

**TITLE 20 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**  
**CHAPTER 5 PETROLEUM STORAGE TANKS**  
**PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS**

20.5.1.1 ISSUING AGENCY: New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board.  
[20.5.1.1 NMAC - Rp, 20 NMAC 5.1.100, 6/14/02]

20.5.1.2 SCOPE:

A. 20.5.1 through 20.5.16 NMAC apply to any owner and operator of storage tanks as defined in 20.5.1.7 NMAC except as otherwise provided in Subsections B and C of 20.5.1.2 NMAC.

B. Any UST system holding hazardous wastes that are listed or identified under Subtitle C of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, or a mixture of such hazardous waste and other hazardous substances, is excluded from these regulations. This paragraph does not apply to any UST system containing petroleum.

C. Parts 20.5.2 through 20.5.16 NMAC do not apply to any of the following types of storage tank systems:

- (1) wastewater treatment tanks;
- (2) sumps;
- (3) UST systems containing radioactive waste;
- (4) electrical equipment;
- (5) hydraulic lift tanks; and
- (6) any UST system with a capacity of 110 gallons or less or any AST system with a capacity of 1,100 gallons or less.

D. Notwithstanding the foregoing exclusions, no person may install a storage tank system listed in Subsection C of 20.5.1.2 NMAC above for the purpose of storing regulated substances unless such storage tank system (whether of single or double wall construction):

- (1) will prevent releases due to corrosion or structural failure for the operational life of the tank; and
- (2) is cathodically protected against corrosion, constructed of noncorrosive material, steel clad with a noncorrosive material or designed in a manner to prevent the release or threatened release of any stored substance; and
- (3) the material used in the construction or lining of the tank is compatible with the substance to be stored.

E. Parts 20.5.4 through 20.5.9 NMAC shall not apply to an existing AST or UST system which has never contained a regulated substance until the system is placed in service.

[20.5.1.2 NMAC - Rp, 20 NMAC 5.1.101, 6/14/02]

20.5.1.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Parts 20.5.1 through 20.5.16 NMAC are promulgated pursuant to the provisions of the Hazardous Waste Act, NMSA 1978, 74-4-1 through 74-4-14 (2001); the Ground Water Protection Act, as amended, NMSA 1978, 74-6B-1 through 74-6B-14 (2001); and the general provisions of the Environmental Improvement Act, NMSA 1978, 74-1-1 through 74-1-15 (1990).

[20.5.1.3 NMAC - Rp, 20 NMAC 5.1.102, 6/14/02]

20.5.1.4 DURATION: Permanent.

[20.5.1.4 NMAC - Rp, 20 NMAC 5.1.103, 6/14/02]

20.5.1.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: June 14, 2002, unless a later date is indicated in the bracketed history note at the end of a section.

[20.5.1.5 NMAC - Rp, 20 NMAC 5.1.104, 06/14/02]

20.5.1.6 OBJECTIVE: The purpose of 20.5.1 through 20.5.16 NMAC is to regulate storage tank systems in order to protect the public health, safety and welfare and the environment of the state.

[20.5.1.6 NMAC - Rp, 20 NMAC.5.1.105, 6/14/02]

20.5.1.7 DEFINITIONS: As used in 20.5.1 through 20.5.16 NMAC, the following definitions apply.

A. "Above ground release" means any release to the surface of the land or to surface water. This includes, but is not limited to, releases from the above ground portion of an underground storage tank system and

releases associated with overfills and transfer operations during regulated substance deliveries to or dispensing from an UST system.

B. "Above ground storage tank" or "AST" means a single tank or combination of tanks, including pipes connected thereto, that is 1,100 gallons or more, is permanently installed, and is used to contain petroleum, including crude oil or any fraction thereof that is liquid at standard conditions of temperature and pressure of 60 degrees Fahrenheit and fourteen and seven tenths pounds per square inch absolute, and the volume of which is more than ninety percent above the surface of the ground. Tanks in vaults and special enclosures are ASTs. A compartment tank with combined total capacity greater than 1,100 gallons is an AST and for purposes of these regulations is considered to be one tank regardless of the number of compartments and the number of regulated substances contained. Above ground storage tank does not include (regardless of size) any:

- (1) farm, ranch or residential tank used for storing motor fuel or heating oil for noncommercial purposes;
- (2) pipeline facility, including gathering lines regulated under the federal Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968 or the federal Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Act of 1979, or that is an intrastate pipeline facility regulated under state laws comparable to either act;
- (3) surface impoundment, pit, pond or lagoon;
- (4) storm water or wastewater collection system;
- (5) flow-through process tank;
- (6) liquid trap, tank or associated gathering lines or other storage methods or devices related to oil, gas or mining exploration, production, transportation, refining, processing or storage, or the oil field service industry operations;
- (7) tank associated with an emergency generator system;
- (8) tanks, bulk terminals, or related pipelines and facilities owned or used by a refinery, natural gas processing plant or pipeline company in the regular course of their refining, processing or pipeline business. Bulk plants are not included in the exemption;
- (9) multiple tanks at a facility, that are individually less than 1,100 gallons, unless tanks that are siphoned together have a cumulative total capacity greater than 1,100 gallons;
- (10) pipes connected to any tank exempted by Paragraphs (1) through (9) of this subsection.

C. "Accidental release" means any sudden or non-sudden release neither expected nor intended by the tank owner or operator of petroleum or other regulated substance from an underground storage tank that results in a need for corrective action and/or compensation for bodily injury or property damage.

D. "Ancillary equipment" means any device including, but not limited to, such devices as piping, fittings, flanges, valves, and pumps, that are used to distribute, meter, or control the flow of petroleum or other regulated substances from a storage tank.

E. "Applicable standards" means the most relevant target concentrations that legally apply to a site.

F. "AST system" means an above ground storage tank and its associated ancillary equipment and containment system, if any.

G. "Below ground release" means any release to the subsurface of the land and to groundwater. This includes, but is not limited to, releases from the below ground portions of a storage tank system and releases associated with overfills and transfer operations as the regulated substance is delivered to or dispensed from a storage tank.

H. "Beneath the surface of the ground" means beneath the ground surface or otherwise covered with materials so that physical inspection is precluded.

I. "Bodily injury" shall have the meaning given to this term by applicable state law; however, this term shall not include those liabilities which, consistent with standard insurance industry practices, are excluded from coverage in liability insurance policies for bodily injury.

J. "Bulk plant" means a facility which is not a bulk terminal, and which is used for the temporary storage of petroleum products prior to delivery to gasoline stations, convenience stores, and commercial accounts, which is smaller than a bulk terminal and is not equipped with any processing equipment.

K. "Bulk terminal" means a large facility for storing and handling petroleum products that receives and stores bulk deliveries of gasoline and other products from a pipeline, barges, or directly from a nearby refinery. Equipment at the terminal facility is usually capable of further processing the product, including but not limited to: injection of additives or conversion of gasoline vapors received from transports after making deliveries using stage one vapor recovery back to liquid form.

L. "Bureau" means the New Mexico petroleum storage tank bureau.

M. "Cathodic protection" is a technique to prevent corrosion of a metal surface by making that surface the cathode of an electrochemical cell. A tank system can be cathodically protected through the application of either galvanic anodes or impressed current.

N. "Cathodic protection tester" means a person who can demonstrate an understanding of the principles and measurements of all common types of cathodic protection systems as applied to buried or submerged metal piping and tank systems. At a minimum, such persons must have education and experience in soil resistivity, stray current, structure-to-soil potential, and component electrical isolation measurements of buried metal piping and tank systems.

O. "Certified individual-level A" means an individual who has been certified by the department under 20.5.14.1402 NMAC to install and repair UST systems in this state, and also mean an individual performing an on-site examination under a provisional certificate issued pursuant to 20.5.14.1405 NMAC but only for the purposes of that on-site examination.

P. "Certified individual-level B" means an individual who has been certified by the department under 20.5.14.1407 NMAC to replace or install equipment on a UST system such as: overfill and spill containment devices, line and tank leak detectors, submersible pumps and drop tubes, and spill containment devices. A certified individual-level B installer is not certified to install or repair UST tanks or lines, unless also certified under 20.5.14.1402 NMAC as level A.

Q. "Certified installer" refers generally to both certified individuals level A and level B.

R. "Certified scientist" means an individual who has been certified by the department pursuant to 20.5.16 NMAC to supervise or engage in corrective action activities.

S. "Chief financial officer," in the case of local government owners and operators, means the individual with the overall authority and responsibility for the collection, disbursement, and use of funds by the local government.

T. "Compatible" means the ability of two or more substances to maintain their respective physical and chemical properties upon contact with one another for extended periods of time and under varied environmental conditions (i.e., at different temperatures).

U. "Connected piping" means all underground piping including valves, elbows, joints, flanges, and flexible connectors attached to a tank system through which regulated substances flow. For the purpose of determining how much piping is connected to any individual UST system, the piping which joins the two UST systems should be allocated equally between them.

V. "Consumptive use" with respect to heating oil means the oil is burned on the premises.

W. "Contain" means the stopping of further migration of a regulated substance from a release into or through groundwater, surface water and/or soil.

X. "Containment" means that contamination from a release has been contained and is not spreading, migrating, spilling, infiltrating or otherwise traveling into uncontaminated areas. Verification of containment requires the performance of physical measurements that provide positive proof that contamination is contained.

Y. "Contaminant" means any regulated substance as defined in this section, any constituent of a regulated substance, or any combination of a regulated substance or constituent thereof with any other substance or matter.

Z. "Contaminant of concern" means any contaminant which is suspected of being released at the site based on site history for which:

(1) the New Mexico water quality control commission has adopted standards pursuant to the Water Quality Act, NMSA 1978, sections 74-6-1- through 74-6-17 (as amended);

(2) the New Mexico environmental improvement board has adopted standards, action levels, risk-based screening levels or site specific target levels pursuant to the Hazardous Waste Act, the Ground Water Protection Act, or the Environmental Improvement Act; or

(3) the New Mexico environment department has established or approved site-specific target levels pursuant to the Hazardous Waste Act, the Ground Water Protection Act, or the Environmental Improvement Act.

AA. "Contaminant saturated soil" means soil exclusive of the water table and capillary fringe in which non-aqueous phase liquid is observable in the soil or, if sufficiently liquid, drains from the soil when the soil is suspended on filter paper or its equivalent.

AB. "Contaminated soil" means soil containing detectable quantities of contaminants of concern.

AC. "Contracting company" means a corporation, partnership, or duly constituted individual proprietorship which contracts to install or repair UST systems for third parties.

AD. "Controlling interest" means direct ownership or other legal control of at least fifty percent of the voting stock of another entity.

AE. "Corrective action" means an action taken to investigate, minimize, eliminate, or clean up a release to protect the public health, safety, and welfare or the environment.

AF. "Corrective action fund" or "fund" means the fund created pursuant to the Ground Water Protection Act, NMSA 1978, Section 74-6B-7, to pay or reimburse for corrective action performed pursuant to 20.5 NMAC and the Ground Water Protection Act.

AG. "Corrective action system" means the treatment method and technology or combination of methods and technologies used to perform aquifer reclamation or remediation, soil cleanup or any other corrective action, containment or mitigation of contamination.

AH. "Corrosion expert" means a person who, by reason of his knowledge of the physical sciences and the principles of engineering and mathematics, acquired by a professional education and related practical experience, is qualified to engage in the practice of corrosion control on buried or submerged metal piping systems and metal tanks. Such a person must be certified as being qualified by the National Association of Corrosion Engineers (NACE) or be a registered professional engineer who has certification or licensing that includes education and experience in corrosion control of buried or submerged metal piping systems and metal tanks.

AI. "Critical junctures" means the steps of an installation, modification, repair or removal of a tank system which are important to the prevention of releases and which are described in 20.5.5 NMAC.

AJ. "Department" means the New Mexico environment department also known as the New Mexico department of environment.

AK. "Director" means the director of the environmental protection division of the department.

AL. "Direct responsible supervisory control" means responsibility for the direction, control, and/or supervision of investigation and remediation activities to assure that the work is performed in accordance with appropriate industry and regulatory quality standards.

AM. "Effectively mitigating" means that the corrective action system has contained the release and is achieving reductions in contamination levels such that the standards described in 20.5.1.1219 NMAC will be met in a manner protective of human health, safety and welfare and the environment, which shall not exceed the period agreed upon in the remediation plan.

AN. "EIB" means environmental improvement board.

AO. "EIB standards" means standards set forth in 20.5.12 and 20.7.10 NMAC.

AP. "Electrical equipment" means underground equipment which contains dielectric fluid which is necessary for the operation of equipment such as transformers and buried electrical cable.

AQ. "Environmental improvement board" (EIB) means the board created in the Environmental Improvement Act, NMSA 1978, sections 74-1-1 through 74-1-14 (as amended).

AR. "Environmental Improvement Act" means the Environmental Improvement Act, NMSA 1978, sections 74-1-1 through 74-1-14 (as amended).

AS. "Excavation area" is defined as the area containing the tank system and backfill material bounded by the ground surface, walls, and floor of the pit and trenches into which the UST system is placed at the time of installation.

AT. "Existing AST system" means an AST system which is used to contain an accumulation of regulated substances or for which installation commenced on or before June 14, 2002. Installation will be considered to have commenced if the owner or operator has obtained all federal, state and local approvals or permits necessary to begin physical construction at the site or installation of the tank system, and if either: (1) a continuous on-site physical construction or installation program has begun, or: (2) the owner or operator has entered into contractual obligations, which cannot be canceled or modified without substantial loss, for physical construction at the site or installation of the tank system to be completed within a reasonable time.

AU. "Existing UST system" means a UST system which is used to contain an accumulation of regulated substances or for which installation has commenced on or before 12-22-1988. Installation will be considered to have commenced if the owner or operator has obtained all federal, state and local approvals or permits necessary to begin physical construction of the site or installation of the tank system, and if either (1) a continuous on-site physical construction or installation program has begun, or (2) the owner or operator has entered into contractual obligations, which cannot be canceled or modified without substantial loss, for physical construction at the site or installation of the tank system to be completed within a reasonable time.

AV. "Exposed petroleum products" means petroleum that is present in the non-aqueous phase (i.e. not dissolved in water) on the surface of the ground, on surface water, or in any surface or subsurface structures such as utility corridors, basements and manholes.

AW. "Exposed regulated substance" means a regulated substance other than petroleum that is present on the surface of the ground, on surface water, or in any surface or subsurface structures such as utility corridors, basements or manholes.

AX. "Farm tank" is a tank located on a tract of land devoted to the production of crops, or raising animals, including fish, and associated residences and improvements. A farm tank must be located on the farm property. "Farm" includes fish hatcheries, range land and nurseries with growing operations.

AY. "Financial reporting year" means the latest consecutive twelve-month period for which any of the following reports used to support a financial test is prepared: (1) a 10-K report submitted to the SEC; (2) an annual report of tangible net worth submitted to Dun and Bradstreet; or (3) annual reports submitted to the Energy Information Administration or the Rural Electrification Administration. "Financial reporting year" may thus comprise a fiscal or a calendar year period.

AZ. "Flow-through process tank" is a tank that is integral to a production process through which there is a steady or uninterrupted flow of materials during the operation of the process.

BA. "Fund" means the Corrective Action Fund which was created pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 74-6B-7, to pay or reimburse for corrective action required at leaking storage tank sites.

BB. "Gathering lines" means any pipeline, equipment, facility, or building used in the transportation of oil or gas during oil or gas production or gathering operations.

BC. "Ground Water Protection Act" means the Ground Water Protection Act, NMSA 1978, sections 74-6B-1 through 74-6B-14 (as amended).

BD. "Guidelines for corrective action" means any written guidance developed by the New Mexico petroleum storage tank bureau, approved by the secretary for use and distribution to the public, and pertaining to the technical or financial requirements in 20.5.7, 20.5.12, 20.5.13 and 20.5.15 to 20.5.17 NMAC.

BE. "Hazardous substance tank system" or "hazardous substance UST" means an underground storage tank system that contains an accumulation of hazardous substances defined in Section 101(14) of the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) other than any substance regulated as a hazardous waste under Subtitle C of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) or a mixture of such substances and petroleum in which hazardous substances comprise greater than fifty percent of the weight or volume of the mixture.

BF. "Hazardous Waste Act" means the Hazardous Waste Act, NMSA 1978, sections 74-4-1 through 74-4-14 (as amended).

BG. "Heating oil" refers to a type of fuel oil that is one of eight technical grades. These grades are: No. 1; No. 2; No. 4--light; No. 4--heavy; No. 5-light; No. 5-heavy; No. 6; and residual. Heating oil also refers to fuel oil substitutes such as kerosene or diesel when used for heating purposes.

BH. "Hydraulic lift tank" means a tank holding hydraulic fluid for a closed-loop mechanical system that uses compressed air and hydraulic fluid to operate lifts, elevators, and other similar devices.

BI. "Initiation of containment" means the point in time at which a system designed to achieve containment is put into continuous operation.

BJ. "Install" or "installation" means the work involved in placing a storage tank system or any part thereof in the ground and preparing it to be placed in service.

BK. "Institutional controls" means those legal mechanisms, such as covenants, easements, and deed restrictions, that may be used to ensure that exposure to contamination during or following remediation is reduced to the degree that protects public health, safety and welfare, and the environment, or to ensure that the public is notified regarding possible exposure to contamination during or following remediation.

BL. "Interstitial monitoring" is a leak detection method which entails the surveillance of the space between an UST system walls and the secondary containment system for a change in steady state conditions. In a double-walled tank, this change may be indicated by a loss of vacuum, a drop in pressure, a drop in the fluid level in a visible reservoir, or the detection of the regulated substance and/or water in the interstitial space. In a secondary containment system consisting of a liner (natural or synthetic) or a vault, the surveillance consists of frequent to continuous sampling from a monitoring well between the UST and the liner to detect the presence of regulated substance in the well(s).

BM. "Inventory controls" are techniques used to identify a loss of product that are based on volumetric measurements in the tank and reconciliation of those measurements with product delivery and withdrawal records.

BN. "Landfarming" is the remediation of petroleum contaminated soils on or at ground surface using natural aeration and volatilization, disking and natural and enhanced bioremediation to reduce the concentrations of petroleum hydrocarbons to regulatory levels; requires a groundwater discharge permit.

BO. "Legal defense cost" is any expense that an owner or operator or provider of financial assurance incurs in defending against claims or actions brought:

- (1) by EPA or a state to require corrective action or to recover the costs of corrective action;
- (2) by or on behalf of a third party for bodily injury or property damage caused by an accidental release; or
- (3) by any person to enforce the terms of a financial assurance mechanism.

BP. "Liquid" means any material that has a fluidity greater than that of 300 penetration asphalt when tested in accordance with ASTM D 5, *Test for Penetration for Bituminous Materials*. When not otherwise identified, the term liquid shall mean both flammable and combustible liquids.

BQ. "Liquid trap" means sumps, well cellars, and other traps used in association with oil and gas production, gathering, and extraction operations (including gas production plants), for the purpose of collecting oil, water, and other liquids. Such liquid traps may temporarily collect liquids for subsequent disposition or reinjection into a production or pipeline stream, or may collect and separate liquids from a gas stream.

BR. "Local government" shall have the meaning given this term by applicable state law. The term is generally intended to include counties, municipalities, school districts, and special districts, including flood control and conservancy districts.

BS. "Lower explosive limit" means the lowest percentage of a substance in an airspace that is explosive.

BT. "LUST Ranking System" means the ranking or site prioritization system developed for and modified by the department using the Analytical Hierarchy Process to rank sites where a release from an underground storage tank has occurred based upon public health, safety and welfare, and environmental concerns.

BU. "Magnitude of contamination" means the maximum concentrations of contaminants of concern that resulted from a release.

BV. "Minimum site assessment" means the sum total of all of the following activities:

- (1) reporting, investigating and confirming a release pursuant to 20.5.7 NMAC; and
- (2) determining the on-site extent, magnitude and impact of contamination by conducting investigations and reporting to the department pursuant to 20.5.12.1204 NMAC or 20.5.13.1303 NMAC (initial abatement), 20.5.12.1205 NMAC or 20.5.13.1304 NMAC (report on initial abatement), 20.5.12.1209 NMAC (preliminary investigation) or 20.5.13.1305 NMAC (on-site investigation), , and 20.5.12.1210 NMAC (report on the preliminary investigation) or 20.5.13.1306 NMAC (report on the on-site investigation).

BW. "Monitored natural attenuation" means a methodology for remediation that relies upon a variety of naturally occurring chemical, physical and biological processes to achieve target concentrations in a manner that is equally as protective of public health, safety and welfare, and the environment as other more active methods, and that is accompanied by a program of sampling to document the progress and results of the above mentioned processes.

BX. "Motor fuel" is a petroleum-based fuel used in the operation of an engine that propels a vehicle for transportation of people or cargo.

BY. "NAPL" means non-aqueous phase liquid as defined in 20.5.1.7 NMAC.

BZ. "New AST system" means an AST system for which installation has commenced after June 14, 2002. Installation will be considered to have commenced if the owner or operator has obtained all federal, state and local approvals or permits necessary to begin physical construction at the site or installation of the tank, and if either (1) a continuous on-site physical construction or installation program has begun, or (2) the owner or operator has entered into contractual obligations which cannot be canceled or modified without substantial loss for physical construction at the site or installation of the tank system to be completed within a reasonable time.

CA. "New storage tank system" means a new AST system or a new UST system.

CB. "New UST tank system" means an UST system for which installation has commenced after 12-22-1988. Installation will be considered to have commenced if the owner or operator has obtained all federal, state and local approvals, or permits necessary to begin physical construction at the site or installation of the tank, and if either: (1) a continuous on-site physical construction or installation program has begun, or (2) the owner or operator has entered into contractual obligations which cannot be canceled or modified without substantial loss for physical construction at the site or installation of the tank system to be completed within a reasonable time.

CC. "Non-aqueous phase liquid" (NAPL) means an interstitial body of liquid oil, petroleum product or organic solvent, including an emulsion containing such material; synonymous with "phase separated hydrocarbon" and "free product."

CD. "Non-commercial purposes" with respect to motor fuel means not for resale.

CE. "Occurrence" means an accident, including continuous or repeated exposure to conditions, which results in a release from an underground storage tank. This definition is intended to assist in the understanding of 20.5.9 NMAC and is not intended either to limit the meaning of "occurrence" in a way that conflicts with standard insurance usage or to prevent the use of other standard insurance terms in place of "occurrence."

CF. "On the premises where stored" with respect to heating oil means storage tank systems located on the same property where the stored heating oil is used.

CG. "Operational life" is the period beginning from the time when the installation of the tank system is commenced until it is properly closed under 20.5.8.801 NMAC.

CH. "Operator" means any person in control of, or having responsibility for, the daily operation of a storage tank system.

CI. "Overfill release" is a release that occurs when a tank is filled beyond its capacity, resulting in a discharge of the regulated substance to the environment.

CJ. "Owner" means, in the case of a storage tank in use on November 8, 1984 or brought into use after that date, any person who owns a storage tank used for storage, use, or dispensing of regulated substances; and in the case of a storage tank in use before November 8, 1984 but no longer in use after that date, any person who owned such tank immediately before the discontinuation of its use. For purposes of the registration requirements of 20.5.2 NMAC only, the term "owner" excludes any person who: (1) had a storage tank taken out of operation on or before January 1, 1974, or (2) had a storage tank taken out of operation after January 1, 1974 and removed from the ground prior to November 8, 1984.

CK. "Permanently installed AST" means an AST that is on site for more than 365 consecutive days, provided that tanks that are not permanently installed are removed when the construction is completed.

CL. "Person" means any individual, trust, firm, joint stock company, federal agency, corporation including a government corporation, partnership, association, state, municipality, commission, political subdivision of a state, or any interstate body. "Person" includes a consortium, a joint venture, a commercial entity, and the United States Government.

CM. "Petroleum" means crude oil, crude oil fractions, and refined petroleum fractions, including gasoline, kerosene, heating oils, and diesel fuels.

CN. "Petroleum marketing facilities" include all facilities at which petroleum is produced or refined and all facilities from which petroleum is sold or transferred to other petroleum marketers or to the public.

CO. "Petroleum marketing firms" are all firms owning petroleum marketing facilities. Firms owning other types of facilities with storage tank systems as well as petroleum marketing facilities are considered to be petroleum marketing firms.

CP. "Petroleum tank system," "petroleum storage tank" means a storage tank system that contains an accumulation of petroleum or a mixture of regulated substances in which petroleum comprises greater than fifty percent of the weight or volume of the mixture.

CQ. "Pipeline facilities, including gathering lines," are new and existing pipe rights-of-way and any equipment, facilities, or buildings regulated under the federal Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968, 49 U.S.C. App. 1671, et seq., or the federal Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Act of 1979, 49 U.S.C. App. 2001, et seq., or which is an intrastate pipeline facility regulated under state laws comparable to either act.

CR. "Positive sampling, testing, or monitoring results" refers to the results of sampling, testing, or monitoring using a method described in 20.5.6 NMAC that indicate a release from a storage tank system has occurred.

CS. "Potentially explosive levels of petroleum hydrocarbon vapors" means vapors which register in excess of twenty percent LEL (lower explosive limit) on a combustible gas indicator properly calibrated for pentane.

CT. "Potentially harmful petroleum hydrocarbon vapors" means vapors which register a reading of five whole units above ambient concentrations total aromatic hydrocarbons in any structure in the vicinity of the release site, on a photoionization detector, flame ionization detector or an equivalent device properly calibrated to detect hydrocarbon vapors at a minimum detection limit of at least one ppm.

CU. "Private water supply" means a system for the provision of water for human consumption or domestic purposes, if such system does not have at least 15 service connectors or does not regularly serve an average of 25 individuals at least 60 days during the year.

CV. "Professional engineer" is an individual licensed in New Mexico to engage in the practice of engineering under the New Mexico Engineering and Surveying Practices Act.

CW. "Property damage" shall have the meaning given this term by applicable state law. This term shall not include those liabilities which, consistent with standard insurance industry practices, are excluded from coverage

in liability insurance policies for property damage. However, such exclusions for property damage shall not include corrective action associated with releases from tanks which are covered by the policy.

CX. "Provider of financial assurance" means an entity that provides financial assurance to an owner or operator of a storage tank system through one of the mechanisms listed in 20.5.905 through 20.5.916 NMAC, including a guarantor, insurer, risk retention group, surety, issuer of a letter of credit, issuer of a state-required mechanism, or a state.

CY. "Public water supply" means a system for the provision to the public of water for human consumption if such system has at least 15 service connectors or regularly serves an average of at least 25 individuals at least 60 days out of the year.

CZ. "Qualified firm" means a company, firm, or sole proprietorship that uses certified scientists and, when required, professional engineers, pursuant to 20.5.16 NMAC, for the investigation and remediation of vadose and saturated zone contamination caused by releases from ASTs or USTs.

DA. "Qualified laboratory" means a laboratory which has participated in and passed the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) WP Series proficiency tests or an equivalent third party EPA-approved test acceptable to the department for the parameter to be analyzed and which uses EPA-approved procedures, methods and quality control and submits to the department, at least every two years, proof of this approval along with quality assurance manuals and health and safety program documentation.

DB. "RBSL" means risk-based screening level as used in 20.5.12 NMAC.

DC. "Receptor" means a person, plant or animal community, structure, utility, surface water, designated wellhead or source water protection area or water supply well that is or may be adversely affected by a release.

DD. "Regulated substance" means:

(1) for USTs: any substance defined in Section 101(14) of the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, but not including any substance regulated as a hazardous waste under Subtitle C of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as amended; and

(2) for ASTs and USTs: petroleum, including crude oil or any fraction thereof which is liquid at standard conditions of temperature and pressure of 60 degrees fahrenheit and fourteen and seven tenths pounds per square inch absolute. Asphalt is not a regulated substance.

DE. "Release" means any spilling, leaking, emitting, discharging, escaping, leaching or disposing from a storage tank system into groundwater, surface water or soil.

DF. "Release detection" means determining whether a release of a regulated substance has occurred from the UST system into the environment or into the interstitial area between the UST system and a secondary barrier around it.

DG. "Remediation" is the process of reducing the concentration of contaminants in air, water or soil to a level that poses an acceptable risk to public health, safety, and welfare and the environment.

DH. "Repair" means the correction or modification of an UST system, including but not limited to the placement of piping, valves, fillpipes or vents and any repairs to the tank. For purposes of 20.5.14 NMAC, the term does not include the process of relining a tank through application of such materials as epoxy resins.

DI. "Residential tank" is a tank located on property used primarily for dwelling purposes.

DJ. "Risk-based screening level" (RBSL) means an action level or target level for a contaminant of concern determined using default criteria set by the department and site specific data for thickness of the contaminated zone and depth to ground water in the tier one evaluation in accordance with 20.5.12 NMAC and the bureau's guidelines for corrective action.

DK. "Secondary containment" is a system installed around an UST that is designed to prevent a release from migrating beyond the secondary containment system outer wall (in the case of a double-walled tank system) or excavation area (in the case of a liner or vault system) before the release can be detected. Such a system may include, but is not limited to, impervious liners (both natural and synthetic), double-walls or vaults.

DL. "Secretary" means the secretary of the New Mexico environment department also known as the secretary of the environment.

DM. "Septic tank" is a water-tight covered receptacle designed to receive or process, through liquid separation or biological digestion, the sewage discharged from a building sewer. The effluent from such receptacle is distributed for disposal through the soil and settled solids and scum from the tank are pumped out periodically and hauled to a treatment facility.

DN. "Site" means a place where there is or was at a previous time one or more storage tanks and/or above ground storage tanks and may include areas contiguous to the actual location or previous location of the tanks.



DO. "Site conceptual exposure scenario" means a qualitative evaluation of exposure information for a site that identifies the relevant contaminant source, release mechanisms, media of concern, complete and incomplete exposure pathways, and receptors.

DP. "Site-specific target level" (SSTL) means an action level or target level for a contaminant of concern determined using more site-specific data than the tier one evaluation in the tier two or tier three evaluations in 20.5.12 NMAC.

DQ. "Spill" means:

(1) any spill or overflow of a regulated substance that exceeds its reportable quantity under CERCLA (40 CFR 302);

(2) any spill or overflow of petroleum that exceeds 25 gallons or causes a sheen on surface water or reaches groundwater; or

(3) any spill or overflow of petroleum of 25 gallons or less the clean up of which cannot be accomplished within 24 hours.

DR. "SSTL" means site-specific target level as used in 20.5.12 NMAC.

DS. "Storage tank" means any above ground storage tank or underground storage tank.

DT. "Storage tank fee" means fees required by NMSA 1978, Section 74-4-4.4 and NMSA 1978, Section 74-6B-9.

DU. "Storage tank system" means a storage tank and its associated ancillary equipment and containment system, if any.

DV. "Stormwater or wastewater collection system" means piping, pumps, conduits, and any other equipment necessary to collect and transport the flow of surface water run-off resulting from precipitation or domestic, commercial, or industrial wastewater to and from retention areas or any areas where treatment is designated to occur.

DW. "Substantial business relationship" means the extent of a business relationship necessary under applicable state law to make a guarantee contract issued incident to that relationship valid and enforceable. A guarantee contract is issued "incident to that relationship" if it arises from and depends on existing economic transactions between the guarantor and the owner or operator.

DX. "Substantial governmental relationship" means the extent of a governmental relationship necessary under applicable state law to make an added guarantee contract issued incident to that relationship valid and enforceable. A guarantee contract is issued "incident to that relationship" if it arises from a clear commonality of interest in the event of an UST release such as coterminous boundaries, overlapping constituencies, common ground-water aquifer, or other relationship other than monetary compensation that provides a motivation for the guarantor to provide a guarantee.

DY. "Sump" means any pit or reservoir that meets the definition of tank, including troughs or trenches connected to it, that serves to temporarily collect regulated substances.

DZ. "Surface impoundment" is a natural topographic depression, man-made excavation, or diked area formed primarily of earthen materials (although it may be lined with man-made materials) that is designed to hold an accumulation of regulated substances and that is not an injection well.

EA. "Suspected release" means one of the following conditions has occurred:

(1) test, sampling, or monitoring results indicate a release of a regulated substance from an underground storage tank may have occurred;

(2) unusual operating conditions such as the erratic behavior of product dispensing equipment, the sudden loss of product from the UST system, an unexplained presence of water in the tank, or the physical presence of the regulated substance or an unusual level of vapors on the site that are of unknown origin;

(3) impacts in the surrounding area, such as evidence of regulated substances or resulting vapors in soils, basements, sewer and utility lines, and nearby surface water; or

(4) an indication from a gas chromatography or equivalent method that there is a concentration of at least 100 parts per million of total hydrocarbons in a soil sample.

EB. "Tangible net worth" means the tangible assets that remain after deducting liabilities; such assets do not include intangibles such as goodwill and rights to patents or royalties. For purposes of this definition, "assets" means all existing and all probable future economic benefits obtained or controlled by a particular entity as a result of past transactions.

EC. "Tank" is a stationary device designed to contain an accumulation of regulated substances which is constructed of non-earthen materials (e.g., concrete, steel, plastic) that provide structural support.

ED. "Target concentrations" means any concentration of a contaminant to which a medium is required to be remediated under any provision of 20.5 NMAC protective of human health, safety and welfare, and the environment.

EE. "Termination" under Subsections A and B of 20.5.9.957 NMAC means only those changes that could result in a gap in coverage as where the insured has not obtained substitute coverage or has obtained substitute coverage with a different retroactive date than the retroactive date of the original policy.

EF. "Tightness testing" means a procedure for testing the ability of a tank system to prevent an inadvertent release of any stored substance into the environment (or, in the case of an UST system, intrusion of ground water into a tank system).

EG. "Underground area" means an underground room, such as a basement, cellar, shaft or vault, providing enough space for physical inspection of the exterior of the tank situated on or above the surface of the floor.

EH. "Underground release" means any below-ground release.

EI. "Underground storage tank" or "UST" means a single tank or combination of tanks, including pipes connected thereto, that are used to contain an accumulation of regulated substances and the volume of which, including the volume of the underground pipes connected thereto, is ten percent or more beneath the surface of the ground. A compartment tank with combined total capacity greater than 110 gallons is a UST and for purposes of these regulations is considered to be one tank regardless of the number of compartments and the number of regulated substances contained. The term does not include any:

(1) farm, ranch or residential tank of 1,100 gallons or less capacity used for storing motor fuel or heating oil for noncommercial purposes;

(2) septic tank;

(3) pipeline facility, including gathering lines which are regulated under the federal Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968, 49 U.S.C. App. 1671, et seq., or the federal Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Act of 1979, 49 U.S.C. App. 2001, et seq., or which is an intrastate pipeline facility regulated under state laws comparable to either act;

(4) surface impoundment, pit, pond or lagoon;

(5) storm water or wastewater collection system;

(6) flow-through process tank;

(7) liquid traps or associated gathering lines directly related to oil or gas production and gathering operations;

(8) storage tank situated in an underground area, such as a basement, cellar, mineworking drift, shaft or tunnel, if the storage tank is situated upon or above the surface of the undesignated floor;

(9) tank associated with an emergency generator system;

(10) tank exempted by rule of the EIB after finding that the type of tank is adequately regulated under another federal or state law; or

(11) pipes connected to any tank exempted by Paragraphs (1) through (10) of this subsection.

EJ. "Unsaturated zone" is the subsurface zone containing water under pressure less than that of the atmosphere, including water held by capillary forces within the soil and containing air or gases generally under atmospheric pressure. This zone is limited above by the ground surface and below by the upper surface of the zone of saturation (i.e., the water table).

EK. "USTR" means the environmental improvement board's underground storage tank regulations.

EL. "UST system" means an underground storage tank and its associated ancillary equipment and containment system, if any.

EM. "Vault" means a liquid-tight structure that completely surrounds a tank, that is above, below or partially above or below the ground surface.

EN. "Wastewater treatment tank" means a tank that is part of a wastewater treatment facility regulated under either section 402 or 307(b) of the federal Clean Water Act and which receives and treats or stores an influent wastewater which contains regulated substances.

EO. "WQCC" means the New Mexico water quality control commission.

EP. "WQCC standards" means standards set forth in 20.6.4 NMAC, standards for interstate and intrastate streams (as amended), and 20.6.2 NMAC, ground and surface water protection (as amended).

[20.5.1.7 NMAC - Rp, 20 NMAC.5.1.112, 6/14/02]

20.5.1.8 to 20.5.1.106 [RESERVED]

20.5.1.107 SAVINGS CLAUSE: This rule shall not affect any administrative or judicial enforcement action pending on the effective date of 20.5.1 through 20.5.16 NMAC.  
[20.5.1.107 NMAC - Rp, 20 NMAC.5.1.107, 6/14/02]

20.5.1.108 COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER REGULATIONS: Compliance with 20.5 NMAC does not relieve a person of the obligation to comply with other applicable state and federal regulations.  
[20.5.1.108 NMAC - Rp, 20 NMAC.5.1.108, 6/14/02]

20.5.1.109 CONSTRUCTION: The underground storage tank regulations, 20.5 NMAC, shall be liberally construed to effectuate the purposes of the Hazardous Waste Act and the Ground Water Protection Act.  
[20.5.1.109 NMAC - Rp, 20 NMAC.5.1.109, 6/14/02]

20.5.1.110 SEVERABILITY: If any part, section or application of 20.5 NMAC is held invalid, the remainder, or its application to other situations or persons, shall not be affected.  
[20.5.1.110 NMAC - Rp, 20 NMAC.5.1.110, 6/14/02]

20.5.1.111 to 199 [RESERVED]

#### HISTORY OF 20.5.1 NMAC:

##### Pre-NMAC History:

The material in this part was derived from that previously filed with the commission of public records - state records center and archives:

EIB/USTR-1, Underground Storage Tank Regulations - Part I - General Provisions, 3/15/88

EIB/USTR-1, Underground Storage Tank Regulations - Part I - General Provisions, 9/12/88

EIB/USTR-1, Underground Storage Tank Regulations - Part I - General Provisions, 2/14/89

EIB/USTR-1, Underground Storage Tank Regulations - Part I - General Provisions, 8/4/89

##### History of Repealed Material:

20 NMAC 5.1 Petroleum Storage Tank Regulations, General Provisions, 12/30/99

20 NMAC 5.1 Petroleum Storage Tank Regulations, General Provisions, 6/14/02

##### Other History:

EIB/USTR-1, Underground Storage Tank Regulations - Part I - General Provisions, 8/4/89 and EIB/USTR 11, Underground Storage Tank Regulations - Part XI - Miscellaneous, 9/12/88 were both renumbered, reformatted and replaced by 20 NMAC 5.1 Underground Storage Tanks, General Provisions, filed 10/06/95

20 NMAC 5.1 Underground Storage Tanks, General Provisions, filed 12/20/99 was renumbered, reformatted and replaced by 20.5.1 NMAC, Petroleum Storage Tanks, General Provisions, effective 6/14/02