

D R A F T

January 31, 2012

General Criteria

General criteria that must be satisfied by all candidate sites are listed as follows:

- a. The unauthorized release is located within the service area of a public water system;
- b. The unauthorized release consists only of petroleum;
- c. The unauthorized (“primary”) release from the UST system has been stopped;
- d. Free product has been removed to the maximum extent practicable;
- e. A conceptual site model has been developed;
- f. Secondary source removal has been addressed;
- g. Soil or groundwater has been tested for MTBE and results reported in accordance with Health and Safety Code section 25296.15; and
- h. Nuisance as defined by Water Code section 13050 does not exist at the site.



a. The unauthorized release is located within the service area of a public water system

This policy is protective of existing water supply wells. New water supply wells are unlikely to be installed in the shallow groundwater near former UST release sites. However, it is difficult to predict, on a statewide basis, where new wells will be installed, particularly in rural areas that are undergoing new development. This policy is limited to areas with available public drinking water supplies to reduce the likelihood that new wells in developing areas will be inadvertently impacted by residual petroleum in groundwater. Case closure outside of areas with a public water supply should be evaluated based upon the fundamental principles in this policy and a site specific evaluation of developing water supplies in the area.

b. The unauthorized release consists only of petroleum

For the purposes of this policy, petroleum is defined as crude oil, or any fraction thereof, which is liquid at standard conditions of temperature and pressure, which means 60 degrees Fahrenheit and 14.7 pounds per square inch absolute, including the following substances: motor fuels, jet fuels, distillate fuel oils, residual fuel oils, lubricants, petroleum solvents and used oils, including any additives and blending agents such as oxygenates contained in the formulation of the substances.

c. The unauthorized release has been stopped

The tank, pipe, or other appurtenant structure that released petroleum into the environment (i.e. the primary source) has been removed, repaired or replaced. It is not the intent of this policy to allow sites with ongoing leaks from the UST system to qualify for low-threat closure.

d. Free product has been removed to the maximum extent practicable

At petroleum unauthorized release sites where investigations indicate the presence of free product, free product shall be removed to the maximum extent practicable. In meeting the requirements of this section:

- (a) Free product shall be removed in a manner that minimizes the spread of the unauthorized release into previously uncontaminated zones by using recovery and disposal techniques appropriate to the hydrogeologic conditions at the site, and that properly treats, discharges or disposes of recovery byproducts in compliance with applicable laws;
- (b) Abatement of free product migration shall be used as a minimum objective for the design of any free product removal system; and
- (c) Flammable products shall be stored for disposal in a safe and competent manner to prevent fires or explosions.

