

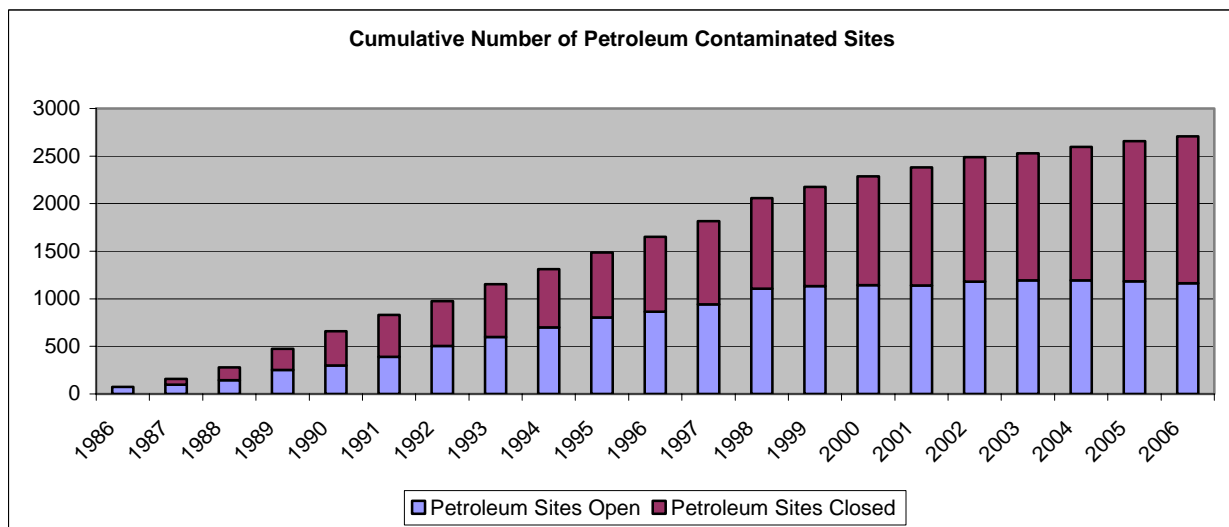
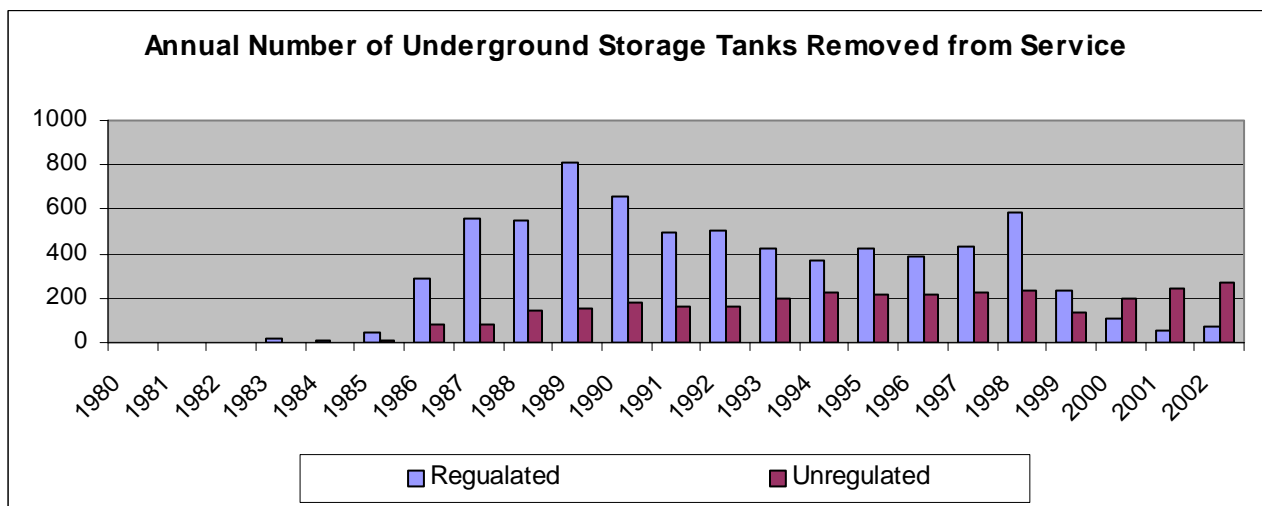
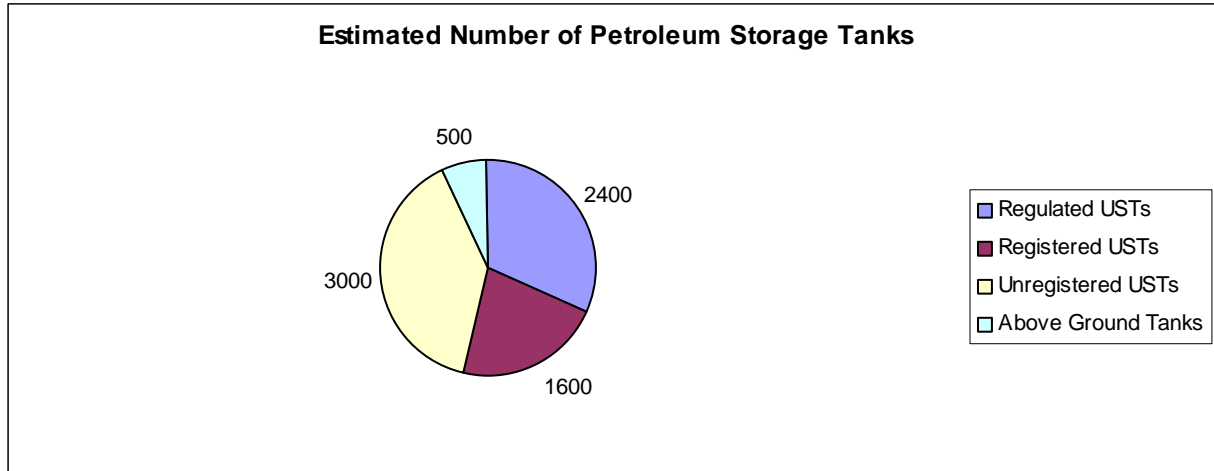
Underground Storage Tank Program

Waste Management Division

September 23, 2003

Results Reduce the number of releases of hazardous materials from underground storage tanks.

Key Indicators



Story Behind the Baseline

Petroleum is stored in about 7500 above and below ground storage tanks in Vermont. Beginning in 1985 the construction, operation and maintenance of the 2400 highest risk underground storage tanks (USTs) were regulated and required to hold permits. These tanks are the commercial gas and diesel motor fuel USTs holding greater than 1,100 gallons. Registration is required for 1600 higher risk USTs holding more than 1,100 gallons of heating fuel. Approximately 3000 unregistered USTs hold less than 1,100 gallons and serve home and commercial heating and motor fuels. There are also approximately 500 aboveground petroleum storage tanks ranging from unregulated smaller farm tanks to commercial fuel tanks regulated only for fire hazards by the department of labor and industry.

Leaking underground storage tanks cause petroleum-contaminated sites that may pollute soils, groundwater drinking water supplies, surface waters and cause contaminated indoor air. In 1988 the Vermont legislature established the petroleum clean-up fund (PCF) to provide funds to assist in the cost of clean-ups of releases from underground storage tanks. The PCF also provides loans to small facilities for tank replacements. While the number of open petroleum sites has remained relatively constant at approximately 1,100 each year, the vast majority of the new petroleum sites come from tanks not subject to current regulatory controls. These tanks include: home heating oil tanks; commercial heating oil tanks under 1,100 gallons; abandoned tanks (often found during real estate transactions, construction, and road work in right-of-ways); and tanks that have been out-of-service since the 1980s and before.

Strategies/ Performance Measures / Proposed Accomplishments

Regulation, Compliance, and Enforcement - Inspections: Target those who have never been inspected, those who permits are up for renewal, and those who have bad compliance histories; Compliance: Continue issuing NOAVs and Observation Letters that require a return to compliance, but without penalties; Enforcement: Use to compel compliance after other methods have failed or in the case of significant violations.

Permitting – Continue to issue permits in a timely fashion that contain necessary controls to ensure that facilities with USTs pose a minimal threat of release. Continue to hold permits, or issue as conditional, where the facility has not certified that they are in compliance with requirements for Cathodic Protection (CP) or Line Leak Detectors (LLDs). Continue practice of assigning a number of inspections at those facilities that are due for permit renewal.

Compliance Assistance, Technical Assistance, Education & Outreach – A newsletter is published 2-4 times per year that highlights both compliance and technical issues. Occasionally, letters are sent that are targeted to tank owners with certain system types that are vulnerable to leaks and/or other problems. Other efforts to educate the UST community are planned as resources allow.

Grants and Loans - Grants are available to owners of residential and farm heating oil tanks for the removal of USTs.

Loans of up to \$40,000 are available to qualifying tank owners for the replacement of UST systems with compliant equipment.

Proposed Accomplishments

See table below.

Performance Measure	"P"=Projected and "A"=Actual Values	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
UST Enforcement Actions	P				4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	A				4	5	4	4				
UST Inspections	P						200	200	100	100	100	100
	A					297	186	87				
UST Permits and Renewals	P								413	359	274	661
	A		407	434	211	322	659	366				
% Completed actions meeting PEP times	P								95	100	100	100
	A		94		97	99	100	99				
UST Program Newsletter	P						3+	3+	3+	3	3	3
	A					3	3	3				