

Abandonment of a Storage Tank in Place

Where it is deemed impractical by the UVA Code Official and FM, a petroleum storage tank can be abandoned in place. The reasons to abandon a tank in place include:

- The tank is located in whole or in part beneath a permanent building or other facility
- The tank is so large or of a type of construction that the excavation of the tank is not practical
- The tank is inaccessible to the heavy equipment necessary for removal of the storage tank
- The tank is situated so that removal of the storage tank would endanger the structural integrity of nearby buildings, utilities, or other facilities.

Unless tied to one of the issues above, financial reasons are not an acceptable reason to abandon a tank in place.

A building permit issued by the UVA Building Official is required for all tank closures. The following steps must be taken to abandon a storage tank in place. These steps are to be carried out by or under the guidance and observation of FM:

- Soil borings must be installed around the tank to determine if leakage has occurred. If contamination is found, the VA DEQ must be notified and a response received before any further actions are taken. DEQ regulations required official closure assessment reports for all regulated tanks, whether removed from the ground or closed in place.
- All remaining fluids must be pumped from the storage tank and connected piping.
- Any residual sludge in the storage tank must be removed by flushing with water or other cleaning methods. Larger tanks with man way access can be power washed. All fluids must be properly disposed of by a licensed contractor
- USTs must be completely filled with an inert material such as low density concrete slurry mix (control fill concrete) or expandable foam to prevent the collapse and/or floating of the tank
- All piping runs and fill ports are to be permanently sealed by capping or plugging or removed from ground
- The Facilities Management Geospatial Engineering Services Group is to be notified that the tank was closed in place.