



Removal of Underground Storage Tanks (UST) Encountered during Construction

Technical Guide

Environmental Affairs Division

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What do I do when USTs are discovered?

When an unanticipated UST system is discovered in the right-of-way, especially if it is located in the path of construction, it will need to be removed from the ground. Do not allow the prime contractor, subcontractor, or TxDOT personnel to handle or disturb the tanks or the surrounding soil. To properly remove the UST system from the ground you contract with a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) registered UST contractor that employs the appropriately trained and licensed personnel.

Are UST systems and associated activities regulated?

Yes, the TCEQ regulates UST systems and the associated installation, repair, removal, assessment, corrective action activities and UST contractors and consultants.

Who in TxDOT can I call for assistance?

For District assistance, you can contact your District Environmental Coordinator, Hazardous Materials Coordinator, Petroleum Storage Tank Coordinator, or in some cases your ROW Section.

For Division assistance, you can contact the Pollution Prevention and Abatement Section, Environmental Affairs Division (ENV-PPA) for assistance.

- Rodney Concienne, (512) 416-3012
- Terry Dempsey: (512) 416-3010
- Doug Mack Phone: (512) 416-2634

Type of Contractor Needed to Remove the UST System

Only qualified personnel who hold the appropriate license and registration from the TCEQ can perform the removal of a UST system. The UST Contractor is required to be registered with the TCEQ and their on-site supervisor must hold a valid TCEQ Class "B" License.

Information Needed for UST Contractor

The following is the information that is needed to assist the UST contractor in preparing a cost proposal for the UST system removal (if some of the information is unknown - such as the size of the tank, then state that size is unknown or indicate an estimated size; e.g., size estimated at 2,000 gallons):

- The number and size of the USTs.
- The tank contents and an estimate of the volume of fluids remaining in the USTs
- Type and thickness of surface cover over the USTs (concrete, asphalt, soil) and whether there is a need to relocate or remove objects or structures (canopy, dispensers, building, etc.)
- The location of the USTs including the proximity to the roadway and whether there is need for traffic control
- Location of underground or aboveground utilities
- Special backfill compaction requirements
- Removal time frame.

Required Permits and Notifications

Prior to the removal of the UST system, TxDOT is required to provide written notification to the TCEQ at least 30 days in advance of the UST removal activity, using a TCEQ authorized form (UST Construction Notification Form --- TCEQ-0495), which is available on the TCEQ website. The form must be sent to the TCEQ's central office in Austin or to the appropriate TCEQ Regional Office. The UST contractor may submit the form on TxDOT's behalf. Additionally, TxDOT or TxDOT's contractor must contact the appropriate TCEQ Regional Office 24 to 72 hours in advance of initiating construction activities.

If time is critical, after the submission of the Construction Notification Form, TxDOT may request a waiver of the 30 day requirement from the TCEQ's Regional Office to accelerate the construction schedule. TxDOT or TxDOT's contractor should also notify local government (city and/or county) and the local and/or state Fire Marshal of the intent to remove a UST system. Any necessary local permits, if applicable, should be obtained.

For USTs discovered within the right-of-way, TxDOT **should not** be listed as the UST Owner, but as the property owner.

UST Registration Requirements

All existing USTs are required to be registered, unless they have been properly and permanently removed from service pursuant to TCEQ regulations. Previously unknown tanks, sometimes referred to as "ghost" tanks, are not required to be registered, if they are permanently removed from service within 60 days of the date TxDOT became aware of the tanks on existing right-of-way.

Reporting Requirements

After the completion of the removal activity, the contractor will provide TxDOT with a written report documenting the UST excavation, removal, and contamination assessment. A copy of this report is required to be submitted to the TCEQ within 30 days after the completion of the removal activity. The contents of this report are described in the TCEQ Technical Guidance Document: How to Remove Your Underground Storage Tank from the Ground (RG-016), which is available on TCEQ's website..

Available UST Removal Contracts

Pre-arranged Purchase of Service Contract: ENV-PPA and some districts have pre-arranged blanket purchase order contracts for UST removal. If your District has a contract in place, work with your District contact to arrange services or contact ENV-PPA to use one of their blanket purchase order contracts.

Construction Contract Change Order: If the UST is encountered by the construction contractor, provide the contractor may be offered the option to perform the UST removal as "extra work" by a Change Order in accordance with the TxDOT Standard Specifications.

The contractor is not obligated to opt for "extra work" since the required work is outside the scope of their contract or the contractor's cost for the change order may be more expensive than the use of other contracting methods.

If the contractor does agree to a UST removal change order, TxDOT should ensure that the contractor and/or subcontractor utilized is properly registered and the appropriate personnel are licensed by the TCEQ, and complies with the notification and reporting requirements.

Leaking Petroleum/Product Storage Tanks (LPST)

If it is determined after the UST is removed that there was a release from the UST system, an environmental assessment and other corrective action / preventative actions will be required. Additionally, owners and operators are required to notify the TCEQ/TCEQ within 24 hours after the discovery or notification of the release. This reporting can be accomplished via a telephone call to the TCEQ Austin Central Office at (512) 239-2200 or the appropriate TCEQ Regional Office and the submission of the tank removal report prepared by the UST contractor.

Appendix A

The following table shows the revision history for this guidance document.

Revision History	
Effective Date Month, Year	Reason for and Description of Change
February 2014	Version 1 release