

## REGULATED STORAGE TANKS CORRECTIVE ACTION PROCESS REGULATIONS RELEASE REPORTING - Part 1

The Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Act requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to adopt regulations establishing release confirmation, release reporting and corrective action requirements for owners and operators of regulated aboveground and underground storage tanks and other responsible parties. The Corrective Action Process (CAP) regulations include requirements for:

- confirming or disproving suspected releases;
- reporting releases;
- determining the extent of soil, sediment, surface water and groundwater contamination;
- taking necessary actions to abate risks to human health and the environment;
- taking steps to prevent further migration of the released substance into the environment;
- restoring or replacing affected or diminished water supplies; and
- storing contaminated soil at the site of the release.

This fact sheet and the companion fact sheet, *Corrective Action Process Regulations Release Reporting - Part 2*, discuss the reporting requirements found in Section 245.305 of the CAP regulations.

### ***What is a “reportable release”?***

The CAP regulations define a “reportable release” as:

“A quantity or an unknown quantity of regulated substance released to or posing an immediate threat to surface water, groundwater, bedrock, soil or sediment.”

There are, however, three specific situations when a release does not have to be reported:

- a release to the interstitial space of a double-walled aboveground or underground storage tank;
- a release of petroleum to an aboveground surface that is less than 25 gallons;
- a release of a hazardous substance to an aboveground surface that is less than its reportable quantity under CERCLA (the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980) published at 40 CFR Part 302.

It is important to note that the three specific exclusions above only apply if the release meets all of the following criteria:

- it is under control at all times;
- it is completely contained; and
- it is cleaned up within 24 hours of its occurrence.

If any one of these conditions is not met or it is determined that any one will not be met, the release becomes reportable at that time.

### ***Where can I find reportable quantities under CERCLA?***

Regulated substances and corresponding reportable quantities may be obtained from the DEP website at [www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us), keyword: Storage Tanks. The reportable quantity under CERCLA for an individual substance depends on the category to which it is assigned and ranges from one to 5,000 lbs. Category definitions are provided at the end of the listing of regulated substances.

For liquid compounds, pounds may be converted to gallons using the following formula:

$$\text{Reportable Quantity (Gallons)} = \frac{\text{Reportable CERCLA Quantity (Lbs.)}}{8.34 \times (\text{Specific Gravity of Substance})}$$

### ***How do owners or operators report a “reportable release”?***

Owners or operators must notify, by telephone, the DEP regional office responsible for the county in which the release occurred within 24 hours of confirming a release. The notice must describe, to the extent information is available:

- the regulated substance involved;
- the quantity of the regulated substance involved;

- when the release occurred;
- relevant, available information concerning the contamination of environmental media (soil, sediment, surface water, groundwater and bedrock) and impacts to water supplies, buildings or to sewer or other utility lines; and
- interim remedial actions planned, initiated or completed.

The telephone numbers to call when reporting a release are listed at the end of this fact sheet.

Within 15 days of the telephone notice, the owner or operator must follow up with a written notification to the appropriate DEP regional office, the municipality in which the release occurred and each municipality impacted by the release. This written notice must include the same information as provided in the telephone notification and also should include any new information obtained within the 15 days.

DEP has prepared a form, *Notification of Reportable Release/Notification of Contamination*, which can be used to satisfy this initial written notification requirement. This form can also be used by certified installers and inspectors to satisfy their reporting obligations under subsection 245.132(a)(4) of the certification regulations. Under this standard of performance, certified installers and inspectors are required to report to DEP suspected or confirmed contamination from regulated substances observed while performing tank handling activities. The form is available at [www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us), keyword: Tank Cleanup.

**Are impacts discovered after the initial written notification reportable?**

Yes. The owner or operator must provide additional written notification of newly discovered impacts to environmental media or water supplies, buildings, or sewer or other utility lines. This notification must be made to the appropriate DEP regional office and each impacted municipality within 15 days of discovery of the impact. Only the first occurrence of an impact in each impacted municipality needs to be reported. For example, if contamination of groundwater is discovered in a monitoring well drilled in a municipality not previously known to be impacted by groundwater contamination from the release, DEP and that municipality must be notified, in writing, of the impact to groundwater. If another well is drilled in that municipality and contaminated groundwater is again discovered, additional notification that groundwater is impacted in that particular municipality is not required. However, if groundwater contamination is discovered in another municipality, it would need to be reported to that municipality and to DEP. The *Notification of Reportable Release/Notification of Contamination* form can also be used to comply with this follow-up notification requirement.

Questions about release reporting may be directed to your DEP regional office or to the DEP Bureau of Waste Management, Division of Remediation Services at P.O. Box 8471, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8471, 717-783-9475 or through the PA AT&T Relay Service at 1-800-654-5984 (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf).

**To report “reportable releases,” contact your DEP Regional Office:**

**Northwest Region**

230 Chestnut Street  
 Meadville, PA 16335-3481  
 814-332-6945  
 (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. M-F)  
 1-800-373-3398  
 (after hours, weekends and holidays)

**Counties:** *Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Venango and Warren*

**Southwest Region**

400 Waterfront Drive  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
 412-442-4091  
 (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. M-F)  
 412-442-4000  
 (after hours, weekends and holidays)

**Counties:** *Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington and Westmoreland*

**Northcentral Region**

208 W. Third Street, Suite 101  
 Williamsport, PA 17701  
 570-321-6525  
 (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., M-F)  
 570-327-3696  
 (after hours, weekends and holidays)

**Counties:** *Bradford, Cameron, Clearfield, Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga and Union*

**Southcentral Region**

909 Elmerton Avenue  
 Harrisburg, PA 17110  
 877-333-1904  
 (24-hour number including weekends and holidays)

**Counties:** *Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry and York*

**Northeast Region**

2 Public Square  
 Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701-1915  
 570-826-2511  
 (24-hour number including weekends and holidays)

**Counties:** *Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne & Wyoming*

**Southeast Region**

2 East Main Street  
 Norristown, PA 19401  
 484-250-5900  
 (24-hour number including weekends and holidays)

**Counties:** *Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia*

For more information, visit [www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us), keyword: Tank Cleanup.