

TEXAS WATER COMMISSION



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Allen Beinke, Executive Director

February 6, 1990

Mr. Jose L. Flores, Airport Director
Laredo International Airport
Foreign Trade Zone Number 94
518 Flightline/Building #132
Laredo, TX 78041

Re: Underground Storage Tanks at Laredo International Airport
(UST Facility No. 009940)

Dear Mr. Flores:

As per your discussion on 2-1-90 with D-11 representative Marc Haws, you requested a letter from us documenting our observations concerning proposed release detection methods for underground storage tanks (USTs) at the Laredo International Airport. In my discussions with Mr. Haws, he stated that there was a need to install such release detection systems at this facility to comply with Texas law.

The Texas Water Commission (TWC) is responsible for protecting the quality of state waters as well as public health and safety when a release occurs from an underground storage tank system. Under the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Title 31, Chapter 334.44 (relating to Implementation Schedules), all tanks in an existing UST system shall be brought into compliance with the tank release detection requirements in TAC Chapter 334.50 (b)(1) (relating to Release Detection) no later than December 22, 1989 for tanks installed during 1964 or prior years. Because our records indicate that your USTs were installed in 1951, the subject UST system is noncompliant with the requirements. It is my understanding that you have stated that appropriate release detection capability will be in place on or before March 6, 1990.

As for release detection methods, we cannot make recommendations relating to specific release detection methods. This decision is the responsibility of the UST owner; however, you might wish to consider the following:

1. Tank tightness testing and inventory controls (until December 22, 1998),
2. Automatic tank gauging and inventory controls,

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REPLY TO: DISTRICT 11 / 813 E. PIKE BLVD. / WESLACO, TEXAS 78596-4935 / AREA CODE 512/968-3165

3. Groundwater monitoring, or
4. Vapor monitoring.

Each of the above methods are acceptable by State regulations and the choice of a specific method should be made with regard to economic feasibility, hydrogeologic conditions, and any other pertinent site-specific information for the particular UST system location.

In a related matter, Mr. Haws observed at your facility that there are existing USTs which are either no longer in service or that are temporarily out of service. Under TAC Chapter 334.50, any existing UST system that is not equipped or monitored with a method of release detection shall be permanently removed from service in accordance with the applicable procedures in TAC Chapter 334.55 (relating to Permanent Removal from Service). Such action should occur no later than 60 days after the December implementation date for release detection as prescribed by the applicable schedules in TAC Chapter 334.44. Our records indicate that a 25,000 gallon UST and a 5,000 gallon UST are in place but not in use at your facility. These tanks were apparently installed prior to 1964. Since the release detection implementation date for existing USTs installed in 1964 or prior years is December 22, 1989, the deadline for permanent removal of these tanks is February 22, 1990.

Permanent removal of UST systems may be satisfied in the following ways:

1. Removal from the ground,
2. Abandonment in-place,
3. Change-in-service involving a UST system storing regulated substances that are converted to systems storing materials other than regulated substances.

Each removal method would require the owner or operator to determine whether or not any prior release of a stored regulated substance has occurred from the system, either by visual inspection of the excavation zone, and/or testing of soil for hydrocarbon content.

Due to the impending February 22 deadline for permanent removal of USTs installed in or before 1964, we request that a 30-day notification of construction activities (see attached form) be submitted to this office within 30 days. This would allow you 30 days to submit the construction notification form and an additional 30 days to secure qualified personnel to perform this activity (please note that construction may begin no sooner than 30 days from the date in which the notification was submitted).

To summarize, we request, within 30 days: an operational release detection system for your existing in-service USTs, a 30-day construction notification should you decide to permanently remove USTs no longer in operation.

Should you have any questions or require further guidance, please contact Mr. Haws at (512) 968-3165. Your cooperation in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,



John Sturgis
District Manager

MH:cr

Enclosure

00585

TEXAS WATER COMMISSION
 UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) CONSTRUCTION NOTIFICATION FORM

This form is provided to assist UST owners in complying with the construction notification requirements of TWC Rules, 31 TAC Chapter 334. The completion and filing of this form within the prescribed time should satisfy these requirements.

1. TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION: (Indicate all that apply.)

Installation Addition Removal Other (Specify) _____
 Replacement Improvement Abandonment _____

2. FACILITY LOCATION INFORMATION:

Facility Name: _____
 Address/Location: _____

 County: _____ City: _____
 UST Facility No. (If known): _____
 Telephone: _____

3. OWNER INFORMATION:

Owner: _____
 Representative: _____
 Title: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Telephone: _____

4. UST CONSULTANT INFORMATION:

Company: _____
 Representative: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Telephone: _____

5. UST CONTRACTOR INFORMATION:

Company: _____
 Representative: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Telephone: _____

6. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED UST ACTIVITY: (Describe all new or replacement tanks and other UST system components. Include closure procedures for UST abandonments or removals. Attach additional information as appropriate.)

7. SCHEDULE/DATES FOR PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION:

8. SUBMITTED BY: _____ DATE: _____
 Title & Company: _____

9. MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO:

Texas Water Commission
 Underground Storage Tank Section
 P. O. Box 13087, Capitol Station
 Austin, Texas 78711-3087

* * * * *
 * FOR TWC STAFF USE ONLY *
 * * * * *
 * Date Rec'd: _____ Type Notice: _____ *
 * District: _____ Dist. Rep.: _____ *
 * Remarks: _____ *
 * * * * *
 * Logged by: _____ Date: _____ *
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