

# THINK



# ANK

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## Go Team!

by Emil Onuschak, Jr.

The Underground Storage Tank Branch has reorganized based on a team concept to more effectively use its resources delivering services to our clients. In a word, everything has changed, but nothing has changed. How can this be?

Since its inception in 1987, the Underground Storage Tank Branch has organized and evolved to discharge its lawful responsibilities under the Delaware Underground Storage Tank Act (7 Del. C. 74). Data processing forms and formats are converging toward common formats. Department-wide development of the "data warehouse" concept makes it possible to effectively handle information in certain different formats. The importance of geographic information systems (GIS) for making inter-program environmental data publicly available throughout the state becomes more obvious daily. All UST Branch files are now organized solely by facility number:

Facility Number	County
<i>UST Facilities</i>	
1-nnnnnn	Kent
3-nnnnnn	New Castle
5-nnnnnn	Sussex
<i>AST Facilities</i>	
6-nnnnnn	Kent
7-nnnnnn	New Castle
8-nnnnnn	Sussex
9-nnnnnn	Miscellaneous

Staff organization evolved in a similar manner. Everyone is familiar with the fact that environmental scientists and engineers

traditionally focus on matters of tank facility design, installation, operation, maintenance and removal, while the hydrologists on staff focus on assessment, remediation and closure of facilities that have experienced a release. Over time and on an informal basis, certain staff members came to be recognized as in-house experts on certain technical topics or as the repository of considerable historical data for certain tank owners and operators.

Thus, in the past, new developments regarding certain owners, operators or organizations were usually (but not always!) assigned to the same environmental scientist, engineer or hydrologist. This arrangement was beneficial to all parties in that it eliminated rework by owners and operators who otherwise had to constantly reintroduce themselves to new UST Branch staff members and it increased staff productivity because of the historical performance of a facility already known to the staff member.

The team organization idea was developed over a series of months with full participation of all staff and management of the Underground Storage Tank Branch, assisted by an outside "facilitator" to provide an unbiased third-party perspective. The goal is to keep and enhance the work assignment flexibility for which the Underground Storage Tank Branch is known, while formally recognizing the staff development and productivity benefits resulting from informal "hallway conferences" and providing a formal framework to encourage these interactions.

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So...how has everything changed? Internally, mostly. The previous demarcation between "UST" (environmental scientists and engineers) and "LUST" (hydrologists) is increasingly blurred and fading. The UST Branch is now organized into Technical Support under Program Manager Ellen Malenfant and Administrative Support under Program Manager and Branch manager Kathleen Stiller.

Now, new developments regarding certain owners, operators or organizations are *deliberately* assigned to a constant team of two or three staff members who are equipped with all the information and technical expertise needed to address any situation that may arise. It is this team's responsibility to make sure that compliance, operation, site assessment and remediation (if applicable), and fee status are all addressed in a comprehensive fashion. Owners, operators or organizations benefit by dealing with a constant team and can be assured that things are less likely to "fall through the cracks." Some variation in team membership may be noticed as their current project officers bring older LUST sites to closure. This insures that

no historical knowledge is lost. The general public benefits because there will almost always be a team member in the office who can respond to queries regarding a facility. And the UST Branch staff benefits by already being familiar with the historical performance of any particular facility.

As Technical Support teams are organized around facilities, Administrative Sup-



port teams are organized around functions. Administrative Support staff includes two secretaries, two computer operators/database administrators, a recordkeeper, a records QA/QC reviewer (im-

portant since more and more public information is being uploaded to the Internet) and a planner to oversee development of an above-ground storage tank (AST) program, regulatory revisions and other forward-looking activities.

These are all "standing teams." Then there are *ad hoc* teams created for a specific purpose, with a specific goal and timeline. Recent *ad hoc* teams have addressed updating and revision of standard forms and correspondence as well as LUST site management, and site prioritization.

And how can we say nothing has changed? Because from our clients' operational perspective, we hope and expect that nothing has changed. You can expect to go about your business following the same prescribed procedures, collect the same samples, analyze them for the same evidence of a release, keep the same operation and maintenance records and interact with the Branch in the ways with which you are already familiar. We feel that our new team organization will provide a significant "comfort level" for our clients and afford the UST Branch a solid foundation to continue to serve the environmental interests of our clients in the future. ■

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## DNREC to Co-sponsor National MTBE Conference in Baltimore

by Pat Ellis

The National Ground Water Association is sponsoring a national conference about MTBE in ground water on June 4 through 5 2001, in nearby Baltimore, Maryland. The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control is one of the co-sponsors of the conference. Sessions will include more than 40 papers on MTBE and Public Policy, Site Assessment, MTBE

Remediation Technologies, and Tertiary Butyl Alcohol Remediation. In addition, there will be an MTBE Remediation Workshop. There will also be a workshop and several papers on the Ground Water Rule, a rule proposed by EPA, which specifies the appropriate use of disinfection in ground water and addresses other components of ground water systems to assure public health protection.

Information about the conference is available from NGWA by phone at 614-898-7791, 800-551-7379, or by e-mail at [ngwa@ngwa.org](mailto:ngwa@ngwa.org). The agenda for the conference is posted on the UST Branch Web Page at <http://sirb.awm.dnrec.state.de.us/deusthom.htm> (look for "DNREC Co-Sponsors National Focus Conference on MTBE"). ■

# DERBCAP Performance

by Emil Onuschak, Jr.

The Delaware Risk-Based Corrective Action Program (DERBCAP) was put into effect as a draft procedure in 1999, finalized as of January 1, 2000 and has been the Underground Storage Tank Branch's standard procedure ever since. It is designed to quantitatively assess potential risks to human health and to the environment, expeditiously move leaking underground storage tank sites toward closure and to eliminate groundwater monitoring for indefinitely long periods of time. Have these goals been achieved? How well is DERBCAP performing?

After a year under the draft DERBCAP procedure and an additional year under the finalized procedure, it is possible to draw some preliminary conclusions.

In 1998, the last year before the implementation of DERBCAP, 205 leaking underground storage tank sites going back 10 years were closed (Table). Sites both initiated and closed in 1998 were disregarded for this preliminary assessment because many of these are considered to be sites where petroleum contaminants were present, but at less than DERBCAP Tier 0 action levels. At other sites, immediate overexcavation following tank removals successfully remediated the contaminated soils. That leaves 50 "old" LUST sites dating from 1988–1997, which were closed.

In 1999, by way of contrast, 242 LUST sites were successfully closed, 72 "old" sites dating as far back as 12 years, from 1987–1998 (Table). This represents a 44 percent increase in the number of "old" LUST sites closed in the first year DERBCAP was put into

effect as a draft procedure.

Not surprisingly, this record of achievement elicited no public objections during the "draft year" of 1999, and no sympathy for a re-

turn to the old qualitative approach to site assessment.

And this trend continued into 2000, when 176 additional LUST sites were successfully closed, 74 of them dating as far back as nine years, from 1991–1999 (Table). This represents a 48 percent increase in the number of "old" LUST sites closed over 1998, the last "pre-DERBCAP" year.

This increase in closure of "old" LUST sites occurred despite the additional analytical requirements of DERBCAP and the development of new concerns, such as MTBE, which were readily incorporated into the DERBCAP procedure.

Delaware has successfully transitioned its former qualitative approach to LUST site assessment to a risk-based quantitative approach that seamlessly enhances the former approach, expedites site closure, is widely accepted throughout the state's tank industry and provides responsible parties with greater peace of mind regarding the environmental status of their properties.

Dating From	LUST Sites Closed		
	2000	1999	1998
	Count	Count	Count
1987	0	1	0
1988	0	2	2
1989	0	0	0
1990	0	1	1
1991	6	4	4
1992	4	10	4
1993	3	5	2
1994	9	2	2
1995	4	9	8
1996	2	9	8
1997	6	6	19
1998	7	23	155
1999	33	170	–
2000	102	–	–
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>205</b>

## UST Conference

### Tanks 2001... A Tank Odyssey

Due to overwhelming response, the Tanks 2001 conference scheduled for March 7 has been moved to the Ramada Inn, at Rt 13 and Rt 295 in New Castle.

The UST Branch's Lukens Drive building has facilities for approximately 125 people and registration is already at 150. Rather than turn people away, UST Branch Manager, Kathy Stiller, arranged to move the seminars to a facility that can ac-

commodate up to 200 people. Reservations will be taken until the conference limit is reached. Directions will be mailed to all registered attendees.

- Delaware-registered geologists attending this conference will be awarded a maximum of three (3) CEUs. Attendance lists will be used as documentation and certificates will be awarded.

# THINK TANK

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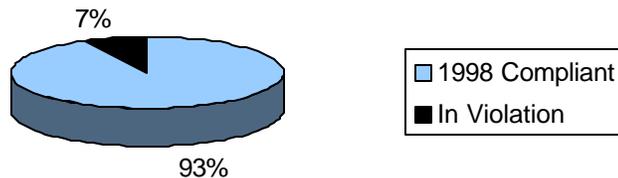
## Delaware's Compliance Rate at 93%

Delaware has 1759 federally regulated underground storage tanks. These include all commercial tanks over 110 gallons with the exception of heating fuel tanks. Tanks not regulated include residential and farm tanks less than 1,100 gallons. Also not regulated are all heating fuel tanks, commercial or private, less than 1,100 gallons.

The rate of compliance for Delaware's federally regulated tanks stands at 93%. This means these tanks meet the December 1998 standards for corrosion protection and have spill and overfill protection as well as leak detection.

Each facility in Delaware has been assigned to a compliance officer who will inspect and verify continued compliance with the Regulations. If you have questions or need information on how to comply, please call the UST Branch and you will be put in contact with the person responsible for your site.

### Federally Regulated USTs in Delaware



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