

EXTRACTIONS



a newsletter from O'CONNOR ASSOCIATES

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CALL FOR PRACTICAL INPUT TO TANK COURSE

Canada's recently-formed National Task Force on Leaking Underground Storage Tanks has initiated a project in co-operation with the New Brunswick Department of Advanced Education that will lead to the development of a training program for underground tank installers. To assist the two government agencies in completing the project the editors of the publication *Leaking Underground Storage Tank Newsletter* have asked that experienced tank installers volunteer to review draft course materials. Object of the review will be to ensure practical field aspects are adequately covered. Installers who wish to assist should contact Mr. K. Karr, Industrial Programs Branch, Conservation and Protection, Environment Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3 (819) 953-1125.

CANADA'S EPA NEARS APPROVAL

A revised version of Canada's *Environmental Protection Act* is presently before Parliament and may soon be passed into law. The new legislation proposes consolidation of the authority under which Environment Canada operates, the creation of a framework within which federal and provincial environmental laws might be more rationally applied, and the creation of an inventory system for toxic compounds in Canada. The proposed legislation:

- defines "environment" for the first time in federal law and embodies an ecosystem approach to land, water, and air pollution
- emphasizes protection of the environment for its own sake as well as for the protection of human health
- takes a "protect and prevent" approach rather than one based on reaction and cure
- proposes controls on chemical substances during various stages of their existence, from importation or research and development through manufacture, transportation, distribution, use, and disposal

- proposes assessment of new chemicals before they can be used in Canada.
- contemplates control of the products of biotechnology
- consolidates the powers of the *Clean Air Act*, the *Environmental Contaminants Act*, the *Canada Water Act*, Part III, the *Ocean Dumping Control Act* and the *Pest Control Products Act*
- proposes increased maximum penalties for violations of the Act
- calls for the negotiation of federal/ provincial agreements which will identify the roles of each level of government in administering the Act to avoid duplication of cost and effort
- requires federal consultation with the provinces and territories when regulations are being developed
- requires the development of lists of chemicals including: a "Priority Substances List" identifying chemicals requiring urgent assessment and evaluation; a "Domestic Substances List" naming all substances governed by the Act that are in commercial use in Canada; and a "Nondomestic Substances List" naming all chemicals known to be used outside, but not in, Canada
- requires the development of national environmental quality guidelines and codes of practice

TANK MANAGEMENT SOMETIMES LAX

In an effort to determine if retail gasoline stations are completing daily inventory checks of underground gasoline storage tanks, Alberta Environment commissioned a study of inventory control procedures at Edmonton service stations. Twenty four percent of the station managers surveyed were not completing adequate reconciliation, and only one station in six made daily checks for water in their tanks.

PCBS FOUND IN DOMESTIC WATER PUMPS

A report released by Ontario's Ministry of the Environment claims certain domestic submersible water pumps may contain oil contaminated with PCBs. Pumps manufactured between 1964 and 1980, with oil-filled motors that could contain PCBs, include F.E. Myers (before 1977/1978), Peabody Barnes, Pumpton, Red Jacket, REDA, Sta-Rite (U.S.), Standard, and Tate. Four submersible pumps (Aerometer, Berkeley, Sears, and Webtrol) used two different types of motors. Among the latter, those with Franklin Electric motors are water-filled and PCB-free while others are oil-filled and may contain PCBs. Thirteen submersible pumps used only water-filled Franklin motors and do not contain PCBs. Included in the latter group are Beatty, Goulds, Grundfos, GSW, Home Hardware, Jacuzzi, Layne & Bowler, McDougall, Monarch, Pioneer, Pumps and Softeners, Sta-Rite (GSW), and Southern.

DUMP INVENTORY IN ALBERTA

Alberta's Environment Department has catalogued 620 waste disposal sites in the province. Active, abandoned, and reclaimed sites are included in the total. Environment department spokesmen have said each site will be evaluated and remediation ordered if required.

U. S. DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS - BENZENE, ETHYLBENZENE, TOLUENE, AND XYLENES

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced a final maximum contaminant level of 0.005 mg/L for benzene in drinking water. That ruling holds significance for Canadian tank managers, not only because benzene is a constituent of gasoline, but also because of the absence of a similar standard for Canadian drinking water supplies. Under the American regulatory system, the EPA sets both Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) and Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for chemicals that occur as pollutants in drinking water. MCLGs are non-enforceable goals set at levels thought unlikely to cause adverse health effects. MCLs, on the other hand, are enforceable standards set after a review of the efficacy and cost of available treatment technologies. Previously the EPA had set MCLGs for benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene and xylenes, at zero, 0.68 mg/L, 2.0 mg/L, and 0.44 mg/L, respectively. To date an MCL has been announced only for benzene.

ARMSTRONG ENGINEERS CSL CHAMPIONSHIP



James Armstrong, an O'Connor Associates engineer, plays at mid-field for the Calgary Kickers professional soccer club that recently won the Canadian Soccer League championship. The Kickers capped their first year as a team with a 2-1 victory over the Hamilton Steelers in front of a season's record Calgary crowd. The winning goal came 67 minutes into the contest when James sent an indirect free kick to the Hamilton goal mouth which was subsequently redirected for the score. The combination of engineering and soccer is not new to James. He was part of the UBC team which won the 1981 National Championship and also played for the Vancouver Whitecaps in the now defunct North American Soccer League.

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