Underground Storage Tank Program: Approved State Program for Vermont

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Immediate final rule.

SUMMARY: The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, as amended (RCRA), authorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to grant approval to states to operate their underground storage tank programs in lieu of the federal program. Forty CFR part 282 codifies EPA’s decision to approve state programs and incorporates by reference those provisions of the state statutes and regulations that will be subject to EPA’s inspection and enforcement authorities under Sections 9005 and 9006 of CRRA Subtitle I and other applicable statutory and regulatory provisions. This rule codifies in 40 CFR part 282 the prior approval of Vermont’s underground storage tank program and incorporates by reference appropriate provisions of state statutes and regulations.

DATES: This regulation is effective November 13, 1995, unless EPA publishes a prior Federal Register document withdrawing this immediate final rule. All comments on the codification of Vermont’s underground storage tank program must be received by the close of business October 12, 1995. The incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in the regulations is approved by the Director of the Federal Register, as of November 13, 1995, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a).

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to the Docket Clerk (Docket No. UST 5–1), Underground Storage Tank Program, HPU–CAN7, U.S. EPA Region I, JFK Federal Building, Boston, MA 02203–2211. Comments received by EPA may be inspected in the public docket, located in the Waste Management Division Record Center, 90 Canal St., Boston, MA 02203 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 9004 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, as amended, (RCRA), 42 U.S.C. 6991c, allows the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to approve state underground storage tank programs to operate in the state in lieu of the federal underground storage tank program. EPA published a Federal Register document announcing its decision to grant approval to Vermont. (57 FR 186, January 3, 1992). Approval was effective on February 3, 1992.

EPA codifies its approval of state programs in 40 CFR part 282 and incorporates by reference therein the state statutes and regulations that will be subject to EPA’s inspection and enforcement authorities under Sections 9005 and 9006 of CRRA Subtitle I and other applicable statutory and regulatory provisions. Today’s rulemaking codifies EPA’s approval of the Vermont underground storage tank program. This codification reflects only the state underground storage tank program in effect at the time EPA granted Vermont approval under section 9004(a), 42 U.S.C. 6991c(a). EPA provided notice and opportunity for comment earlier during the Agency’s decision to approve the Vermont program. EPA is not now reopening that decision nor requesting comment on it. Codification provides clear notice to the public of the scope of the approved program in each state. By codifying the approved Vermont program and by amending the Code of Federal Regulations whenever a new or different set of requirements is approved in Vermont, the status of federally approved requirements of the Vermont program will be readily discernible. Only those provisions of the Vermont underground storage tank program for which approval has been granted by EPA will be incorporated by reference for enforcement purposes.

To codify EPA’s approval of Vermont’s underground storage tank program, EPA has added Section 282.95 to Title 40 of the CFR. Section 282.95 incorporates by reference for enforcement purposes the state’s statutes and regulations. Section 282.95 also references the Attorney General’s Statement, Demonstration of Adequate Enforcement Procedures, the Program Description, and the Memorandum of Agreement, which are approved as part of the underground storage tank program under Subtitle I of CRRA. The Agency retains the authority under Sections 9005 and 9006 of Subtitle I of CRRA, 42 U.S.C. 6991d and 6991e, and other applicable statutory and regulatory provisions to undertake inspections and enforcement actions in approved states. With respect to such an enforcement action, EPA will rely on federal sanctions, federal inspection authorities, and federal procedures rather than the state authorized analogous to these provisions. Therefore, the approved Vermont enforcement authorities will not be incorporated by reference. Forty CFR § 282.95 lists those approved Vermont authorities that would fall into this category. The public also needs to be aware that some provisions of Vermont’s underground storage tank program are not part of the federally approved state program. These are:

- Registration requirements for tanks greater than 1,100 gallons containing heating oil consumed on the premises where stored;
- Permanent closure requirements for tanks greater than 1,100 gallons containing heating oil consumed on the premises where stored.

These non-approved provisions are not part of the CRRA Subtitle I program, because they are “broader in scope” than Subtitle I of CRRA. See 40 CFR 281.12(a)(3)(i). As a result, state provisions which are “broader in scope” than the federal program are not incorporated by reference for purposes of enforcement in part 282. Section 282.95 of the codification simply lists for reference and clarity the Vermont statutory and regulatory provisions which are “broader in scope” than the federal program and which are not, therefore, part of the approved program being codified today. “Broader in scope” provisions cannot be enforced by EPA. The State, however, will continue to enforce such provisions.

Certification Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act

This rule codifies the decision already made (57 FR 186, Jan. 3, 1992) to approve the Vermont underground storage tank program and thus has no separate effect. Therefore, this rule does not require a regulatory flexibility analysis. Thus, pursuant to Section 605(b) of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 605(b), I hereby certify that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Compliance With Executive Order 12866

The Office of Management and Budget has exempted this rule from the requirements of Section 6 of Executive Order 12866.
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq., Federal agencies must consider the paperwork burden imposed by any information request contained in a proposed or final rule. This rule will not impose any information requirements upon the regulated community.

**List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 282**

Environmental protection, Hazardous substances, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, State program approval, Underground storage tanks, Water pollution control.


John P. Devillars,
Regional Administrator.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 40 CFR part 282 is amended as follows:

**PART 282—APPROVED UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK PROGRAMS**

1. The authority citation for part 282 continues to read as follows:

   Authority: 42 U.S.C. 6912, 6991c, 6991d, and 6991e.

2. Subpart B is amended by adding § 282.95 to read as follows:

   **Subpart B—Approved State Programs**

   § 282.95 Vermont State-Administered Program.

   (a) The State of Vermont is approved to administer and enforce an underground storage tank program in lieu of the federal program under Subtitle I of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6991 et seq. The State's program, as administered by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, was approved by EPA pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 6991c and 40 CFR part 281. EPA approved the Vermont program on January 3, 1992, and the approval was effective on February 3, 1992. (b) Vermont has primary responsibility for enforcing its underground storage tank program. However, EPA retains the authority to exercise its inspection and enforcement authorities under Sections 9005 and 9006 of Subtitle I of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. 6991d and 6991e, as well as under other statutory and regulatory provisions.

   (c) To retain program approval, Vermont must revise its approved program to adopt new changes to the federal Subtitle I program which make it more stringent, in accordance with Section 9004 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. 6991c, and 40 CFR part 281, subpart E. If Vermont obtains approval for the revised requirements pursuant to Section 9004 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. 6991c, the newly approved statutory and regulatory provisions will be added to this Subpart and notice of any change will be published in the Federal Register.

   (d) Vermont has final approval for the following elements submitted to EPA in Vermont's program application for final approval and approved by EPA on January 3, 1992. Copies may be obtained from the Underground Storage Tank Program, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, 103 South Main Street, West Building, Waterbury, VT 05671-0404. The elements are listed below:

     (i) State statutes and regulations. Vermont obtains approval for the revised requirements pursuant to Section 9004 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. 6991c, the newly approved statutory and regulatory provisions will be added to this Subpart and notice of any change will be published in the Federal Register.

     (ii) The following statutes and regulations are part of the approved state program, although not incorporated by reference herein for enforcement purposes.


     (B) Vermont Regulatory Requirements Applicable to the Underground Storage Tank Program, 1995.

     (iii) The following statutory and regulatory provisions are broader in scope than the federal program, are not part of the approved program, and are not incorporated by reference herein for enforcement purposes.

     (A) Title 10 Vermont Statutes Annotated, Chapter 59, Sections 1921 through 1929.

     (B) Vermont Environmental Protection Rules, Chapter 8, Sections 104 through 106.

     (iv) A demonstration of procedures for adequate enforcement. The "Demonstration of Procedures for Adequate Enforcement" submitted as part of the original application in May 1991, though not incorporated by reference, is referenced as part of the approved underground storage tank program under Subtitle I of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. 6991 et seq.

   3. Appendix A to part 282 is amended by adding in alphabetical order "Vermont" and its listing.

   **Appendix A to Part 282—State Requirements Incorporated by Reference in Part 282 of the Code of Federal Regulations**

   Vermont

   (a) The statutory provisions include Vermont Statutes Annotated, 1992, Chapter 59, Underground Liquid Storage Tanks:

   Section 1921 Purpose.

   Section 1922 Definitions.

   Section 1923 Notice of New or Existing Underground Storage Tank.

   Section 1924 Integrity Report.

   Section 1925 Notice in Land Records.

   Section 1926 Unused and Abandoned Tanks.

   Section 1927 Regulation of Category One Tanks.

   Section 1928 Regulation of Large Farm and Residential Motor Fuel Tanks.

   Section 1930 Implementation; Coordination.

   Section 1936 Licensure of Tank Inspectors.
2. In Section 2.1515, paragraph (b) of the I.F. bandwidth of "100 kHz" is corrected to read "10 kHz" and in (Step 2), the I.F. bandwidth "10 Hz" is corrected to read "100 Hz".

SUMMARY: This document contains an amendment to the final regulations, 47 CFR Part 2, which were published on August 3, 1994, (59 FR 39472). The regulations relate to the test procedures for Emergency Position Indicating Radiobeacons contained in 47 CFR 2.1515(b).

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 8, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Reed, Office of Engineering and Technology, (202) 739–0704.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 2
Communications equipment, Radio.

PART 2—FREQUENCY ALLOCATIONS AND RADIO TREATY MATTERS; GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

Accordingly, 47 CFR Part 2 is corrected by making the following correcting amendments: 1. The authority citation for Part 2 continues to read as follows:

Authority: Sections 4, 302, 303, and 307 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. Sections 154, 302, 303, and 307, unless otherwise noted.

§ 2.1515 [Corrected]
2. In Section 2.1515, paragraph (b) (Step 2), the I.F. bandwidth "10 Hz" is corrected to read "10 kHz" and in (Step 5), the I.F. bandwidth of "100 kHz" is corrected to read "100 Hz".

Federal Communications Commission.
William F. Caton,
Acting Secretary.

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