

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 1760

Short Title: UST Operator Training Program. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Gibson, Harrison, Tucker (Primary Sponsors); Carney and Hughes.

Referred to: Energy and Energy Efficiency, if favorable, Environment and Natural Resources.

May 18, 2010

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE TRAINING OF OPERATORS OF UNDERGROUND STORAGE
3 TANKS (USTS) IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH A REQUIREMENT OF THE
4 FEDERAL ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE
5 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMISSION.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 143-215.94KK through G.S. 143-215.94MM are reserved for
8 future codification purposes.

9 **SECTION 2.** Article 21A of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes is amended by
10 adding a new Part to read:

11 "Part 2D. Training of Underground Storage Tank Operators.

12 **"§ 143-215.94NN. Applicability.**

13 The requirements of this Part apply to underground storage tank systems regulated under
14 Subtitle I of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, Pub. L. 94-580, 90 Stat.
15 2795, 42 United States Code § 6901, et seq. as amended, except those excluded by regulation at
16 40 Code of Federal Regulations 280.10(b) and those deferred by regulation at 40 Code of
17 Federal Regulations 280.10(c).

18 **"§ 143-215.94OO. Definitions.**

19 Unless a different meaning is required by the context or unless a different meaning is set
20 out in this section, the definitions in G.S. 143-212, 143-215.94A and 143-215.94L apply in this
21 Part.

- 22 (1) "Primary operator" means a person having primary responsibility for the
23 daily on-site operation and maintenance of an underground storage tank
24 system.
- 25 (2) "Emergency response operator" means an on-site employee whose
26 responsibilities include addressing emergencies presented by a spill or
27 release, or responding to alarms or releases from an underground storage
28 tank system. For an unmanned facility, "emergency response operator"
29 means the person responsible for responding to emergencies or alarms or
30 releases at the facility.
- 31 (3) "Underground storage tank" means any one or combination of tanks
32 (including underground pipes connected thereto) that is used to contain an
33 accumulation of regulated substances, and the volume of which (including
34 the volume of the underground pipes connected thereto) is ten percent (10%)
35 or more beneath the surface of the ground.



1 (4) "Underground storage tank system" or "tank system" means an underground
2 storage tank, connected underground piping, underground ancillary
3 equipment, dispenser, and containment system, if any.

4 **"§ 143-215.94PP. Designation of operators to be trained.**

5 (a) The owner of an underground storage tank system shall designate the primary
6 operator of the underground storage tank system. The person designated shall be the
7 underground storage tank operator, as defined in 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 280, or
8 the employee of the underground storage tank operator. There shall be a designated primary
9 operator of the underground storage tank system at all times, until the underground storage tank
10 system has been permanently closed. If the owner fails to designate a primary operator, the
11 owner shall be deemed to be the primary operator of the underground storage tank system for
12 purposes of this Part.

13 (b) The primary operator shall designate one or more emergency response operators.
14 There shall be at least one emergency response operator at the site and at all times during which
15 a regulated substance is being withdrawn from, or is capable of being withdrawn from, the
16 underground storage tank system. For an unmanned facility, the primary operator shall
17 designate the person who is on-call to respond to emergencies or alarms at the facility. The
18 unmanned facility shall have an automated notification system in place that will alert the
19 designated emergency response operator of an emergency or activated alarm at the facility. If
20 the primary operator fails to designate one or more emergency response operators, the primary
21 operator shall be deemed to be the emergency response operator of the underground storage
22 tank system.

23 (c) A person may act as both the primary operator and the emergency response operator
24 of the underground storage tank system.

25 **"§ 143-215.94QQ. Training requirements for primary operators.**

26 (a) The Department shall develop and implement a training program for primary
27 operators. The training program shall provide instruction on the proper operation and
28 maintenance of the underground storage tank system at the facility, principles of construction
29 and safety, and all regulatory requirements associated with the underground storage tank
30 system. The training may consist of a combination of on-site evaluation and testing, as well as
31 in-class or online instruction and testing. At a minimum, the training shall require the primary
32 operator to demonstrate all of the following:

33 (1) Knowledge of the requirements for spill prevention, overfill prevention,
34 release detection, corrosion protection, emergency response, and product
35 compatibility.

36 (2) Site-specific knowledge of the equipment used at the facility and the
37 components of the underground storage tank system, and the methods of
38 release detection and release prevention applied to the underground storage
39 tank components.

40 (3) Knowledge of the requirements for demonstrating financial responsibility.

41 (4) Understanding of notification requirements associated with the underground
42 storage tank system, and the requirements for reporting releases and
43 suspected releases.

44 (5) Understanding of the requirements for the temporary and permanent closure
45 of underground storage tank systems.

46 (6) Knowledge of the emergency response operator training requirements, and
47 the actions to be taken in response to emergencies and alarms.

48 (b) A primary operator shall be retrained if an inspection at the facility reveals that the
49 underground storage tank system is not in substantial compliance with the requirements for:
50 release detection, release prevention, financial responsibility, emergency response, suspected
51 release reporting and investigation, the proximity of the underground storage tank system to

1 water supply wells and surface water, and permitting. A primary operator who is required to be
2 retrained shall complete the retraining within a reasonable time as determined by the
3 Department. The retraining shall include training in the areas for which the underground
4 storage tank system was not in compliance.

5 (c) The primary operator shall maintain documentation to show that the operator has
6 satisfactorily completed all training required by this section.

7 **"§ 143-215.94RR. Training requirements for emergency response operators.**

8 (a) The Department shall develop a training program for emergency response operators.
9 At a minimum, the training shall require the primary operator to demonstrate all of the
10 following:

11 (1) General understanding of the underground storage tank system at the
12 facility, and knowledge of the location and proper operation of the safety
13 and emergency response equipment.

14 (2) Understanding of the actions to be taken in response to an emergency,
15 including situations posing an immediate danger or threat to the public or to
16 the environment and requiring immediate action.

17 (3) Understanding of leak detection alarms and preparations needed to respond
18 to alarms before a release has occurred.

19 (4) Recognition of unusual operating conditions, equipment failures, or
20 environmental conditions that may indicate a release, and knowledge of the
21 steps to take in response to a suspected release.

22 (5) Knowledge of immediate steps to take in response to a confirmed release to
23 stop further release and to contain spills before they reach the environment.

24 (b) The primary operator is responsible for implementing the training program
25 developed by the Department for emergency response operators. The primary operator shall
26 train each emergency response operator of the underground storage tank system at the facility.
27 Prior to training an emergency response operator, the primary operator shall have satisfactorily
28 completed all training required by this section. The primary operator shall maintain
29 documentation of training provided to emergency response operators.

30 **"§ 143-215.94SS. Enforcement.**

31 This Part may be enforced as provided in G.S. 143-215.94W, 143-215.94X, and
32 G.S. 143-215.94Y.

33 **"§ 143-215.94TT. Effect on other laws.**

34 The requirements of this Part are in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other requirements
35 applicable to underground storage tank owners or operators, as defined in 40 Code of Federal
36 Regulations Part 280, under law."

37 **SECTION 3.** Each designated primary operator and emergency response operator
38 shall complete the training required by this section no later than August 8, 2012. For primary
39 operators designated after August 8, 2012, the owner shall notify the Department of the
40 designation, and the primary operator shall be trained within 30 days after assuming operation
41 and maintenance responsibilities for the underground storage tank system. After August 8,
42 2012, no person may assume the responsibilities of emergency response operator without
43 having first satisfactorily completed emergency response operator training, and the primary
44 operator shall ensure that no person assumes the responsibilities of emergency response
45 operator, unless the person has satisfactorily completed emergency response operator training.

46 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.