

From the Compliance Corner:

by Bill Morris

Secondary Containment Required by Feb. 8th 2007

“Section 1530 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires states receiving federal funds under Subtitle I of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to require either secondary containment and under-dispenser containment for new and replaced underground storage tank or evidence of financial responsibility and installer certification.”

Source of the above information is from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Underground Storage Tanks. Here is the web site for more information and links to other EPA documents:

<http://epa.gov/oust/fedlaws/secondco.htm>

My sources at the TCEQ tell me that the TCEQ has not issued new rules as yet since the EPA has just issued the “Grant Guidelines To States For Implementing The Secondary Containment Provision Of The Energy Policy Act Of 2005” on November 15, 2006. It normally takes 6-8 months from the time TCEQ rules are proposed to finally adopted, but there may be a policy statement issued shortly that will basically cover the EPA guidelines, and that Texas will be opting for “secondary containment” instead of “financial responsibility and installer certification”.

What is secondary containment about?

In a nutshell, it means that to better protect the groundwater from contamination such as release from a motor fuel dispensing system, new underground storage tank (UST) systems or replacement UST systems must have secondary containment, such as double-wall tanks & piping, with interstitial monitoring devices. Also included is under-dispenser containment to prevent releases into the environment.

Where is it required?

Secondary containment is required for all new or replaced UST systems within 1,000 feet of any existing community water system or any existing potable drinking water well.

When do these federal rules go into effect: February 8, 2007

Note: Be sure to check out the web site listed above for additional information. It is written in easy to understand language.