Delaware program helps owners deal with underground tanks

Fund a demonstration project for the country

In one of his final official acts, then U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator William K. Reilly joined Delaware Gov. Michael N. Castle in Wilmington to announce the beginning of a new program designed to help business owners, farmers, and homeowners reduce impacts to water resources from non-point sources of pollution. The program will be a demonstration project for the nation.

Using the Delaware Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund, the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control will provide low-interest loans to qualified borrowers for such projects as cleaning up of underground storage tank sites.

Qualifying owners of underground storage tank sites will be eligible for loans to assist small independent businesses in re-pairing underground tanks used to store gasoline and other products. The Leaking Underground Storage Tank Loan Program will be used to remove old tanks, clean up contamination at sites, and install leak detection systems. The DNREC estimates about 500 sites need further investigation or clean up.

This program complements Delaware's Early Compliance and Detection Incentive Program, established to reimburse some tank owners for their clean up costs. Combined funds available for all three programs total $2,060,000.

Under the program the EPA provides 80 percent of the funding with the state of Delaware providing 20 percent. In addition to these three programs, the Delaware Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund will be used to support wastewater improvement projects for municipal and county governments.

Casper/Nash tracks open doors

Two new golf courses designed by Casper/Nash architects opened Nov. 30 at Del Webb's Sun City communities in Palm Springs, Calif., and Las Vegas, Nev.

The course in Palm Springs is designed around the new Sun City retirement community.

"It's a beautiful desert golf course," said architect Greg Nash. "The layout features sand dunes, 14 lakes, palm trees, ornamental flowers, water falls, and large greens. We've planted over 1,000 new palm trees, and have about 1,500 other trees on the course - 800 of those are mature date palms, and about 200 surround the 18th green." The contoured greens average about 7,500 square feet, making putting very challenging. The course in Las Vegas is on the northwest hillside.

"It's built on the highest point overlooking the city of Las Vegas. So we took advantage of the terrain," said Nash. "Most holes play uphill or downhill, with elevated tees and greens.

"We planted a lot of pine trees, so it doesn't look like a desert course. The greens are large, the pin placements varied, and the terrain rises and drops 500 feet. The last five holes are all downhill, and the view is spectacular." It is 6,330 yards long and plays par 72, says golf pro Doug Anderson.

BRAUER, LANDSCAPES UNLIMITED TEAM UP IN NEBRASKA

Champions Club sporty, fairway undulations, boxes, water and plenty of sand. Designed by Jeffrey Brauer of Arlington, Texas, the course opened last June 19. It was constructed for Maenner/Horgan Development Co. by Landscapes Unlimited Inc. of Lincoln, Neb., named Golf Course Builder of the Year in annual voting conducted by Golf Course News. Champions Club is part of a 200-acre residential development called Eagle Run West, which has 1,200 single family lots. Bob Horgan said his firm is in the process of converting the course to a full-service country club with a 32,000 square foot clubhouse and tennis pavilion. It is aiming for 400 golf members and 900 social members, according to Horgan.