

ECO-VIEW

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ECO-FIRST, Inc.

Underground storage tank closures continue

Just under 6,000 tanks remain in use in WV

By Dana Tomes
ECO-FIRST, Inc.

CHARLESTON—Spurred by tighter regulations dating back to the late 1980s, nearly 80 percent of West Virginia's originally registered underground petroleum storage tanks have been removed, according to state records.

Once an economic boon for environmental contractors, a total of 18,452 of the state's 24,436 registered USTs have either been retrofitted to meet current regulations or have been closed, mostly by removal, records show.

State records, as of January 2006, show that just 4,661 underground storage tanks are registered with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection as currently operating. Another 1,320 are listed as temporarily closed, but still in the ground, records show.

State environmental regulators credit the dwindling number of registered USTs to more stringent state and federal regulations which went into effect in June 1988. Over the past two decades, DEP



ECO-FIRST employee Sterling Ayers pressure cleans the interior of an underground storage tank during a Summer 2005 removal near Ashland, KY. *Photo by ECO-FIRST, Inc.*

officials say that 18,452 registered USTs have been permanently closed, the majority by being removed.

Although numbers have decreased substantially in recent years, ECO-FIRST still assists customers on a regular basis to comply with state and federal UST regulations. We offer both

assistance with upgrading an existing UST system or closing an outdated system by removing the tanks and remediating any contamination left behind.

For more information about ECO-FIRST's UST assistance services, please contact our office toll free at 1-877-736-7303 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST.

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Welcome to ECO-VIEW

Publication aims to better inform customers

Welcome to the first issue of ECO-VIEW, a quarterly publication provided by ECO-FIRST, Inc.

This publication will be mailed during the first month of each quarter to hundreds of clients throughout West Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania and surrounding states.

The goal of ECO-VIEW is to inform ECO-FIRST customers about new

and existing environmental regulations that may affect their business, as well as programs and services being offered by ECO-FIRST to help them better comply with regulations and become better environmental stewards.

If you have any suggestions or ideas for future publications, please contact us. We look forward to hearing from you and helping promote a better environment.

**George McCoy**Operations
Manager**Regulatory
Update**

Security - Industry's tool for 21st. century

In 1993 a religious fundamentalist group attempted to destroy the World Trade Center with a rental truck filled with ammonium nitrate and other readily available chemicals. In 1995, Timothy McVey blew up the Federal Building in Oklahoma City. In 1999, two members of an anti-government militia were arrested for planning to explode 24 million gallons of propane in California. In 2001, hijackers took control of four aircraft and flew them into predetermined targets on a day we'll never forget.

These are just a few of the acts that show the need for greater security in the transportation industry, even more so when dealing with hazardous materials. Hazardous materials are essential to the wellbeing of the public, as they are present in nearly every aspect of life. However, the four stories we just noted bring an element to the industry that was grossly overlooked before.

In March 2003 new industry standards published in 49 CFR 172.704 require Security Awareness Training as well as Security Plans for transporters and offerers of hazardous materials. All training for employees must be complete by spring 2006 and plans should already be in place. The security plan is a multi-faceted document that covers vulnerability assessments, employee background checks, route planning and many more daily activities that have been taken for granted in the past. The awareness training teaches people to be aware of their surroundings, strange or unknown persons, unusual activity and other uncommon actions.

These plans and training have become essential for the survival of most all business, haz-mat related or not.

If your company's security plan or awareness training program isn't up to date, contact ECO-FIRST for a review and a cost estimate on how we can help you get into compliance.

Contact George McCoy at 1-877-736-7303.



ECO-FIRST assisted with this cleanup of plastic powder which was the result of a tractor-trailer accident near Ripley, WV. *Photo by West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection*

E.R. team on call around the clock to provide clients with cleanup efforts

By Dana Tomes
ECO-FIRST, Inc.

LESAGE, WV — ECO-FIRST is proud to provide its customers with 24-hour-a-day emergency response services related to environmental emergencies and petroleum spills.

Emergency responses to hazardous materials and other environmental emergencies are more common than most people think, according to recent statistics.

According to the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, the statewide agency's spill reporting telephone line receives approximately 2,400 calls for help annually. Many of these calls require one or more state agencies to be notified, and often they require a response by a state agency or contractor.

WVDEP's emergency response unit in Elkview, WV, actually responds to between 150 and 200 spills or requests for service each year, the agency's records indicate. Many of those calls are for traffic accidents involving the spill of a petroleum or other hazardous material, but some are for abandoned containers found by the general public or environmental emergencies which take place in a fixed facility.

ECO-FIRST has provided emergency response services to its customers since 1999, and in 2004 added a truck and trailer dedicated especially to the response to haz-mat emergencies.

For more information about ECO-FIRST's E.R. capabilities or to add our company to your facility's emergency response plan as a contractor, feel free to call us at 1-877-736-7303.



ECO-FIRST offers 24-hour emergency response to its customers and their insurers. The firm's emergency response team includes a dedicated truck and trailer which are stocked with a full compliment of environmental and spill containment equipment. *Photos by ECO-FIRST, Inc.*

ECO-BRIEFS

The following environmental news briefs are condensed from various publications as noted, and are not the work of ECO-FIRST, Inc.

WVDEP collects two tons of Christmas trees

CHARLESTON — Approximately two tons of discarded Christmas trees were recycled in January 2006 in conjunction with a program jointly sponsored by the State Division of Natural Resources.

The WVDNR used the approximately 140 live trees as fish habitat at state owned lakes and streams.

Each year more than 33 million live Christmas trees are sold in the United States, the vast majority of which end up in landfills after the holidays.

WVDEP website

Underground tanks removed by program

PARKERSBURG, WV — Two abandoned underground fuel storage tanks believed to date back to the 1940s were removed by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's orphaned tank fund.

The tanks, located on WV Route 2 just north of Parkersburg, could not be traced to a prior property owner, and thus qualified for the state's orphaned tank fund.

The tanks were safely removed in November 2005 and the tank pit backfilled.

WVDEP website

Pollution prevention offered free gas cans

SUMMERSVILLE, WV — More than 100 West Virginians were able to trade in their old gas cans recently and receive new spill-proof ones compliments of the WVDEP.

The program, sponsored by the DEP with the help of several charitable groups, will keep toxic fumes out of the atmosphere and keep gasoline from spilling onto the ground.

The event, conducted in Summersville, also included several other

activities, including a recycled fashion show and a trash cleanup.

The event is designed to raise awareness about pollution prevention and encourage recycling.

WVDEP website

Inmate labor program cleans Fayette landfill

FAYETTEVILLE, WV — Inmates of West Virginia's regional jail system assisted crews from various state agencies to clean up an open dump near Dempsey Branch in Fayette County recently.

The crews removed 8.16 tons of solid waste, one ton of recyclable steel and 15 automobile and truck tires.

Students donate time to clean up river in Clay

PROCIOS, WV — Nearly 1.5 tons of solid waste was removed from the banks of the Elk River recently as the result of an event sponsored by several county groups and the WVDEP.

Nearly 30 local teens donated their time to help pick up items that ranged from couches, mattresses and beer bottles to appliances and automobile tires.

The state provided trash bags, gloves and disposal assistance to the group.

WVDEP website

Charleston newspaper offers paper recycling

CHARLESTON — Charleston Newspapers, the joint printing operation of The Charleston Gazette and The Charleston Daily Mail newspapers, is now offering free newspaper, magazine and telephone directory recycling services.

The company provides a large white recycling container at the corner of Kanawha Boulevard and McFarland Street in Charleston where recyclable paper items may be dropped off during regular business hours.

The bin is available from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday at the downtown location.

The Charleston Gazette

Mark Ring

Environmental Specialist

Our Planet



Scrap steel prices promote recycling

What is the number one recycled material in North America? More than plastic, glass, paper and aluminum combined; steel is our most recycled product. In fact, according to the Steel Recycling Institute, "approximately 50 percent of the steel produced in this country over the past 50 years has been recycled through the steel-making process".

Due to this impressive history, there is a great deal of programs in place today that continue to take advantage of industry's greatest source of raw material.

Year after year millions of tons of steel products, including used drums, vehicles, appliances and construction materials are continuously recycled into new steel. The steel industry has proven once a new steel product reaches the end of its useful life it can once again be recycled; an idea that should spark increased recycling efforts of other industrial materials.

Based on the proven economic and environmental success of recycling within the steel industry I see no reason why further efforts should not be made to increase percentage rates for steel recycling as well as other recyclable products over the next 50 years.

With the continuous support of our customers, we here at ECO-FIRST wish to lead the efforts to improve our own local communities with this proven economic and environmental success.

We currently offer recycling programs for several reusable products including steel drums, scrap steel, used petroleum liquids — including crankcase motor oils — coolant solutions, cooking oils, fluorescent lamps and ballasts and many other environmental wastes. Give us a call for an evaluation of how we can help you begin recycling.

Contact Mark Ring at 1-877-736-7303.

MOTEC Division geared toward customer service

Pressure cleaning teams staying busy

By Sterling Ayers

ECO-FIRST, Inc.

LESAGE, WV — Heavy equipment, trucks, cars, buildings and sidewalks are just a sampling of the many possessions cleaned by ECO-FIRST's Mobile Truck and Equipment Cleaning Division on a daily basis.

Since acquiring MOTEC in May 2005 and forming ECO-FIRST's MOTEC Division, the company's industrial cleaning specialists have pressure cleaned more than 2,300 trucks across the Tri-State Region, according to company sales records.

From May 15 to December 31, 2005, the teams washed 2,339 trucks, 142 over-the-road trailers, 91 cars and 54 commercial or residential buildings, records show.

"If it needs cleaned then



ECO-FIRST Industrial Cleaning Specialist Millard Ryder pressure cleans a tanker truck operated by Capital City Road Oil of Mount Vernon, OH. *Photo by ECO-FIRST, Inc.*

chances are pretty good that we can clean it," says Millard Ryder, an ECO-FIRST industrial cleaning specialist who serves with the MOTEC Division of the company.

MOTEC serves dozens of regional and national companies, providing

services that range from vehicle cleaning to washing coal debris and dust from commercial buildings.

For more information about ECO-FIRST's industrial washing capabilities, call us toll free at 1-877-736-7303.



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