

**Bureau of Petroleum Inspection  
Abandon Underground Storage Tank (UST) Policy**

This document is a re-write of the Abandon UST policy established on February 20, 1990.

Chapter 10 of the Administrative Code uses the term *closure* or *closed* to refer to the formal and legal procedure for decommissioning an underground or aboveground flammable or combustible liquid storage tank. ILHR 10 uses the term *abandon* to refer to an out-of-service tank that has not been properly closed. Ind 8, the administrative code in effect prior to ILHR 10, used the term *abandon* as the current code uses the term *closed*. The document used by the Department to record UST transitions is the Underground Petroleum Product Tank Inventory (SBD 7437).

Closure (abandonment) of a UST by filling with water was allowed by Administrative Code Ind 8, prior to August 1971. The following administrative policy applies:

**UST closed by filling with water prior to August 1971 and documented with the Department on SBD 7437.**

The UST closure meets the requirements of Ind 8, which was the code in effect at the time. The owner should be advised of environmental risks related to the potential of the tank to begin leaking and the safety concerns related to a void area in the tank, and subsequent corrosion, which will impact the structural integrity of the tank shell if the tank has lost water. The owner should be encouraged to remove any existing water and fill the tank with sand or remove from the site. If the owner fills the tank with an inert material or removes UST from the property document, the actions should be documented on a SBD 7437.

**UST closed by filling with water prior to August 1971, but not documented with the Department on SBD 7437.**

Owner must provide second party documentation verifying closure with water. Owner must remove the water and complete closure by filling federally regulated tanks with sand or removing the tank from the site. No site assessment is required. Closure documentation must be submitted on a SBD 7437.

If owner is unable to provide second party verification, a site assessment will be required to complete the closure of a federally regulated tank.

**UST closed by filling with water during or after August 1971.**

Closure by filling with water was not allowed by Ind 8, effective August 1971. The UST must be properly closed by filling with an approved inert material or removal from the site. Federally regulated tanks must have a site assessment to compliment the closure.

**UST closed prior to December 22, 1988 by filling with inert material or by removal, but not previously documented with SBD 7437.**

The Department must be provided with as much detail as possible, including date of closure, how closure was administered, who conducted the closure, and sources of the information provided. Second and third party statements are very helpful. If the data provided is not factual or adequate, federally regulated USTs will require a site assessment.