

Underground Storage Tank Management Division – UST Registration Fee Increase

Information for Owners/Operators or Constituents:

- 1. What is this additional fee increase?** The fee increase is due to a Bill (Bill H.3270) passed through S.C. State Legislature and signed by the Governor on May 19, 2010. The Bill amends the SUPERB Act, and states that annual tank registration fees will increase by an additional \$100 per tank each year to a maximum of \$500 per tank each year until a total of \$36 million is deposited into the SUPERB Account. The Fiscal Year 2018 reflects a fee increase of an additional \$400 per tank. Therefore, the total fee for the billing cycle is \$500 per tank.
- 2. What is the SUPERB Account?** The SUPERB Account was created by South Carolina legislature to assist UST owners and operators with the rehabilitation of a contaminated sites and third party claims.
- 3. Why \$36 million?** For the fund to be a viable financial responsibility (FR) Insurance mechanism for the tank owners and operators, it has to be solvent. In order to get EPA approval and make the fund solvent, \$36 million was needed.
- 4. Why the increase in fee and not something else?** Many options were evaluated but the industry and S.C. Petroleum Marketers Association thought the fee increase was the best option for solving this problem.
- 5. Who decided this?** The fee increase to address the SUPERB solvency was an industry-led effort in consultation with DHEC.
- 6. Will the fee ever go back down?** Yes. Once the \$36 million is deposited in the SUPERB account, the fee will go back to \$100 per tank per year.
- 7. How long will it take to reach 36 million?** It has been estimated to take 8-10 years from the first increase. Once the fee reaches \$500 per tank per year, it will remain there until the goal of \$36 million is obtained.
- 8. But I am not using my tanks...** As long as the USTs, which store or are intended to store regulated substance (petroleum), remain in the ground, the fees are owed. Once the tanks are permanently closed (removed or filled in place) in accordance with R.61-92 Part 280.71, tank fees will no longer apply.
- 9. Why weren't we notified about this?** Tank owners were notified via newsletter articles and mail outs. Also, page 2 of each invoice provides details about the increase.
- 10. What if I don't pay?** If the fees are not paid in full by July 31, 2017 you will not receive a registration certificate and cannot receive fuel. On August 1, 2017 the tanks will be tagged in accordance with Delivery Prohibition, to ensure the tanks do not receive a delivery. The owner/operator will then be referred to our Enforcement Program where they could be subjected to further enforcement actions and/or penalties.