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WHAT IS THE ORPHAN TANK REMOVAL PROGRAM (OTRP)?

Abandoned or “orphan” petroleum underground storage tanks (also called “USTs”) are often a hurdle in brownfield redevelopment. Properties with orphan tanks often sit idle for years because potential buyers or developers do not want the responsibility of paying for tank removal. The OTRP pays for removal of orphan tanks to encourage property redevelopment and return blighted properties to productive reuse.

HOW DO I QUALIFY FOR THE OTRP?

Complete the three-page application form that you can download from the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) website or request from NDEE by email or phone. Applicants must be public entities and own the property at the time of submitting an application.

WHAT TANKS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE OTRP?

Tanks eligible for removal must be USTs that are out of operation and meet the definition of an orphan tank. An orphan tank is a tank that cannot be tied to a viable owner/operator. An orphan tank must also be on a qualified brownfield property to be eligible for removal under the OTRP.

WHAT IS A BROWNFIELD PROPERTY? HOW DO I KNOW IF MY SITE QUALIFIES?

Brownfields are former commercial or industrial sites where future use and redevelopment is affected by real or perceived environmental contamination. To be a qualified brownfield site, there must be a clear redevelopment plan in place, and presence of the UST is preventing that plan from being implemented.

HOW DO I GET AN ABANDONED TANK REMOVED?

You can apply to the OTRP for assistance in removing an abandoned UST on your property. Upon approval of your application, NDEE staff will utilize a private contractor to remove the tank and conduct environmental sampling at no cost to you. As part of the project, an excavation report will be prepared for NDEE and you to document the tank removal and environmental sampling work.

WHAT ARE THE APPLICANT'S RESPONSIBILITIES?

To participate in the OTRP, the applicant must:

- Own the property and not be a liable or responsible party for any releases from the tank.
- Give the OTRP and its contractors written property access.
- Have a redevelopment plan or vision.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A RELEASE TO THE ENVIRONMENT IS DISCOVERED?

Investigation and cleanup of petroleum contamination are outside the scope of services provided by the OTRP. If a release is discovered during the assessment and removal of the orphan UST, then the site will be referred to the Petroleum Remediation Section for further assessment and cleanup.



For More Information

Monitoring and Remediation Division
Brownfields and Voluntary Cleanup Program

ndee.vcpbrownfields@nebraska.gov

245 Fallbrook Blvd., Suite 100

Lincoln, NE 68521

Phone: 402-471-6411

<http://dee.ne.gov>