



UST INFORMATION

Handling Petroleum Contaminated Soil

The following handout provides a summary of the North Dakota Department of Health's requirements for petroleum contaminated soil (PCS) generated during underground storage tank (UST) removals. It is the tank owners/operators responsibility to handle PCS encountered during the tank removals(s) in a manner approved by the Department. The Health Department **strongly** encourages tank owners/operators to make arrangements for the treatment of contaminated soil **prior** to their UST removals(s). If arrangements have not been made in advance, the soil must be stockpiled on site and tarped with an impermeable cover (i.e., plastic) until suitable arrangements can be made.

There are currently two options available to the tank owner for handling PCS. Other options may be allowed if approved by the Department in advance.

1. **Transport and treatment of contaminated soil at a state permitted landfill.**

The Department keeps a list of currently active municipal waste landfills throughout the state. These landfills may or may not accept PCS and it is the owner(s) responsibility to make arrangements with the landfill prior to the removal.

2. **Treatment of contaminated soil at a private landfarm site.**

Private landfarm treatment is allowed if the Department's "Application to Land Treat Petroleum Contaminated Soil" has been completed and returned, and approval has been given by the Department for the site. The UST inspector may want to visit the site at the time of removal in order to observe site-specific conditions prior to approving the landfarm. In addition, a signature must be obtained on the application from a city, township, or county official prior to treating the soil. In Cass County, the landfarm application **must** be signed by a local township official and final approval for the site granted by the Fargo Cass Public Health (701) 241-1360.

It is **important** that the Department's "Land Application Procedures" are followed under Part III of the guidelines in order for effective treatment to take place. Landfarming relies on volatilization of lighter hydrocarbons and biodegradation of contaminants by naturally occurring soil microorganisms. The soils should be spread in a uniform layer of four (4) inches or less over the landfarm site and **thoroughly** disked or tilled into the existing topsoil once every two to four weeks. At least four (4) **properly** performed tillage events are required for effective treatment.

For a list of state permitted municipal waste landfills or the Department's "Application to Land Treat Petroleum Contaminated Soil" and land treatment guidelines, contact the Department as noted on reverse side.

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