

Note:

The requirements of the 30-Day and the 24-Hour notifications apply to Temporary Closure, Permanent Closure, Return To Service, Removal, or Change In Service.



For more information write or call:

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Closure Requirements for Underground Storage Tank Systems



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Closure Requirements for UST Systems

When closing a UST system, regulations in 20.5.8 NMAC requires a written or oral notice 30 days before beginning permanent closure, temporary closure, return to service or change-in-service.

For UST system closures, owners and operators shall notify PSTB to allow an opportunity for an inspector to be present during steps (critical junctures) or procedures which are important to the prevention of releases. Additionally, owners and operators are required to give a 24-hour notice before any critical juncture begins. Critical junctures are:

- 1) Completion of the excavation of the UST and piping;
- 2) Cleaning and de-vaporizing the tank;
- 3) Cleaning the shell of the tank.
- 4) Removal of the UST or its associated piping from the ground;
- 5) Closing or filling a UST in place;
- 6) Assessment of the tank site for possible contamination.

Temporary Closure

Owners and operators who wish to stop operating their UST system on a temporary basis can do so if the listed requirements are followed:

- 1) Notify PSTB 30 days in advance of the temporary closure;
- 2) Operate and maintain corrosion protection and monthly release detection. However, release detection is not required if the tank system is emptied of fuel,
- 3) Remove regulated substances from the UST system to a level of one inch or less if the monthly release detection method is not achievable.
- 4) UST systems must be permanently closed 12 months after being placed into temporary closure, if the UST system does not meet the performance requirements in Part 4 of 20.5 NMAC.

Note: During Temporary Closure, the 20.5 NMAC requirements of registration and annual fees remain applicable.

Owners and operators of a UST system who want to bring their system back into service from temporary closure are required to give a 30-day notice and are required to demonstrate the integrity of the entire tank system.

Change-in-Service

A change-in-service of a UST system is where the system will no longer be used to store substances regulated under 20.5 NMAC. A change-in-service requires:

- 30-day notice be submitted to the Bureau;
- The UST be emptied and cleaned by removing all liquid and accumulated sludge before placing a non-regulated substance in the tank;
- Assessment of the tank site for possible contamination. by taking soil samples for laboratory analysis where contamination is most likely to have occurred.

Permanent Closure

Owners and operators who wish to stop operating their UST systems permanently must perform the following:

- 1) Notify PSTB 30 days before the start of any closure activities;
- 2) Empty the tank and associated piping of all regulated substances;
- 3) Inert the tank;
- 4) Remove the tank and associated piping or fill the tank with an inert material in accordance with industry codes and standards;
- 5) Assess the site for possible contamination at all places where contamination is likely to occur;
- 6) Provide PSTB with a copy of the site assessment report.