



Division of Spill Prevention and Response

Industry Preparedness Program

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The Status of Dual Purpose Tanks

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Clarifying The Status Of Dual Purpose Tanks

Summary: Effective immediately, a UST system used for storing diesel fuel or heating oil that is used for both on-premises heat and emergency power (called "dual purpose") is no longer regulated by DEC.

Purpose: To provide guidance on what is required for "dual purpose" USTs storing heating oil or diesel fuel used primarily for heating but also used for on-premises consumption for emergency power, electrical generation, or steam generation.

Problem: The question of whether dual purpose USTs are regulated has been ambiguous over the life of the program since the distinction between diesel and heating oil in Alaska is not clear-cut. Tanks storing heating oil for consumption on premises are exempt from UST regulations.

Because of the heating oil and diesel fuel characteristics and uses in Alaska, DEC is generally unable to differentiate heating oil from diesel fuel that is used as a heating oil substitute in dual tanks. Because of this inability, DEC has determined that it would be consistent with federal and state statutes and regulations to treat a dual use tank used primarily for heating as using heating oil, even if also used for emergency power where diesel is used as a heating oil or heating oil substitute. Therefore a dual purpose tank used primarily for heating will not be treated as a regulated UST under 18 AAC 78, all the fuel from the tank is used for consumptive purposes on the premises where the fuel is stored.

Applicability: This guidance applies to UST systems that are used primarily to store heating oil or diesel oil used as a heating oil substitute for on-site consumption, and are also used for the purpose of providing emergency power, electric generation or steam generation or other on-premises consumptive use. This guidance supercedes all prior conflicting DEC guidance on dual-purpose tanks.



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Action: DEC will no longer treat dual use tanks using diesel fuel primarily as a heating oil substitute as regulated USTs. The following examples help illustrate the implementation of this policy.

Example 1: A 1,500-gallon underground tank contains diesel fuel used only for on-premises heating. [Tank is exempt from UST regulations due to use being solely as a substitute for heating oil.]

Example 2: A 1,500-gallon underground tank contains diesel fuel and is used primarily for on-premises heating but also runs an on-premises emergency power generator used for providing power. [Tank is not regulated because the diesel fuel is typically used as a substitute for heating oil and is used for on-premises consumptive purposes.]

Example 3: A 1,500-gallon underground tank contains diesel fuel and off-specification used oil. Fuels are blended and consumed in an on-site furnace designed to burn a used oil/heating oil blend for heating. [Tank is exempt due to use of substitute fuel for heating oil.]

Example 4: A 1,500-gallon underground tank contained diesel fuel and is used for emergency power generation only. [Tank is regulated but deferred from leak detection.]

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