

Closure of Underground Petroleum Storage Tanks

API RECOMMENDED PRACTICE 1604
THIRD EDITION, MARCH 1996

REAFFIRMED, DECEMBER 2010



AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE

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Manufacturing, Distribution and Marketing Department

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FOREWORD

Underground storage tank systems that have held flammable or combustible liquids should be handled with extreme care during closure in place, removal, storage, or disposal off site. This is particularly true of underground storage tanks at motor vehicle refueling facilities which are most frequently used for storage of motor fuel or other petroleum products.

The purpose of this recommended practice is to provide procedures for the closure in place, removal, storage, and the off-site disposal or sale of used underground tanks that have contained flammable or combustible liquids. Although this guide specifically addresses underground storage tank systems at service station facilities, the principles outlined may be applied to similar systems used at other petroleum facilities.

On September 23, 1988, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued its *Technical Standards and Corrective Action Requirements for Owners and Operators of Underground Storage Tanks Systems (UST)*. These standards are Part 280 of Volume 40 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*. Furthermore, legislation and regulations on all aspects of UST management have been developed at state and local levels of government. These levels may have requirements other than those specified in the EPA *Technical Standards*, and the appropriate government agencies should be consulted about regulations that apply in the geographic area of interest before any action suggested by this recommended practice is taken. When used in this document, the term "implementing agency" means EPA or the designated state or local agency responsible for carrying out an approved UST program.

This recommended practice is based upon the experience of knowledgeable members of the petroleum industry. In some respects it may be more stringent than the requirements imposed by the *Technical Standards*. However, the recommended practice does not attempt to cover all of the subjects covered by the EPA *Technical Standards*. Furthermore, while substantial effort has been made to ensure that none of the recommendations contravene the requirements of the *Technical Standards*, API is not undertaking to interpret the *Standards* and cannot guarantee that its recommendations are completely in accord. Nor is any representation made that these recommendations conform with any requirements imposed by state and local agencies. This edition of API Recommended Practice 1604 supersedes the 1987 second edition in its entirety. The EPA *Technical Standards* provide that Recommended Practice 1604 can be used as a guide to compliance with EPA's requirements governing closure of USTs. According to EPA, an owner or operator conforms with this provision of the *Standards* if it uses the 1987 edition, which was in force when the *Standards* became final. However, an owner or operator who uses this amended version will also be meeting the requirement of the 1987 edition, and EPA encourages the use of the most recent version.

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Suggested revisions are invited and should be submitted to the director of the Manufacturing, Distribution and Marketing Department, American Petroleum Institute, 1220 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.