



OCT 98

Region III Oil Program Activities

Volume 5, Issue 4

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

FRP QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: Do all FRPS need to be approved by the Regional Administrator (RA)?

The only facilities that require RA approval for their plans are significant and substantial harm facilities, a designation that is made by the RA using a series of risk-based screening considerations. The factors include the criteria to determine substantial harm, as well as the age of the tanks, proximity to navigable waters, and spill frequency, as specified in 40 CFR 112.20(f)(3).

Question: If a new facility is built that meets the criteria for inclusion as a substantial harm facility, what obligations does the owner or operator have with respect to FRP submission?

Answer: A new facility that will meet the criteria for a substantial harm facility must submit an FRP to the RA before beginning the handling, storing, or transporting oil. If a facility is determined by the RA to be a significant and substantial harm facility, the RA will review the FRP and inform the facility if the FRP is approved, or needs corrections or revisions in order to be approved.

SPCC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: Do facility owners/operators need to notify EPA when they are not subject to SPCC regulations?

Answer: There are no self-reporting requirements for SPCC facilities. The facility owner or operator should investigate whether his/her state oil pollution control authority has any requirements in addition to the federal SPCC Plan requirements.

Under the requirements of OPA90, owners or operators of certain non-transportation-related oil storage facilities are

required to determine whether their facility, because of its location, could reasonably be expected to cause substantial harm to the environment by discharging oil. If so, they are required to prepare and submit an Facility Response Plan to EPA (40 CFR 112.20).

Question: Are Federal and State-owned and/or operated facilities subject to the SPCC requirements?

Answer: Yes. They are required to develop and maintain a SPCC Plan for any Federal or State-owned facility that meets the applicability requirements.

OIL SPILL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: What is considered to be a harmful quantity?

Answer: A harmful quantity of oil is a discharge that results in a violation of applicable water quality standards; causes a film or sheen upon the water or adjoining shorelines; discolors the water or adjoining shorelines or causes an emulsion or sludge to be deposited beneath the surface of the water or upon adjoining shorelines.

SPCC INFORMATION

Electronic SPCC Sample Plan

Region III is preparing an electronic SPCC Sample Plan that will be available to interested parties via e-mail. It is hoped that making such a plan available will assist facilities with the preparation of their own plans. Eventually the goal is to make the plan available on the EPA's website, www.epa.gov. Please call either Raj Sharma, (215) 814-3260, or Mike Welsh, (215) 814-3285, for more information.

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STATE INFORMATION

PENNSYLVANIA ISSUES AST REQUIREMENTS

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has issued technical requirements for aboveground storage tanks found at Title 25, Chapter 245, Subchapter F of the Pennsylvania Code. The regulations now include requirements for containment permeability, leak detection, overfill protection, inspection requirements and other issues. For more information you may visit their website at <http://www.dep.state.pa.us> (choose PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CENTER/ Proposals Recently Finalized REGULATIONS/ STORAGE TANK TECHNICAL STANDARDS) or upon request from DEP by calling (800) 42-TANKS (toll-free from locations within PA) or (717)772-5599.

PA STORAGE TANK GRANTS & LOANS

If you own or operate regulated underground storage tanks, you should be aware of the pending December 22, 1998 federal deadline to either have your tanks upgraded, replaced or removed. What you may not be aware of is the \$50 million Pennsylvania has available in grants and low-interest loans to help you address your storage tank needs.

If you are not planning to upgrade or replace your tanks, Pollution Prevention Grants are available to help pay for closing them properly. Under the program, the Department of Environmental Protection will award grants of up to \$6,000 for pumping and disposing of regulated substances from tanks, cleaning of insides of tanks and grouting the tank's fill pipes with a permanent material so they're rendered inoperable. Owners of six or fewer regulated underground storage tanks are eligible for the grants.

For tank owners planning to upgrade their tanks, the Department of Community and Economic Development has low interest loans of up to \$500,000 available to upgrade tanks to meet the December 22, 1998 requirements.

For more information on the grants and loads, contact DEP's Storage Tank Program at 1-800-42-TANKS or visit DEP's web site at www.dep.state.pa.us.

VIRGINIA STATE PROGRAM APPROVAL OF THE UST PROGRAM

On September 17, 1998, the Regional Administrator signed the Federal Register Notice of Final Determination on Virginia's Application for program approval of the UST

program. EPA congratulates the Department of the Environmental Quality on receiving Program Approval of their UST Program to operate in lieu of the Federal Program. Program Approval for Virginia shall be effective 30 days after the publication in the Federal Register, which was expected to occur on or before September 30, 1998.

WV DEP OFFICE OF OIL AND GAS GRANT EXTENSION

The West Virginia Office of Oil and Gas has been given an extension of one year for the abandoned oil well cooperative agreement which was set to expire this year.

This extension will enable the work to continue in identifying and mapping abandoned oil wells that plague West Virginia. To date hundreds of abandoned wells have been located and prioritized and mapped using various techniques and methods. West Virginia hopes their methods will become a model for other states.

SPILL INFORMATION

Economic Considerations of Spills

Facilities that are in full compliance reduce the number and severity of discharges and avoid the high cost of environmental cleanups, restoring natural resources. Additional permitting requirements could be imposed in the event of a discharge. By being in full compliance, facilities that implement these measures are more likely to prevent and control oil spills that may result due to human operational error, equipment failure, vandalism, or natural disasters.

The cost of a cleanup would not only include repairing the damage to the facility (e.g., Soil removal or equipment repair) but could extend beyond the facility's boundary to impacted offsite areas, including damage to natural resources. Regulators and permitting agencies may require modifications to operations or revisions to plans. Heavy fines and penalties are often associated with oil discharges, especially when negligence can be proven.

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INTERESTING FACTS

When it comes to mixing oil and water, oceans suffer from far more than an occasional devastating spill. Disasters make headlines, but hundreds of millions of gallons of oil quietly end up in the seas every year, mostly from non-accidental sources.

Down the Drain: 363 Million Gallons

Used engine oil can end up in waterways. An average oil change uses five quarts; one change can contaminate a million gallons of fresh water. Much of the oil and runoff from land and municipal and industrial wastes ends up in the oceans.

Routine Maintenance: 137 Million Gallons

Every year, bilge cleaning and other ship operations release millions of gallons of oil into navigable waters in thousands of discharges of just a few gallons each.

Up in Smoke: 92 Million Gallons

Air pollution, mainly from cars and industry, places hundreds of tons of hydrocarbons into oceans each year, Particles settle, and rain washes hydrocarbons from the air into the oceans.

Natural Seeps: 62 Million Gallons

Some ocean oil "pollution" is natural. Seepage from the ocean bottom and eroding sedimentary rocks releases oil.

Big Spills: 37 Million Gallons

Only about 5 percent of oil pollution in oceans is due to major tanker accidents, but one big spill can disrupt sea and shore life for miles.

Offshore Drilling: 15 Million Gallons

Offshore oil producing can cause ocean oil pollution from spills and operational discharges.

Information taken from Ocean Planet: Oil Pollution.

UPCOMING EVENTS

REGION III RRT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled Region III RRT meeting will be in January 1999 in Alexandria, Virginia. For further information, contact Linda Marzulli at (215) 814-3256.

INTERNATIONAL OIL SPILL CONFERENCE

The 1999 International Oil Spill Conference is being held at the Washington State Convention Center in the Emerald City of Seattle, Washington. The conference is scheduled for March 8-11, 1999.

Further information can be obtained at (202) 973-8689, or the website at www.iosc.org.

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EPA REGION III SPCC & FRP HOTLINE

Have a question on Spill Prevention, Control & Countermeasures (SPCC) 40 CFR 112.1 or Facility Response Plans (FRP) 40 CFR 112.20? EPA Region III has in place a hotline to answer these and other oil related questions. The hotline is staffed by the very people that will inspect your facility and review yor spill plans. The hotline number is **(215)814-3452**.

INTERNET INFORMATION

STATE WEBSITES

The following states have created websites on the Internet:

- Delaware: www.dnrec.state.de.us
- Maryland: www.mde.state.md.us
- Pennsylvania: www.dep.state.pa.us
- Virginia: www.deq.state.va.us
- West Virginia: charon.osmre.gov

The United States Coast Guard website is:

www.dot.gov/dotinfo/uscg/contact.html

To obtain Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) information needed for Facility Response Plans the website is:

www.rtknet/www/data/lepc.html

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This publication is now available via the Internet.
Go to EPA Headquarters Internet web site:

[HTTP://WWW.EPA.GOV/oilspill/index.HTM.](http://www.epa.gov/oilspill/index.htm)

SPCC/FRP OUTREACH MANUAL

HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR COPY OF EPA
REGION III'S SPCC/FRP OUTREACH MANUAL?

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A COPY
PLEASE SEND OR FAX TO:

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U.S. EPA - Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Phone#: (215) 814-3102
Fax#: (215) 814-3254

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| <i>-RRT, Area Committees, Port Area Committee</i> | |
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| <i>-OPA Spill Penalty Program</i> | |
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