

# From the Compliance Corner:

by Bill Morris

## What's the BIG Deal Anyway?



TCEQ inspectors are out there checking a lot more facilities. If they are registered tanks, they will be inspected. What has been coming up lately is a lot of closed businesses with gas tanks that the owner just locked the doors and walked away from. The owner would say they were “abandoned in-place”. Well, not exactly! To permanently remove a UST system (includes tanks & piping) from service, they can be removed completely from the ground or abandoned in-place. Abandon in-place requires that the top of tanks be exposed, an opening

made so the tank can be completely cleaned, and filled with an inert material, such as a concrete slurry. Whether removed from the ground or abandoned in-place, both require an environmental assessment. (more costly for abandon in-place as it requires a drill rig)

Which costs less? Well, suppose you had 3-6,000 gallon tanks, two dispensers and 50 feet of pipe chase.

To remove the UST system form the ground =	\$19,175
To abandon in-place =	\$28,900

Abandon in-place is generally used if it is impossible to remove the tanks (such as they are part way under the building). Not many people want to buy property that still has old tanks even though they are filled with concrete.