

## PSTB Prevention & Inspection Staff

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## Operation & Maintenance Requirements for Aboveground Storage Tank Systems



### For more information write or call:

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(Version 8/13)

New Mexico  
Environment Department  
Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau  
2905 Rodeo Park East Bldg 1  
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Owners and operators are required to have an Operations & Maintenance Plan per 20.5.5.9 NMAC for aboveground storage tank (AST) systems and required to have the following in place:

- 1) Have and implement a written operations and maintenance plan, which is kept at the facility for the life of the storage tank system.
- 2) Owners and operators of unmanned storage tank systems may keep the operations and maintenance plan at an alternate location as long as it is made readily available to the department upon request.
- 3) The operations and maintenance plan must be as specific as possible for each facility and include the piping and ancillary equipment that routinely contains regulated substances, or controls the flow of regulated substances.
- 4) Owners and operators may use, by reference, operational and maintenance guidance from the current edition of an industry standard or code of practice developed by a nationally recognized association or independent testing laboratory.
- 5) A current edition of an industry standard or code of practice shall maintain a copy of the code or standard they reference. Owners and operators shall not implement the plan until it has been approved by the department.

Owners and operators must perform certain monthly, periodical, and annual requirements per 20.5 NMAC. Listed below are some examples that must be described in the Operation & Maintenance Plan:

#### **Monthly**

The following shall be performed monthly:

Visually inspect the tank and all components that are readily accessible, including all dispenser and transition sumps where applicable.

- 1) Visually inspect any piping that has been installed in a concrete lined trench.
- 2) 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.
- 3) Inspect a vaulted system from the outside of the vault.
- 4) Electronically monitor, or perform a visual inspection of the interstice of any double-walled tank for the presence of any liquid.
- 5) Electronically monitor, or perform a visual inspection secondary containment of any double-walled piping for the presence of any liquid.

Note: When “electronically monitoring” a report indicating a “sensor normal” must be obtained and retained monthly.

#### **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 properly disposed.
- 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 maintain a written log.
- 4) Test all cathodic protection systems within 6 months of installation and every 3 years thereafter.
- 5) Perform internal inspection or tank tightness test of the AST 10 years after installation unless it has been installed within a secondary containment system that meets the requirements of Sections 28 or 29 of 20.5.4 NMAC.

#### **Annually**

The following shall be performed annually:

- 1) Inspect and test all sensors used to monitor interstitial spaces in accordance with manufacturer’s recommendations.
- 2) Perform visual inspection of the interstice of any double-walled tank for the presence of any liquid.
- 3) Enter and inspect the interior of a vaulted system (Confined space entry permit required).