

**THE NORTH CAROLINA  
UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK PROGRAM  
IN BRIEF**

**A: The Universe of Underground Storage Tanks (as of 30 June 2007)**

1. There are 28,916 regulated petroleum USTs at approximately 9,000 facilities, owned by about 5400 owners. These USTs pay annual operating fees and can access the trust fund, and require inspections.
2. In addition, there are 1,076 commercial heating oil USTs. These USTs pay annual operating fees and can access the trust fund, but do not require inspections.
3. Of the 28,916 regulated USTs, about 16% were installed more than 30 years ago; about 22% were installed 20-29 years ago; about 41% were installed 19-10 years ago; and about 21% were installed less than 10 years ago.
4. We estimate that there are also approximately 250,000 home heating oil tanks in the state. These are unregulated tanks that do not require inspections and do not pay annual operating fees, but they can access the noncommercial trust fund for costs of cleanups.

**B: The UST Program=s Corrective Action Progress (as of 1 September 2007)**

1. Since the program's inception, we have recorded 22,554 incidents of leaking UST systems.
2. We have issued Notices of No Further Action (closed out) 13,839 of these incidents.
3. In addition, there have been 6,260 Aclean closures≡ of tank systems. These were closures where there was no release of petroleum (and therefore no reported incident).
4. Presently, we have 6,414 active regulated UST releases: 2,232 are High-Risk; 1,313 are Intermediate-Risk; 1,947 are Low-Risk; and 922 are Unconfirmed-Risk. We have trust fund resources to direct cleanup activities at about 1718 of the High Risk releases and initial abatement and assessment activities at all releases.
5. Presently, we also have 2,301 active non-regulated UST (home heating oil tank) releases: 607 High-Risk; 202 Intermediate-Risk; 908 Low-Risk; and 584 Unconfirmed-Risk. We have trust fund resources to direct work at about 50 High Risk releases and initial abatement and assessment activities at all releases.

**C: The UST Program=s Compliance Progress**

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1. The UST program has 13 full-time UST inspectors and 2 time-limited UST inspectors to conduct compliance inspections of the approximately 9,000 UST facilities. Inspectors also conduct annually about 240 complaint inspections, follow-up inspections, and educational inspections for all facilities, and 300 installation inspections for new and replacement UST systems (tanks and piping). In order to conduct compliance inspections of every UST facility at least once every three years, as well as complaint, follow-up, educational, and installation inspections, our inspectors must conduct about 10620 inspections every three years.
2. Typically, each inspector can conduct about 185 inspections per year, including file reviews, inspection set-ups, the on-site inspections, follow-up meetings with the facilities, data entry, reports, and enforcement (about 40% to 50% of inspections find violations). In order to be able to meet the inspection goals (particularly those of the federal Energy Policy Act of 2005) we must add about eight inspectors to the program (six new ones and two to replace the two time-limited federally-funded inspectors whose tenure ends in October 2009). Right now, our overall compliance rate is about 60%. Our goals are to meet the federal Energy Policy Act mandate to conduct compliance inspections at every UST facility at least once every three years and to increase the compliance rate to 90%.

**D: The Commercial Fund**

Since the inception of the Commercial Trust Fund in 1988, it has received about \$480 million and disbursed about \$449 million. Of the funds disbursed, 93% has gone toward cleanup of releases from USTs and third-party claims. 7% of the money has been used to administer the UST program.

**E: The Non-Commercial Fund**

Since the inception of the Non-Commercial Trust Fund in 1988, it has received about \$110 million and disbursed about \$105 million. Of the funds dispersed, about 87% has gone toward cleanup of releases from USTs. 13% of the money has been used to administer the UST Program.

**F: Recommendations from annual report.**

**G: Recommendations from PFP study.**

Presented to the NC ERC on 9 May 2008 by Grover Nicholson, Chief, UST Section  
Contact at 919-733-1300 or grover.nicholson@ncmail.net