

Celebrating 25 Years

# Cleaning up Leaks: Underground Storage Tank Program

With the advent of the automobile, service stations became a critical part of our transportation infrastructure. However, as these facilities age, many old underground tank systems begin to leak, impacting groundwater resources. In addition, many of these facilities, once closed and abandoned, leave undesirable or blighted properties. One of the major successes of the Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) and the Underground Storage Tank (UST) programs has been the removal of old underground storage tanks and the cleanup of any site contamination, allowing many of these former gas station properties to return to sustainable use.

Throughout the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) 25 years of existence, over 5,000 old underground tank facilities have been closed, remediated, and brought back into operation. This has enhanced thousands of acres within communities across the state and has benefited them both economically and aesthetically. In addition, over 1,500 of these sites also had groundwater contamination that posed potential impact to our state's underground drinking water resources. Through the cleanup activities supervised by DEQ's Division of Environmental Response and Remediation this risk has been reduced, and, for the most part, alleviated.



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