

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

National Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program Cleanup Performance, 1988-2004

EPA and the states continue to make considerable progress in cleaning up leaks

317,405 cleanups have been completed

Of the 447,233 releases confirmed since 1988:

- Cleanups have been initiated for most releases (92%)
- Most cleanups (71%) have been completed

The number of new releases confirmed annually fell by 35% from 12,078 in 2003 to 7,848 in 2004.

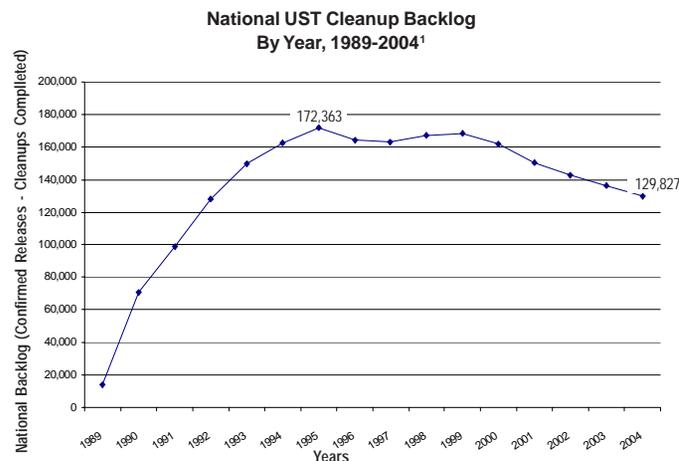
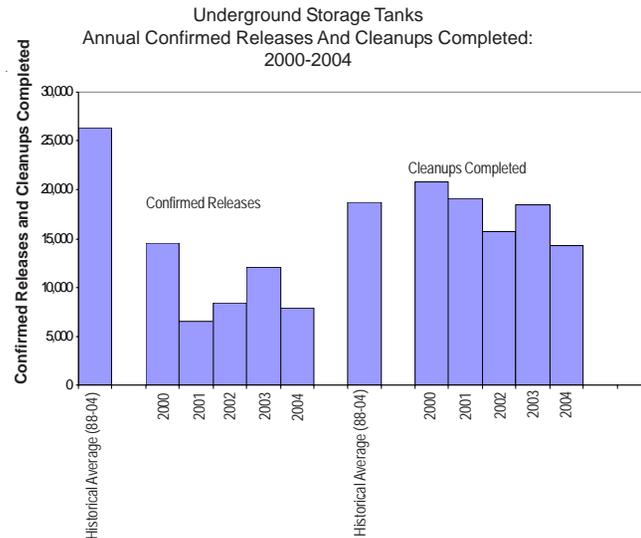
- This achieves EPA's goal of no more than 10,000 new releases per year.
- It reverses a 3-year trend of increases in the number of releases confirmed annually.

However, much work remains

- There is still a national backlog of close to 130,000 UST cleanups to be completed, and many are difficult sites involving groundwater contamination.
- Over 35 states reported that USTs are one of the top sources of potential groundwater contamination in at least two out of three Clean Water Act reports (1996, 1998, 2000 CWA 305[b] reports)
- The number of cleanups completed each year has generally decreased over the past four years and fell by 23% (from 18,518 to 14,285) in 2004.

129,827 cleanups have yet to be completed nationwide

Leaking Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Statistics



¹The national UST cleanup backlog is the cumulative number of confirmed releases minus the cumulative number of cleanups completed, beginning in 1988.

For further information on the
EPA Underground Storage Tank Program:

www.epa.gov/oust/

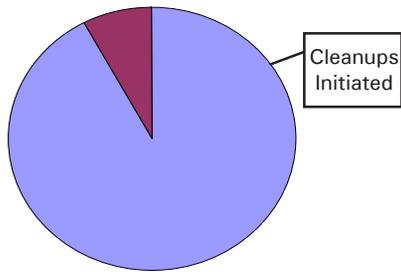
UST Cleanup Initiatives: Addressing The Large Workload Of Cleanups

- **Understanding The Nature Of Sites**--To better understand the nature of the remaining sites to be cleaned up, EPA launched a study in 2004 to characterize the backlog of UST sites in selected states and Indian Country. Results of this effort will be released in spring 2005.
- **Targeting Source Water Areas**--EPA is encouraging collaboration between state and regional drinking water and UST programs to make the best use of resources in reducing the risks USTs pose to drinking water sources.
www.epa.gov/oust/swaustmemo.pdf
- **Financing Cleanups**--EPA seeks to develop a set of standard data reporting and analysis tools to implement OSWER Directive 9650.14, *Monitoring the Financial Soundness of Approved State Assurance Funds*. This initiative will enable EPA to identify fund soundness issues and assist states in addressing them.
www.epa.gov/swrust1/directiv/od9659014.htm
- **Streamlining Cleanups**--
 - ✓ Multi-site agreements
www.epa.gov/oust/msa_memo_032904.pdf
 - ✓ Triad www.epa.gov/tio/triad/
 - ✓ Optimizing the cleanup of difficult sites: pilots in NY, NJ, and TX
 - ✓ Pay for performance contracting
www.epa.gov/oust/pfp
- **MTBE**--EPA is developing fact sheets on the cleanup of UST MTBE sites in selected pilot communities. These fact sheets will be completed in spring 2005.
www.epa.gov/oust/mtbe/index.htm
- **Recycling Abandoned Gas Stations**--EPA encourages states, tribes, and other prospective partners to identify opportunities to clean up and return abandoned gas stations to productive residential, retail/commercial, ecological/recreational, or public use. It also encourages them to implement the petroleum brownfields provisions of the Brownfields law.
www.epa.gov/oust/20recycl.htm

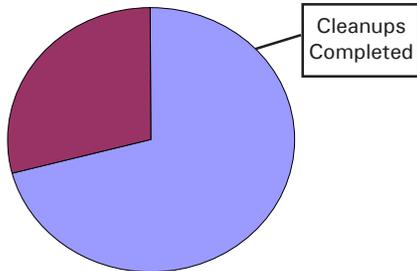
Progress On Cleaning Up Underground Storage Tank (UST) Releases

Of 447,233 total confirmed UST releases nationwide between 1988-2004:

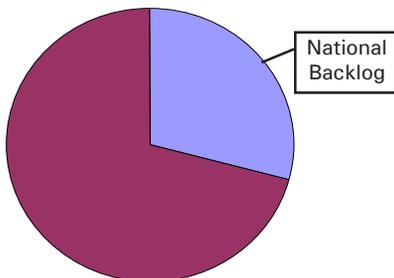
92% (412,567) of cleanups have been initiated



71% (317,405) of cleanups have been completed



29% (129,827) of cleanups have yet to be completed and remain in the national backlog



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Cleaning Up Leaks From Underground Storage Tanks



- Progress To Date
- Cleanup Initiatives

