

- "Tank farms," or groups of tanks whose total combined storage capacity exceeds 500,000 gallons (These are regulated under entirely separate standards).

The DER makes important distinctions between new tanks and those which were already in operation before 1984. New tanks are subject to the strictest safety standards, but existing tanks must be brought into compliance with many of the same standards for overfill protection, monitoring systems, and tank linings within a given period. The time allowed for this "retrofitting" varies depending upon the year the tank was installed, but the DER contemplates the complete retrofitting of all existing tanks by 1998.

**Aboveground** tanks are subject to less restrictive regulations (A "aboveground" tank has no more than 10 percent of its volume buried, including integral piping). These tanks, however, are subject to similar record keeping rules as buried tanks and must be equipped with an impervious containment barrier to catch spills. Further, any part of the tank in contact with the ground must be protected against corrosion.

## **What should tank owners do?**

### **Tank owners must:**

- Register tanks with the DER within 10 days of the start of installation or within 10 days of the date they are converted to pollutant storage tanks.
- Notify DER of the abandonment, sale or retrofitting of any tank within 10 days after it occurs, and DER must further be notified of any testing for leaks within 3 days.
- Immediately report any spills which represent a threat to environmental quality. This includes discharges in excess of 100 gallons into pervious surfaces.

## **What are the construction, repair, and testing standards?**

All new tanks must comply with a comprehensive list of safety requirements including double-wall or reinforced construction, monitoring systems (including monitoring wells), strike plates, electric isolation systems and other such specifics. Similar requirements have been promulgated for the pipe systems used in connection to the tanks.

The DER also provides extensive requirements for testing the integrity of tanks, and for taking samples from tanks, monitoring wells, and soil in the vicinity of the tank. All testing must be performed by trained personnel. Although the testing intervals are specified in the rules, the DER retains the authority to order complete system testing whenever it deems it necessary, based upon:

- the operator's failure to comply with rules; or
- evidence of a discharge or of contamination in the area.

Operators of storage facilities are required to keep records for DER inspection. These records must include the results of all tests and inspections, as well as maintenance and inventory notes on the tanks or their contents. The records must date back at least two years and must be made available to the DER within two days notice.

## **What are the cleanup safeguards and procedures?**

Operators may be required, by both state and federal law, to adopt a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan before they begin installation of a tank. This is pursuant to the federal policy of monitoring anyone with the potential to pollute the environment through petroleum discharge. This plan, or a DER-approved alternative plan, should detail the drainage and other engineering measures taken to