



Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program 2003 Annual Report



Top Left: Groundwater remediation may require the installation of extensive recovery systems.

Top Right: Excavation and disposal of contaminated soil is the traditional method of remediation at leaking underground storage tank sites.

Bottom Left: Active gas stations may utilize alternative technologies, such as chemical injections, to remediate contaminated soil and groundwater in place.



Renee Cipriano

From the Director

For the third straight year, the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program closed more sites than were reported. With this significant accomplishment, 18,498 acres in Illinois have been remediated since 1989 bringing us closer to our federal cleanup goal. In addition, \$69.1 million was reimbursed to tank owners and operators for their corrective action costs in 2003.

The Illinois EPA recently filed new regulations and amendments to the current regulations with the Illinois Pollution Control Board to streamline the program. We believe the proposed new regulations and amendments will expedite underground storage tank cleanups in Illinois and reduce cleanup costs.

Next year will be the 15-year anniversary of the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program in Illinois and we are proud of the results we have seen over the years. Our goal of assisting tank owners and operators in remediating their sites and obtaining reimbursement has helped Illinois become a leader in timely and efficient environmental revitalization.



Table of Contents

- From the Director 2
- About the Program..... 4
- Regulated Substances..... 5
- Owner/Operator Requirements 5
- No Further Remediation 6
- Tiered Approach to Corrective Action
 - Objectives 6
- Underground Storage Tank Fund..... 7
- Who To Contact 8



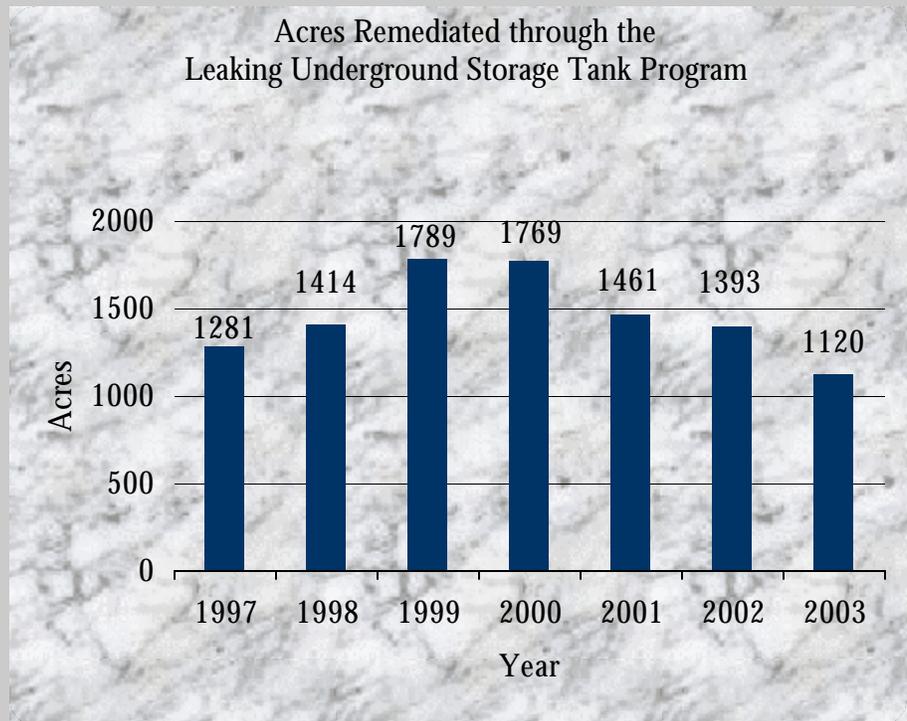
The Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program 2003 Annual Report is produced by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Renee Cipriano, Director.

Contributors: Hernando Albarracin, Michelle Bentley, Maggie Carson, Doug Clay, Chris Covert, Valerie Davis, Gary King and Scott Rothering.

Graphic Design: Michelle Bentley

Leaking underground storage tank site remediation in residential areas is particularly challenging, often due to limited space.

A total of 1120 acres of land was remediated in 2003, with 18,498 acres remediated since 1989.



About The Program

Illinois entered into a cooperative agreement with the U.S. EPA in which the Illinois EPA and the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal administer a comprehensive Underground Storage Tank Program at the state level. The Illinois EPA administers the remedial investigation, corrective action, and reimbursement portions of the state program, while the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal administers the preventative and permitting side of the program and regulates daily operation and maintenance of underground storage tank systems, including oversight for tank removals.

The regulatory authority for the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program comes from 35 Illinois Administrative Code 731: Underground Storage Tanks; 732: Petroleum Underground Storage Tanks; 742: Tiered Approach to Corrective Action Objectives, and Public Act 92-0554.

Site Remediation Program

Leaking underground storage tank sites subject to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 731, 732 or Public Act 92-0554, may elect to conduct remedial activities under the Site Remediation Program, provided the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program requirements are satisfied.

Federal Facilities

Federal Site Remediation Section addresses leaking underground storage tanks that are found within its authority. As with the Site Remediation Program, any site subject to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 731, 732 or Public Act 92-0554 may conduct remedial activities under the Federal Site Remediation Section, provided the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program requirements are satisfied.



Collection of soil samples for site investigation is performed by the IEPA's Office of Site Evaluation.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency maintains a Web site which contains a wealth of information about the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program. Included are a database with information on more than 22,000 reported underground storage tank releases in the state, publications explaining the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program, annual reports, technical and budget/billing forms, applicable regulations, links to related web pages, as well as recent developments in the program. Visit the Web site as new material is added regularly. The Web site can be accessed at:

<http://www.epa.state.il.us/land/lust/index.html>

Regulated Substances

The Leaking Underground Storage Tank Section oversees and reviews remediation activities at sites for which releases of regulated substances from an underground storage tank system were reported to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. Regulated substances include petroleum and hazardous substances. Petroleum substances include gasoline (leaded and unleaded), diesel fuel, fuel oil, jet fuel and used (waste) oil, which comprise 96 percent of the total incidents reported. Hazardous substances include raw chemicals such as benzene, methyl ethyl ketone, xylene and many others, which comprise three percent of the incidents reported. The remaining one percent of incidents reported is a combination of petroleum and hazardous substances.



The depth of soil excavation may depend on the groundwater table depth, which may fluctuate due to variable seasonal precipitation.

Owner or Operator Requirements

| Release Date | Regulations | Site Classification | Site Investigation | TACO |
|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------|--------------------|------|
| Prior to September 13, 1993 | 35 Ill. Adm. Code 731 | No | Yes* | Yes |
| September 13, 1993- June 23, 2002 | 35 Ill. Adm. Code 732 | Yes | Yes* | Yes |
| On or after June 24, 2002 | Public Act 92-0554 (Regulations pending) | No | Yes | Yes |

*May perform Site Investigation pursuant to Public Act 92-0554 by submitting an elect-to-proceed form provided and prescribed by the Illinois EPA.

No Further Remediation Letter Restrictions

The decision whether to accept restrictions or remove the remaining contamination in order to qualify to receive a No Further Remediation Letter is made by tank owners and operators. Type of restrictions include:

Engineered Barrier: Engineered barriers block the exposure pathway and may include asphalt or concrete pavement, permanent structures (e.g., buildings) or other material approved by the Illinois EPA. An engineered barrier must be properly maintained to prevent exposure to any remaining contamination.

Environmental Land Use Control: A document that is recorded on the chain of title of an off-site property that imposes some type of restriction.

Groundwater Use Ordinance: A groundwater use ordinance, adopted by local government, prohibits the installation and use of potable water supply wells, either within the entire community or a portion of the community.

Groundwater Use Restriction: A groundwater use restriction prohibits the installation and use of potable water supply wells, usually at the site. Restrictions may also include environmental land use controls for other properties that may have been impacted by the site release and would, therefore, prohibit groundwater use off-site in place of a local ordinance.

Highway Authority Agreement: A highway authority agreement is between the tank owner or operator and the highway authority and prohibits the use of groundwater and limits access to soil contamination under a highway right-of-way.

Industrial/Commercial Restriction: An industrial/commercial land use restriction prohibits residential use of the site.

Tiered Approach to Corrective Action Objectives

The primary goal of remediation is to manage contamination to prevent harm to human health and the environment. The Tiered Approach to Corrective Action Objectives regulations in 35 Ill. Adm. Code 742 provide more flexibility to site owners or operators in the development of remediation objectives by allowing the use of a risk-based, site-specific approach. These remediation objectives protect human health while taking into account site conditions and land use scenarios. Site owners or operators decide how to best manage their sites within Tiered Approach to Corrective Action Objectives guidelines, subject to the Illinois EPA review and approval. By exercising these choices, site owners or operators may reduce remediation costs, return more sites to productive use, and hasten property redevelopment, while still remaining in full compliance with environmental laws and regulations.

Underground Storage Tank Fund

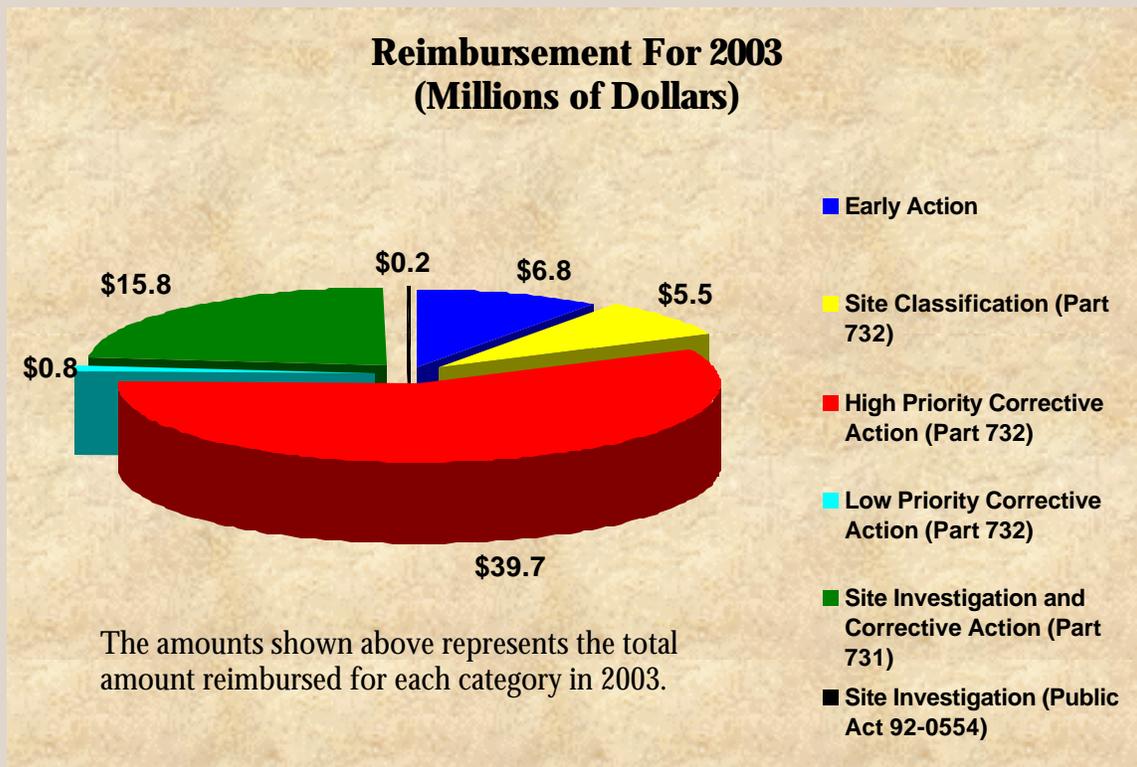
Federal underground storage tank regulations require petroleum underground storage tank owners or operators to demonstrate their financial ability to remediate tank releases and to pay for damages to third parties. Federal underground storage tank regulations allow, but do not require, states to establish publicly financed underground storage tank funds. Illinois chose to set up such a fund in 1989 to help tank owners or operators pay for cleaning up leaks from petroleum underground storage tanks and to meet their financial assurance requirements. Illinois generates money for the Underground Storage Tank Fund through a \$.003 per gallon motor fuel tax and an \$.008 per gallon environmental impact fee, both of which are due to expire in 2013.

The Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal determines the eligibility for an owner or operator to seek reimbursement from the Underground Storage Tank Fund and the applicable deductible.

Since its inception, the Illinois EPA has approved payment of 18,367 claims at 7,132 sites worth \$565.9 million. In 2003, the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Claims Unit reviewed 2,759 claims for 1,646 sites resulting in a record \$69.1 million reimbursed from the Underground Storage Tank Fund at 1,438 sites. Each site submitted an average of 1.5 claims, worth an average of \$55,022. The average amount approved for each site in 2003 was \$48,082.

The Leaking Underground Storage Tank Claims Unit reviews requests for payment submitted by eligible tank owners or operators seeking reimbursement from the Underground Storage Tank Fund. In order to qualify for reimbursement, costs must be:

- for materials and/or services associated with corrective action activities; and
- reasonable and must not exceed the minimum requirements of the Environmental Protection Act and the applicable regulations.



Who To Contact

Illinois Pollution Control Board
 Phone: 217-524-8500
www.ipcb.state.il.us

To obtain copies of environmental regulations.

Illinois Emergency Management Agency
 Phone: 217-782-7860
 Toll Free: 1-800-782-7860

To report releases from an underground storage tank system.

Office of the State Fire Marshal
 Division of Petroleum and Chemical Safety
 1035 Stevenson Drive
 Springfield, Illinois 62703
 Phone: 217-785-5878
www.state.il.us/osfm

For questions regarding:
 Underground storage tank system installation, upgrade or removal
 Leak prevention or detection
 Aboveground storage tanks
 Complaints about suspected underground storage tank system releases
 Financial responsibility requirements
 Underground Storage Tank Fund eligibility and deductible

Illinois EPA Leaking Underground Storage Tank Section
 1021 North Grand Avenue East
 P.O. Box 19276
 Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276
 Phone: 217-782-6762
 Toll Free: 1-888-299-9533
 Fax: 217-524-4193
www.epa.state.il.us/land/lust/index.html

For questions regarding:
 Reported releases
 Reviews of plans, reports and budgets
 Leaking Underground Storage Tank remediation
 Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program regulatory requirements
 Request for copies of publications and forms (also available on the Web site)

Illinois EPA Leaking Underground Storage Tank Claims Unit
 1021 North Grand Avenue East
 P.O. Box 19276
 Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276
 Phone: 217-782-6762
 Fax: 217-557-1165

For questions regarding reimbursement and claims.

Illinois EPA Freedom of Information Act Unit
 1021 North Grand Avenue East
 P.O. Box 19276
 Springfield, Illinois 62794-0276
 Attn: Jan Ogden, #24
 Phone: 217-782-9878
 Fax: 217-782-9290
 Email: FOIA@epa.state.il.us

To obtain copies of plans, reports and correspondence on leaking underground storage tank sites.

Illinois EPA Field Operations Section
 Phone: 217-785-8604
 Fax: 217-524-1991

To report environmental complaints.