

Agency Issues General Permit for ASTs

On November 16, 1992, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) issued a general permit to owners of aboveground storage tanks (ASTs). All registered tank owners received a copy of this permit in the mail. For most tank owners, this general permit will satisfy the MPCA's permit requirements without further paperwork from tank owners or reviews by the MPCA.

The general permit identifies three categories of tanks:

Category 1 — Tanks over 1,100 gallons capacity.

Category 2 — Tanks 1,100 gallons capacity and less beyond 500 feet of surface water.

Category 3 — Tanks 1,100 gallons capacity and less within 500 feet of surface water.

The permit outlines two basic qualifications for this general permit. They are:

1. Tanks must be registered with the MPCA (if tanks are already registered, this doesn't have to be done again);

2a. Category 1 and 3 tanks must have secondary containment (generally a diked or bermed, reasonably impervious area under and around the tank, which is large enough to hold the contents of the tank plus additional room for rain and snow);

2b. Category 2 tanks must take reasonable safeguards (e.g., good spill plan, location of tank, curbed pad) to protect the environment from any leaks or spills from the tank.

The permit requirement for ASTs is not new. Permits, including submittal of site plans and fees to the MPCA, have been required for 28 years. The MPCA will no longer charge

a permit fee or require submitting of site plans as part of its new general permit program.

What does this mean for tank owners?

A tank owner whose tanks are registered (required since June 1, 1990, for most petroleum and chemical tanks) with good secondary containment is in full compliance with MPCA rules and will not need to do anything more at this time.

A tank owner whose tanks are not registered, but has good secondary containment, must register the tanks immediately. When the tanks are registered, the tank owner will have a permit and will not need to do anything more for now.

A tank owner whose tanks are registered but lack good secondary containment does not have a permit under this plan. This tank owner should be seriously planning secondary containment. Once the secondary containment is installed or upgraded, this tank owner will have a permit.

A tank owner whose tanks are not registered and has no secondary containment does not have a permit under this plan. This tank owner should **immediately register** all tanks and begin planning for providing secondary containment.

Registration of tanks

Most aboveground tanks (except those listed above)

(Continued on Page 21)



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MPCA—

(Continued from Page 12)

should already be registered with the MPCA. This applies to petroleum and chemical tanks. There is no minimum size exemption except for the farm, residential and heating oil tanks described above (1,100 gallons capacity and less).

There is no fee for registering tanks. There is no penalty at this time for late registration. There is, however, an automatic reduction of any reimbursement from the Petrofund for not being registered.

Registration forms and secondary containment guidance are available from the MPCA by calling Joan deMeurisse, Aboveground Tank Program Coordinator, at (612) 297-8618 or Tin Tran, staff engineer, at (612) 298-8665.

*By Joan deMeurisse
Tanks and Spills Section*

GCSAA Offers Time Management Correspondence Course

Not enough hours in the day to do everything you need to do, plus everything you want to do? A new correspondence course offered by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) was designed especially to help overcome this "time-less" problem.

The "Time Management" correspondence course was written by one of GCSAA's most popular seminar instructors, Bree Hayes, Ph.D., president of the Hayes Group. She says the course was designed to be comprehensive, practical and challenging—"a real journey of self-exploration."

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GCSAA also has correspondence courses available on the topics of media relations, underground storage tank management and hazard communication. GCSAA and its entire curriculum of seminars and correspondence courses are nationally accredited by the Accreditation Council on Continuing Education and Training, which is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education.

Successful completion of the "Time Management" correspondence course earns 0.7 CEU toward GCSAA certification or renewal. The course costs \$50. To order by credit card, contact the GCSAA education department at telephone 913/832-4444, FAX 913/832-4433. Mail written orders to GCSAA Education Department, 1421 Research Park Drive, Lawrence, KS 66049-3859.



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