

Permanent Closure

Owners and operators who wish to stop operating their UST systems permanently must perform the following:

- 1) Notify PSTB 30 days before the start of any closure activities;
- 2) Empty the tank and associated piping of all regulated substances;
- 3) Inert the tank;
- 4) Remove the tank and associated piping or fill the tank with an inert material in accordance with industry codes and standards;
- 5) Assess the site for possible contamination at all places where contamination is likely to occur;
- 6) Provide PSTB with a copy of the site assessment report.

Note:

The requirements of the 30-Day and the 24-Hour notifications apply to Temporary Closure, Permanent Closure, Return to Service, Removal, or Change in Service.

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PSTB Prevention & Inspection Phone #s

Albuquerque

505-980-8900

Farmington

505-716-7994

Las Cruces

575-649-2954

Roswell

575-361-0216

Santa Fe

505-670-9171



For more information contact:

New Mexico Environment Department
Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park East, Bldg 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505
(505) 476-4397

https://www.env.nm.gov/petroleum_storage_tank/proposed-regulation-revisions/

Closure Requirements for Underground Storage Tank Systems



New Mexico Environment Dept.
Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park East, Bldg 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Closure Requirements for UST Systems

When closing a UST system, regulations in 20.5.115 NMAC require a written or oral notice 30 days before beginning permanent closure, temporary closure, return to service or change-in-service. 20.5.115 NMAC can be viewed on the “PST Regulations (current)” page of our website at

https://www.env.nm.gov/petroleum_storage_tank/proposed-regulation-revisions/.

For UST system closures, owners and operators shall notify PSTB to allow an opportunity for an inspector to be present during steps (critical junctures) or procedures which are important to the prevention of releases. Additionally, owners and operators are required to give a 24-hour notice before any critical juncture begins. Critical junctures are:

- 1) Completion of the excavation of the UST and piping;
- 2) Cleaning and de-vaporizing the tank;
- 3) Cleaning the shell of the tank.
- 4) Removal of the UST or its associated piping from the ground;
- 5) Closing or filling a UST in place;
- 6) Assessment of the tank site for possible contamination.

Temporary Closure

Owners and operators who wish to stop operating their UST system on a temporary basis can do so if the listed requirements are followed:

- 1) Notify PSTB 30 days in advance of the temporary closure. If owners and operators fail to notify PSTB the UST systems will be considered as still in service;
- 2) Operate and maintain corrosion protection and monthly release detection. However, release detection is not required if the tank system is emptied of regulated substances;
- 3) Remove regulated substances from the UST system to a level of one inch or less if the monthly release detection is not achievable;
- 4) UST systems must be permanently closed 12 months after being placed into temporary closure, if the UST system does not meet the performance requirements in Part 115 of 20.5 NMAC.
- 5) A site assessment and payment of outstanding tank fees must be completed prior to request for a 12-month extension for temporary closure.

Note: During temporary closure, the 20.5 NMAC requirements of registration and payment of annual fees remain applicable.

Owners and operators of a UST system who want to bring their system back into service from temporary closure are required to give a 30-day notice and are required to demonstrate the integrity of the entire tank system.

If a regulated substance is placed into an UST system in temporary closure, it will be considered a Return-to-Service. All applicable requirements for currently in use UST systems must be met by owners and operators.

Change-in-Service

A change-in-service of a UST system is where the system will no longer be used to store substances regulated under 20.5 NMAC. A change-in-service requires:

- 30-day notice be submitted to the Bureau;
- The UST be emptied and cleaned by removing all liquid and accumulated sludge before placing a non-regulated substance in the tank;
- Assessment of the tank site for possible contamination by taking soil samples for laboratory analysis where contamination is most likely to have occurred.