of Seller.
5) Name of Purchaser.

If the owners and operators wish to close AST Systems in place they are required to perform the following in addition to the requirements listed above:

1) Render the tank vapor-free and make provisions for adequate ventilation to ensure the tank remains vapor-free.
2) Keep vent lines open.
3) Secure all access openings and use spacers to assist ventilation.
4) Secure AST System from tampering and flooding.
5) Stencil in a readily visible location on the tank the name of the last regulated substance stored, the date of permanent closure, and the words "Permanently Closed."
6) Dismantle or remove ASTs and secondary containment to the extent needed to conduct a site assessment during permanent closure.

Owners and operators who wish to close the piping in place shall submit a closure plan to the Department thirty (30) days prior to closure. If the Department approves the plan the piping shall be closed a follows:

1) Disconnected from AST.
2) Rendered vapor-free.
3) Filled with inert material.
4) Capped or blind flanged.

Owners and operators of mobile AST Systems shall perform all closure requirements set forth above for permanent closure except the following:

1) Empty and clean the tank by removing all liquids, accumulated sludge, and vapors.
2) Stencil in a readily visible location on the tank the name of the last regulated substance stored, the date of permanent closure, and the words "Permanently Closed."
3) Submitting a closure plan for piping, all piping will be removed and capped.