

# From the Compliance Corner:

by Bill Morris

## *What's New at TCEQ*

May 13, 2006 – The TCEQ initiated a new program to expedite the enforcement process for inspections of UST systems called “The Field Citation”. This is issued at the time of the TCEQ inspection at your facility. The purpose of this is two fold:

The tank owner/operation gets a reduced penalty amount from the previous standard amount. For example, if you did not have release detection for tanks with over 50,000 gallons of fuel sold, the standard fine would be about \$5,000. Under the “Field Citation” you agree to pay \$3,500 within 30 days and be in compliance within 60 days. This eliminates a lot of paperwork for both the TCEQ and the tank owner. Of course, you can always contest it, and go through the formal enforcement process.

By eliminating a complicated formal enforcement process, less time is spent by TCEQ personnel on enforcement proceedings and more time on inspections.

So, you get a break on the fine and TCEQ personnel save time on consuming paperwork. It's kind of like getting a speeding ticket. If you know you were speeding, might as well pay the fine and move on..

August 8, 2007 – All facilities that have not been inspected by the TCEQ by December 22, 1998, will be inspected and once every three years thereafter. These are registered facilities with the TCEQ, including those that are temporarily out of service. In several cases, old steel tank locations were fined \$3,500 for not having release detection. These tanks did not meet the definition of empty (< 1 inch) and no corrosion protection. In addition to the fine, the tanks had to be removed. In one of these cases, the tank had not been used for 10 years.

Questions? Give us a call at Petroleum Solutions, Inc., and we'll work with you to make sure you won't have a problem with the TCEQ when they pay a visit.