



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Above Ground Storage Tanks

During the 2013 Legislative Session, the Mississippi Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association (MPMCSA) introduced a measure for the regulation of above ground storage tanks used for commercial re-sale of petroleum products. The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) worked closely with the MPMCSA in preparing and presenting this measure to mirror the existing Underground Storage Tank Program. This measure was withdrawn during the 2013 Legislative Session, but it still remains an active topic of discussion. This document discusses some of the most commonly received questions about the proposed above ground storage tank program.

What would be regulated?

Above ground storage tanks used for commercial re-sale of petroleum product. Commercial re-sale ASTs are used primarily at retail service stations to sell gasoline and diesel to the general public.

What would not be regulated?

- farm, agricultural, and construction use ASTs
- ASTs located at schools, hospitals, and county maintenance shops
- Fleet fueling locations that do not sell to the general public
- Waste oil ASTs

Why is commercial re-sale ASTs the focus of AST regulation?

ASTs used primarily for commercial re-sale provide the greatest risk to human health and the environment. These ASTs are used more frequently than other ASTs and the majority of owners have not received any training on the proper operation of an AST system.

What benefits exist for the tank owner in regulating ASTs?

The benefits are two-fold. First, AST regulation would provide minimum operational standards for the installation and operation of AST systems. The AST owners that are not currently meeting industrial standards would no longer have a competitive advantage over the responsible AST owners that operate in accordance with industrial standards. AST regulation would level the playing field for all commercial re-sale AST owners.

Additionally, owners of commercial re-sale ASTs could become eligible to participate in the Mississippi Groundwater Protection Trust Fund (Trust Fund). This Trust Fund acts like a pollution insurance policy because it is available to regulated storage tank owners that remain in substantial compliance with regulations for the costs associated with the assessment and clean-up of petroleum related releases. The Trust Fund provides a type of pollution insurance that is significantly less than existing pollution insurance policies.

Additional Questions? Please call (601) 961-5117