

# UTAH TANK NEWS

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Certification

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## Plastic Containment Failures



Many facilities installed plastic containment sumps and flexible plastic piping to meet the 1998 upgrade requirements. We have received reports that some of the older containment sumps, at the sub-pumps and dispensers have started to deform and crack thus jeopardizing the integrity of the containment system.

It has also been reported that some of the flexible plastic piping has deformed, cracked and could expand as much as 3%. This means that a 100 foot run of piping could stretch as much as 3 feet, possible kinking the line or imposing undo pressure on the sub-pump or the dispenser.

**We encourage all tank owners/operators to check sub-pump areas and check under the dispensers on a regular basis.**

It has also been noted that some spill buckets have been cracking and deforming, preventing them from performing their primary purpose of holding spilled product. Some of the buckets are made of metal and have rusted through. Make this part of your monthly inspection. If you have questions concerning your tank system please contact the DERR at 801-536-4100. ■

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# Status of the Utah Petroleum Storage Tank Trust Fund

By John Menatti

Utah's Petroleum Storage Tank Trust Fund (PST Fund) was established in 1991 and is administered by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The PST Fund is approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as an alternative financial assurance mechanism to enable owners/operators of underground storage tanks (USTs) to meet Federal financial responsibility requirements. The purpose of the EPA financial responsibility requirement is to ensure that funds are available to pay for environmental cleanup at leaking UST sites (predominantly gasoline service stations).

Since its inception in 1991, the PST Fund has overseen, funded, cleaned up, and closed over 200 leaking UST sites throughout the State. Currently, the PST Fund is overseeing and funding the investigation and cleanup of another 250 leaking UST sites.

In Fiscal Year 2004 (FY04) [July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004], the PST Fund collected revenues of about \$6,600,000, predominantly from surcharges and fees on UST facilities. In FY04, the PST Fund spent about \$9,700,000 to investigate and cleanup UST facilities that had leaked petroleum products into the environment (subsurface soils and groundwater). At the end of FY04, the PST Fund's cash balance was about \$8,200,000. For comparison, one year ago at the end of FY03, the PST Fund cash balance was about \$11,300,000.

The PST Fund provides an affordable EPA-approved environmental cleanup and financial responsibility mechanism for gas station owners in Utah. However, in order for the PST Fund to continue to be a viable financial assurance mechanism, in accordance with EPA regulations, it must be financially "sound." The PST Fund is working with the EPA's Office of Underground Storage Tanks on their State Fund Soundness Initiative to evaluate PST Fund soundness. The purpose of EPA's State Fund Soundness Initiative is to identify problems early so that they can be corrected in a timely manner.

According to the EPA, Utah's PST Fund is currently sound, however, we at the DEQ are concerned with the current rate of depletion of the cash balance. An adequate cash balance must be available for emergency cleanups and unexpected expenses.

Therefore, we will be forming a workgroup of interested parties that will include UST owner/operators, PST Fund claimants, petroleum marketers, environmental consultants, and regulators to discuss PST Fund soundness issues.

We will keep you informed of our progress in subsequent newsletters, or, you can subscribe to periodic email updates by sending an email request to [jmenatti@utah.gov](mailto:jmenatti@utah.gov). If you have any questions or comments, please call John Menatti (PST Fund Manager) at (801) 536-4159. ■

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## Upcoming Workshop, Petroleum Brownfields

By Dale Urban

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ) is pleased to announce the upcoming petroleum-brownfields workshop, which will be held Wednesday, October 27, 2004 in the State Office Building auditorium (located behind the State Capitol). This one-day workshop will give participants a better understanding of the potential for redevelopment at abandoned gas stations, or underutilized properties with petroleum-based contamination. The workshop will present recent case studies on site investigations, cleanups and closures that were completed using previous federal grant monies. There will also be panel discussions on reuse strategies and the use of institutional controls as risk management tools to assist in site closure. In addition, the workshop will focus on developing strategic partnerships with other stakeholders who are involved in these exciting opportunities to maximize resource leveraging in conducting site assessments, completing cleanups and creating strategies for beneficial site reuse. Registration packets will be mailed in the near future, so keep your calendar open and plan on joining state and federal regulators, city officials, environmental consultants, commercial developers and others for this upcoming workshop!

Abandoned gas stations or underutilized properties with either real or perceived environmental contamination are a common site in almost every city throughout the United States. Redevelopment and reuse of these petroleum-contaminated properties can be complicated due to liability issues, site assessment costs and cleanup costs. The goal of Utah's petroleum-brownfields program is to investigate, clean up and redevelop these underutilized contaminated properties. The program utilizes risk-based

decision making as a tool to facilitate site investigations, cleanup and closure to minimize future liability for all stakeholders involved. The Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Leaking Underground Storage Tank Section was recently awarded a grant by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to help local communities identify and to perform site assessments and investigations for eligible properties and land owners. The investigations are intended to move these sites toward redevelopment and sustainable reuse.

The UDEQ invites you and others who may benefit from this informational exchange and networking opportunity to attend the workshop. It should be a rewarding and educational experience for all those attending. We are also inviting any interested company or organization to become a sponsor of the workshop by providing refreshments for breaks, and/or lunch food for the workshop attendees. The maximum number of attendees is limited to 100 people. As the workshop date gets closer, we will provide a more accurate number of attendees to the sponsors. The workshop will serve as an excellent networking opportunity to maximize your company or organization's exposure level within the environmental community here in Utah.

If you have any questions about the petroleum-brownfields program, the availability of grant monies, the upcoming workshop, or becoming a sponsor at the workshop, please contact **Dale Urban** or **Paul Zahn** at (801) 536-4100 or by email at [durban@utah.gov](mailto:durban@utah.gov) or [pzahn@utah.gov](mailto:pzahn@utah.gov). ■

### Free Brownfields Workshop

**Wednesday, October 27, 2004**  
**State Office Building Auditorium,**  
**behind the State Capital.**  
**(Parking on west side)**

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**UTAH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE  
AND REMEDIATION  
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Groundwater/Soil Sampler

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## **Re-certification**

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For more info call David Wilson at

(801) 536-4138

[www.undergroundtanks.utah.gov](http://www.undergroundtanks.utah.gov)

## **Environmental Consultant**

Contact Melissa Turchi at

(801) 536-0078