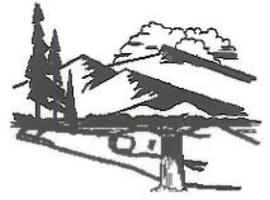




# Department of Environmental Quality

To protect, conserve and enhance the quality of Wyoming's environment for the benefit of current and future generations.



Matthew H. Mead, Governor

John Corra, Director

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## Regulatory requirements and options for decommissioning petroleum storage tanks

This document provides regulatory requirements and options for decommissioning petroleum storage tanks (PSTs), which are regulated as a special solid waste in Wyoming. The objective of decommissioning is to remove *all* liquids and accumulated sludges. Decommissioning is required to *permanently close* a PST in compliance with Chapter 17 of the Wyoming Water Quality Division (WWQD) Rules and Regulations. ***Failure to permanently close a PST may adversely affect the ability to sell the property.***

Owners and/or operators of PSTs are also advised that the use of a PST to store a non-regulated substance is considered a change-in-service. Tanks undergoing a change-in-service must meet the requirements of WWQD Chapter 17, Section 31(c).

The *first* option for decommissioning a PST is to transport it to a facility that is permitted by the WDEQ Solid & Hazardous Waste Division (SHWD) to decommission PSTs. A list of these facilities can be found on the SHWD website. The operators of these facilities will provide written confirmation to both you and the SHWD to document that the PST has been properly decommissioned. In the event that a PST is sent to an out-of-state facility to be decommissioned, the PST owner should determine if the facility is in compliance with applicable local, state and federal requirements and if the facility can provide the documentation necessary to obtain permanent closure status from the SHWD.

The *second* option for decommissioning a PST is to have it decommissioned by a mobile facility operator who is permitted by the SHWD to decommission PSTs. These facilities are also identified on the SHWD website. The operators of these facilities may be able to properly decommission a PST on site if the mobile facility complies with the following location standards:

- The facility must be at least 100 feet from any occupied house, school or hospital unless the owner or board of trustees provides written consent.
- The facility must be at least 100 feet from any public park or recreation area unless the owner provides written consent.
- The facility must be approved by the governing fire marshal.

The operators of these mobile facilities will also provide written confirmation to both the PST owner and the SHWD to document that the PST has been properly decommissioned.



The *third* option for decommissioning a PST is to apply to the SHWD for a one-time authorization to do it by the PST owner (or someone the owner hires). The WDEQ strongly discourages this option due to the fact that this is an *extremely* dangerous activity. *Written* requests for a one-time authorization to decommission a PST should be forwarded to the SHWD and must contain the following information:

- The date(s) on which decommissioning activities will occur.
- A facility location map and documentation that the facility complies with the location standards identified above for mobile facility operators.
- Documentation that all personnel who will be involved with the decommissioning process have completed at least 40 hours of initial safety training and 8 hours of annual refresher training that complies with the Hazwoper requirements of OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120. Copies of training certificates must be provided.
- A description of how residual product, scale and sludges will be stored, characterized and disposed.
- A written commitment that cleaning and closure procedures will be conducted in accordance with one of the following codes of practice, as allowed by WWQD Chapter 17, Section 31(b):
  - Removal and Disposal of Used Underground Petroleum Storage Tanks* (American Petroleum Institute Recommended Practice 1604, \$45), or
  - Interior Lining of Underground Storage Tanks* (American Petroleum Institute Recommended Practice 1631, \$35), or
  - Safe Entry and Cleaning of Petroleum Storage Tanks* (American Petroleum Institute Publication 2015, \$74)

Copies of these American Petroleum Institute documents may be purchased directly from the API through their web page ([www.api.org/cat/](http://www.api.org/cat/)) or by calling (702) 682-8375. Copies are also available at the State Library. Applicants are also advised to contact the Wyoming Department of Employment, Worker's Safety & Compensation Division at (307) 777-7786 to determine if the proposed activity is subject to confined space entry regulations. If a request for a one-time authorization to decommission a PST is approved, the SHWD will provide written authorization and a blank certification form that should be used to provide documentation to the SHWD that the PST has been properly decommissioned.

Once a metal PST is properly decommissioned it is considered to be scrap metal and is no longer regulated as a solid waste. Properly decommissioned fiberglass tanks may be disposed of at a landfill. Owners of properly decommissioned PSTs should be advised that the reuse of any PST for the storage of any flammable or combustible liquid is required to comply with Article 79 of the Uniform Fire Code. Reuse of properly decommissioned PSTs for other purposes (water storage, animal feed storage, culvert, etc.) *is not* recommended by the WDEQ and is at the owner's risk.