

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2507

By: Tibbs

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to Corporation Commission; amending 17 O.S. 2001, Sections 303, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 435, O.S.L. 2005, and 304 (17 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 303), which relate to the Oklahoma Storage Tank Regulation Act; modifying definition; modifying exempt capacity for underground storage tank systems; making certain aboveground storage tanks with certain capacity exempt from the act; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 17 O.S. 2001, Section 303, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 435, O.S.L. 2005 (17 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 303), is amended to read as follows:

Section 303. As used in the Oklahoma Storage Tank Regulation Act:

1. "Abandoned system" means a storage tank system which:
  - a. has been taken permanently out of service as a storage vessel for any reason or is not intended to be returned to service,
  - b. has been out of service for one (1) year or more prior to April 21, 1989, or
  - c. has been rendered permanently unfit for use as determined by the Commission;

2. "Action level" means that the regulated substances have reached the level of contamination;

3. "Active case" means a confirmed release notice has been issued by the Corporation Commission to the owner or operator for the specified location;

4. "Backfill" means only the material placed in the excavation zone to support the petroleum storage tank system;

5. "Chemicals of concern" means chemicals that may pose a threat to human health and the environment;

6. "Closed case" means a previously active case which had a confirmed release and the Commission has issued a closure letter advising that no further remediation action is necessary on the site;

7. "Commission" means the Corporation Commission;

8. "Contaminants" or "contamination" means a level of concentration of chemicals of concern that may be sufficient to cause adverse effects upon human health or the environment or cause a nuisance;

9. "Corrective action" means action taken to monitor, investigate, minimize, eliminate or perform remediation of a release from a storage tank system;

10. "Corrective action plan" means the plan submitted to the regulatory program of the Corporation Commission detailing the method and manner of corrective action to be taken for a release;

11. "Department" means the Department of Environmental Quality;

12. "Director" means the Director of the Petroleum Storage Tank Division of the Corporation Commission;

13. "Division" means the Petroleum Storage Tank Division of the Corporation Commission;

14. "Eligible person" means the party who has made application to the Petroleum Storage Tank Indemnity Fund and met applicable criteria to receive Petroleum Storage Tank Indemnity Fund reimbursement on a confirmed release;

15. "Eligible release" means a release of regulated substances where the cost of cleanup is subject to reimbursement by the Petroleum Storage Tank Indemnity Fund;

16. "Environment" means any water, water vapor, any land including land surface or subsurface, atmosphere, fish, wildlife, biota, domestic animals and all other natural resources;

17. "Environmental consultant" means an individual licensed by the Commission or an environmental consulting company retaining or employing a Commission-licensed remediation consultant;

18. "Facility" means any location or part thereof containing one or more storage tanks or systems;

19. "Hazardous substance" means any substance defined in Section 101(14) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, 42 U.S.C., Section 9601, but not including:

- a. any substance regulated as a hazardous waste under Subtitle C of the federal Solid Waste Disposal Act, 42 U.S.C., Section 6903, or
- b. any substance regulated as a hazardous waste under the Oklahoma Hazardous Waste Management Act.

The term hazardous substance shall also include a mixture of hazardous substances and petroleum, providing the amount of petroleum is of a de minimus quantity;

20. "New system" means a storage tank system for which the installation or upgrade of the system began on or after December 22, 1998;

21. "Operator" means any person in control of or having responsibility for the daily operation of the storage tank system, whether by lease, contract, or other form of agreement. The term "operator" also includes a past operator at the time of a release, tank closure, or a violation of the Oklahoma Storage Tank Regulation Act or of a rule promulgated thereunder;

22. "Owner" means:

- a. in the case of a storage tank system in use on November 8, 1984, or brought into use after that date, any person who holds title to, controls, or possesses an interest in a storage tank system used for the storage, use, or dispensing of regulated substances, or
- b. in the case of a storage tank system in use before November 8, 1984, but no longer in service on that date, any person who holds title to, controls, or possesses an interest in a storage tank system immediately before the discontinuation of its use.

The term "owner" does not include a person who holds an interest in a tank system solely for financial security, unless through foreclosure or other related actions the holder of a security interest has taken possession of the tank system;

23. "Permit" means any registration, permit, license or other authorization issued by the Commission to operate a storage tank system;

24. "Person" means any individual, trust, firm, joint stock company or corporation, limited liability company, partnership, association, any representative appointed by order of a court, the state, any municipality, county, school district or other political subdivision or agency of the state, or any interstate body. The term also includes a consortium, a joint venture, a commercial entity, the United States Government, a federal agency, including a government corporation, or any other legal entity;

25. "Petroleum" means ethylene glycol-based antifreeze, crude oil, crude oil fractions, and refined petroleum fractions, including motor fuel, motor fuel with the fuel additive Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE), jet fuel, distillate fuel oils, residual fuel oils, lubricants, petroleum solvents and used oil which are liquid at

standard conditions of temperature and pressure (60 degrees Fahrenheit and 14.7 pounds per square inch absolute). "Petroleum" also means a mixture of petroleum and hazardous substances, ~~provided~~ if the amount of the hazardous substances is of a de minimus quantity;

26. "Pipeline facilities" means new and existing pipe rights-of-way and any equipment, facilities or buildings regulated under:

- a. the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968 (49 U.S.C. App., 1671, et seq.),
- b. the Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Act of 1979 (49 U.S.C. 2001, et seq.),
- c. the state Hazardous Liquid Transportation System Safety Act, Section 47.1 et seq. of Title 52 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or
- d. intrastate pipeline facilities regulated under state law;

27. "Pollution" means contamination or other alteration of the physical, chemical or biological properties of any natural waters of the state, land surfaces or subsurfaces, or atmosphere when such contamination or alteration will or is likely to create a nuisance or render the waters, land or atmosphere harmful or detrimental or injurious to the public health, safety or welfare or the environment;

28. "Regulated substances" means hazardous substances or petroleum which are regulated pursuant to the Oklahoma Storage Tank Regulation Act;

29. "Release" means any spilling, overfilling, or leaking from a storage tank system that goes beyond the excavation zone, tankpit, or secondary containment facility into the environment;

30. "Remediation" means a process or technique used to reduce concentration levels of chemicals of concern in the soil and groundwater, and/or to reduce the presence of free product in the

environment to levels that are protective of human health, safety and the environment;

31. "Residual product" means petroleum that is absorbed or otherwise bound to geological materials including, but not limited to, sand, silt, or clay in any soil zone in such a manner that groundwater in contact with the residual product or beneath the residual product is not contaminated with regulated substances;

32. "Responsible person" means a person other than a petroleum storage tank system owner or operator, such as an adjacent property owner, impacted party, city or political subdivision, that is seeking corrective action of real property, and submits to the jurisdiction of the Commission;

33. "Smear zone" means any soil zone containing petroleum that may contaminate groundwater in contact with regulated substances;

34. "Soil zone" means and includes, but is not limited to, vadose zone, capillary fringe, or saturated soil zone;

35. "Storage tank system" means a closed-plumbed system including, but not limited to, the storage tank(s), the lines, the dispenser for a given product, and a delivery truck that is connected to the storage tank system;

36. "Suspicion of release" means preliminary investigative work or assessment performed under a Petroleum Storage Tank Division purchase order to determine if a confirmed release is warranted. The Petroleum Storage Tank Division eligibility process is not required for Petroleum Storage Tank Indemnity Fund reimbursement on a suspicion of release;

37. "Storage tank" means a stationary vessel designed to contain an accumulation of regulated substances which is constructed of primarily non-earthen materials that provide structural support;

38. "Transporter" means any person who transports, delivers or distributes any quantity of regulated substance from one point to another for the purpose of wholesale or retail gain;

39. "Waters of the state" means all streams, lakes, ponds, marshes, watercourses, waterways, wells, springs, irrigation systems, drainage systems and all other bodies or accumulations of water, surface and underground, natural or artificial, public or private, which are contained within, flow through, or border upon the State of Oklahoma or any portion thereof; and

40. "Work plan" means scopes of work necessary to investigate and/or remediate a release from a storage tank system.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 17 O.S. 2001, Section 304, is amended to read as follows:

Section 304. The provisions of the Oklahoma Storage Tank Regulation Act shall not apply to:

1. Septic tank systems;
2. Pipeline facilities;
3. Surface impoundments, pits, ponds or lagoons;
4. Stormwater and wastewater collection systems;
5. Flow-through process tank systems;
6. Liquid trap or associated gathering lines directly related to oil or gas production and gathering operations;
7. Hydraulic lift tank systems;
8. ~~Storage~~ Underground storage tank systems with a capacity of less than one hundred ten (110) gallons;
9. Fleet and commercial aboveground storage tank systems with a capacity of one thousand three hundred twenty (1,320) gallons or less;
10. Storage tank systems with a de minimus concentration of regulated substances including but not limited to swimming pools and coffins;
- ~~10.~~ 11. Storage tank systems that serve as emergency backup tanks, provided that such backup tanks hold regulated substances for only a short period of time and are expeditiously emptied after each use. The provisions of this paragraph shall not prevent Corporation

Commission notification requirements and such other restrictions as may be deemed necessary by the Commission to protect the environment;

~~11.~~ 12. Storage tank systems with a capacity of one thousand one hundred (1,100) gallons or less used for noncommercial agricultural or residential purposes;

~~12.~~ 13. Storage tank systems and residential tanks for noncommercial use for storing heating oil for consumptive use on the premises where stored; and

~~13.~~ 14. Storage tank systems storing hazardous wastes regulated under Subtitle C of the federal Solid Waste Disposal Act, 42 U.S.C., Section 6921 et seq., or substances regulated as hazardous wastes under the Oklahoma Hazardous Waste Management Act.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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