



Underground Storage Tank (UST) Investigation

UST Investigations are performed in accordance with NC DEQ (or other state equivalent) Guidelines for Site Checks, Tanks Closure, and Initial Response/Abatement for UST Releases to:

1. To confirm the presence/absence of contamination from potential leaks/spills from the on-site UST,
2. To help evaluate additional costs for UST closure if a significant spill or leak has occurred, and
3. To avoid costly mitigation and/or deed restrictions if a spill or leak is discovered at a later date.

The UST investigation includes the following services:

1. Measure UST dimensions with probe rod to determine UST volume/capacity.
2. Measure amount of petroleum, water, and/or sludge present in the UST with a disposable bailer.
3. Measure distances between the UST and sensitive receptors in the area (wells, rivers, basements).
4. Excavate soils at the up-gradient and down-gradient ends of the UST. Boreholes are installed with a hand auger down to 12-feet below ground surface.
5. Evaluate soils for noticeable visual and olfactory indicators of contamination in 6-inch intervals.
6. Screen soils in 1-ft intervals with a calibrated photo-ionization detector to evaluate the total concentration of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in parts per million. Soil vapors are screened from the headspace of plastic sample bags, following a 10-minute volatilization period.
7. Prepare a letter report that addresses the results of the UST investigation. NC PG certification and regulatory coordination services are available if required by your lending institution.

Potential additional fees may be applied for the following reasons:

1. If field screening indicates the presence of contaminated soils, then soil samples will be collected and submitted to a certified laboratory for analysis of Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon - Diesel Range Organics. Analytical results will be compared to applicable regulatory limits to determine if any additional assessment/mitigation is required.
2. If required by the lending institution or other interested stakeholder, Peak HG can request a "Letter of No Further Action" from the NC DEQ (or other state equivalent). A "Letter of No Further Action" may be granted if 1- the investigation is performed by a licensed geologist or engineer, and 2-laboratory analytical results are provided, which confirm the absence of contamination above applicable regulatory limits.

If the initial UST Investigation confirms the presence of contamination above applicable regulatory limits, NC DEQ (or other state equivalent) may require the following:

1. Notification within 24-hours of a confirmed spill/release.
2. Issuance of deed restrictions, which limit the type and size of land use on the property.
3. Performance of costly mitigation to remove the tank and contaminated soils and remediate impacted soils/water to below applicable regulatory limits.

If the initial UST Investigation confirms the absence of contamination above applicable regulatory limits, Peak HG can perform and certify UST closure/abandonment via:

1. Removal and proper disposal of any residual UST contents (petroleum and sludge).
2. In-place abandonment by filling the UST with an inert flowable fill material (e.g., concrete) to prevent UST collapse, or UST removal and appropriate off-site disposal.