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# Underground Storage Tanks: ASTSWMO Issues October 2015 Report Titled An Analysis of UST System Infrastructure in Select States

## Arkansas Environmental, Energy, and Water Law Blog

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The Aging Tanks Workgroup ("Workgroup") of the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials Tanks Subcommittee ("ASTSWMO") issued an October 2015 report titled *An Analysis of UST System Infrastructure in Select States* ("Report").

The *Report* states that in October 2014 the organization was asked to examine issues related to:

... aging underground storage tanks (USTs) and the potential impacts to owners, operators, and State UST programs.

A Workgroup was formed whose objective is stated to have been to:

... analyze whether aging UST infrastructure poses a higher risk of leaks, thus creating higher risks for State tank funds and private insurers and, ultimately, higher costs for tank owners/operators.

The *Report* notes that various states face different challenges and the available data varies considerably due to unique programs that have developed over the last 25 years. The *Report* states it has examined:

... data provided to ASTSWMO by some States, reports on policy decisions made by States in response to concerns about aging USTs, and suggests issues for consideration as States consider similar policy choices.

Some of the questions examined by the Workgroup were:

- Is the nation's UST infrastructure getting older?
- If so, to what extent does this affect the risks shouldered by insurers and State tank funds that serve as the predominant financial responsibility mechanisms for owners/operators?

The *Report* notes that based on additional data collected additional questions included:

- Are States collecting data in a way that informs risk management decisions needed in the future?
- How do a State's policies impact owners' and operators' decisions related to upgrading, replacing, or closing their USTs?

The *Report* provides an analysis of UST data from eight states which include:

- Age of USTs
- Age of UST Piping
- UST Material and Construction

- UST Piping Material and Construction
- ULSD Storage
- Ethanol-Blended Fuels Storage

The *Report* also addresses UST infrastructure and risk management issues such as:

- Risk Factors
- Source and Cause of Leaks
- State Policy Choices and Initiatives
- Private Market Forces as Drivers for UST Removal and Replacement
- UT Owners' Initiatives
- Actuaries' Opinions

[Click here to download a copy of the \*Report\*.](#)