



## EARLY UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK UPGRADE: LIMITED SOURCE REMOVAL INITIATIVE (LSRI) PROGRAM

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In July 2005 the Florida Legislature passed Chapter 2005-180 which authorized the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to provide funding for facilities with program eligible discharges that are scored below the current funding threshold. The available funding may be utilized for soil assessment, source removal and specific allowable costs incurred during an underground storage tank removal and upgrade to secondary containment. The FDEP will authorize funding for contaminated soil removal, disposal and transportation, dewatering and treatment of contaminated groundwater, backfill, soil assessment, analytical, labor and reporting.

For these facilities, funding is limited to \$50,000 per applicant unless justification for additional monies is provided to the FDEP in which case a maximum of \$100,000 per applicant may be appropriated. The FDEP has a total of \$10,000,000 per year for this program (renewed annually) and will expire on June 30, 2008.

Subsequent funding may be available to facilities that qualify for a *No Further Action* or *Natural Attenuation Monitoring* following the source removal. This program offers many benefits to the owners of underground storage tank facilities that choose to participate in this program while upgrading their site to secondary containment.

Florida Environmental Regulation Specialists, Inc. (FER) is an experienced pre-approval petroleum cleanup contractor that is very active in the LSRI program. A low cost limited soil assessment is needed to apply for the program. Typically, the cost savings experienced from this program will greatly outweigh the cost of the limited soil assessment and the site owner will see an overall reduction in cost of the secondary containment upgrade.

### **The facility owner may see the following benefits:**

- 1) A reduction in overall upgrading and closure costs to the facility owner.
- 2) Remediation of site contamination prior to any funding via the FDEP's pre-approval petroleum cleanup program (PPCP). Sites currently scored well below the current funding threshold (scored 30 or above) may not see funding for assessment and

remediation in the foreseeable future. Some facilities may receive a Site Rehabilitation Completion Order (SRCO) through the LSRI program. Properties with underground storage tanks that have received an SRCO can recognize increased value and a greater potential for sale.

- 3) Storage tank facilities in cost sharing programs such as the Petroleum Cleanup Participation Program (PCPP) can receive funding for assessment and remediation through the LSRI program with no cost sharing required. In addition, this funding is outside of the normal PPCP and therefore you are not required to pay the deductible if one is required for your site until your site is active in its associated pre-approval program.
- 4) State funded petroleum cleanup programs do not provide third party liability as part of the funding. Petroleum contamination that migrates off your facility may bring third party legal action against you. Removing the source of contamination may decrease the risk of offsite migration of contaminant plumes and thus reduce the potential for third party legal action. Please note that facilities with low scores may sit idle for numerous years while contamination continues to migrate. Environmental assessments performed during property transactions on nearby properties can identify this offsite migration and open property owners to lawsuits.

### **HOW DO I APPLY?**

FER would be glad to speak with you further regarding your site/s or answer any questions you have regarding this program. The cost of the limited assessment is minimal and often offset by the reduction in overall upgrading and closure assessment costs if your site qualifies for this funding. Please contact one of our offices for information.