



Out of Service Aboveground Storage Tank Systems

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All regulated aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) with no activity for a year or more, must follow certain procedures to comply with out-of-service tank requirements. This fact sheet explains the steps to take ASTs out of service according to Minn. R. 7151.8100-8500.

General

If substance has not been added to or removed from a regulated AST for a year or more, the owner must maintain and monitor the tank, declare the tank inactive and out of service, or remove the tank. Within 30 days of these actions, an updated AST notification form must be submitted to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

If the tank is declared inactive and taken out of service, the tank owner or operator has to:

- Remove all AST and piping substances.
- Secure the AST by bolting and locking all manways and valves and cap or plug fill lines, gauge openings, or pump lines.
- Completely remove all sludge, solids, and residuals inside of the AST and piping.

- Dispose of tank bottom sludge according to state and federal regulations.
- Rid the tank of vapors so an explosive atmosphere cannot exist.
- Clearly label the tank with the date and the words “Out of Service”.

When reactivating an out-of-service AST, it must be inspected and meet leak detection requirements (Minn. R. 7151.5200, subp. 3) before it is put back in service.

Sampling at removal

AST owners and operators must sample for contamination when removing a tank and determine through lab analysis how extensive contamination may be. When AST owners select sample locations and measurement methods, they need to consider:

- the closure method
- the characteristics of the substance stored
- the secondary containment method
- the depth to groundwater
- the areas at or near the tank with the greatest potentials for contamination
- any other factors that identify a release

Tanks that do not have to be sampled include:

- a tank storing regulated substances that do not include petroleum products or hazardous material
- a tank that has been removed containing number 6 grade fuel oil
- a tank with impermeable secondary containment with no evidence of release or compromise to the containment area

Need more information?

Visit the AST Program at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/cleanup/ast.html>. The site has forms, fact sheets, and other information about ASTs and AST requirements.

You can also call the MPCA at 651-296-6300 or 1-800-657-3864.
