

UST Upgrading vs. Removal

Steven H. Berning
President

Accurate Tank Technologies, Inc.

I recently read an article about a UST removal which motivated me to write this article about keeping and upgrading your UST (underground storage tank) where fuel is needed on-site.

Removal of a UST can be an experience that is not pleasant. All that is necessary to keep and upgrade a UST is a state permit which is easy to obtain and takes 30 days. The upgrade can cost on average from as low as \$3,000 for one UST to as much as \$15,000 for two USTs, depending on size and makeup of the tank(s).

No state inspector is required on-site for the construction phase for most upgrades, unless repiping is desired by you and is a part of the scope of the job. Therefore, the state inspector will not be required (for most upgrades) on your property until the job is done and the final drive-by is performed by them to see that the permitted activity indeed took place. Usually little or no soil needs to be cleaned up with an upgrade. Generally, no soil samples are required for an upgrade since the tank site is not being closed out. Past fuel spills usually do not become a problem with upgrades; and, therefore, no EPA incident report, 20-day report and 45-day report will be necessary, as well as state report filing for reimbursement.

No consultants are necessary with upgrades if you select a state licensed contractor who belongs to IPECA (Illinois Petroleum Equipment Contractors Association) and is in good standing, has been successful with the upgrade business and has done UST upgrade work. Low price is not

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always the cheapest job in the long run. Interview the contractor to determine their philosophy, history and quality of work.

After you are done upgrading your UST, you will have something when you are done—a fueling system to use—so you can get your work done safely and conveniently.

A special thanks to Greg Thalmann for his article in July, for promoting the use of MAGCS commercial sponsors and supporters. All of us appreciate this thought and support ■



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SYSTEMS

2040 Lehigh Avenue
Glenview, IL 60025

Telephone 847.724.8660
Fax 847.724.8659

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