

H.531

An act relating to aboveground storage tanks

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 1929a is amended to read:

§ 1929a. STANDARDS FOR ABOVEGROUND STORAGE TANKS

(a) ~~No later than~~ On or before December 31, 2011, the ~~secretary~~ Secretary shall adopt rules addressing the design and proper installation of aboveground storage tanks.

(b) After January 1, 2012, no person shall offer for sale, install, or substantially improve an aboveground storage tank that does not meet the standards adopted by the ~~secretary~~ Secretary under subsection (a) of this section.

(c) On or before July 1, 2017, the Secretary shall adopt rules for the inspection of aboveground storage tanks. The rules shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) when installation of secondary containment systems for types of aboveground storage tanks is required, the required specifications of the systems, and the process for installation of the systems;

(2) the protocol to be followed and the criteria to be reviewed in the performance of inspections required under this section, including:

(A) the appropriate methods to document the age of tanks installed on or after July 1, 2017;

(B) the frequency of required tank inspections;

(C) requirements for the tagging or marking of tanks and tank fill pipes when tanks are determined to be noncompliant with the requirements of this section or the rules adopted by the Secretary under this section;

(3) an updated checklist to be used in the performance of inspections required under this section or the rules adopted by the Secretary under this section;

(4) training and certification requirements for tank inspectors;

(5) the protocol to address tanks identified as noncompliant with the inspection criteria established by the rules adopted by the Secretary under this section; and

(6) requirements for the reuse of an aboveground storage tank removed under the requirement of subsection (g) of this section.

(d) A fuel supplier shall inspect an aboveground storage tank in accordance with the requirements of this chapter and the rules adopted by the Secretary pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

(e) The Secretary shall maintain a database of tanks that have been determined to be noncompliant with the requirements of this section or the rules adopted by the Secretary pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. The database shall be accessible to the public.

(f) No person shall deliver heating fuel to an aboveground storage tank which has been visibly designated as noncompliant with the requirements of this chapter.

(g) If the owner of any aboveground storage tank that serves a structure converts the type of fuel used for the structure from fuel oil or kerosene to natural gas so that the structure is no longer served for any purpose by the aboveground storage tank, the owner shall have the aboveground storage tank used to store fuel oil or kerosene and any fill pipes removed at the same time as the conversion. As used in this subsection, "structure" means any assembly of materials that is intended for occupancy or use by a person and that has at least three walls and a roof.

Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 1941(g) is amended to read:

(g) The owner of a farm or residential heating fuel storage tank used for on-premises heating or an underground or aboveground heating fuel storage tank used for on-premises heating by a mobile home park resident, as defined in section 6201 of this title, who desires assistance to close, replace, or upgrade the tank may apply to the Secretary for such assistance. The financial assistance may be in the form of grants of up to: \$2,000.00 or the costs of closure, replacement, or upgrade, whichever is least for an aboveground storage tank located inside a structure; up to \$3,000.00 or the costs of closure, replacement, or upgrade, whichever is least for an aboveground storage tank

located outside a structure; and up to \$4,000.00 or the costs of closure, replacement, or upgrade, whichever is least for an underground storage tank.

As used in this subsection, “structure” means any assembly of materials that is intended for occupancy or use by a person and that has at least three walls and a roof. Grants shall be made only to the current property owners, except at mobile home parks where a grant may be awarded to a mobile home park resident. To be eligible to receive the grant, an environmental site assessment must be conducted by a qualified consultant during the tank closure, replacement, or upgrade if the tank is an underground heating fuel storage tank. In addition, if the closed tank is to be replaced with an underground heating fuel storage tank, the replacement tank and piping shall provide a level of environmental protection at least equivalent to that provided by a double wall tank and secondarily contained piping. Grants shall be awarded on a priority basis to projects that will avoid the greatest environmental or health risks. The Secretary shall also give priority to applicants who are replacing their underground heating fuel tanks with aboveground heating fuel storage tanks that will be installed in accordance with the Secretary’s recommended standards. The Secretary shall also give priority to lower income applicants. To be eligible to receive the grant, the owner must provide the previous year’s financial information, and, if the replacement tank is an aboveground tank, must assure that any work to replace or upgrade a tank shall be done in

accordance with industry standards (National Fire Protection Association, or NFPA, Code 31), as it existed on July 1, 2004, until another date or edition is specified by rule of the Secretary. The Secretary shall authorize only up to \$400,000.00 in assistance for underground and aboveground heating fuel tanks in any one fiscal year from the Heating Fuel Account for this purpose. The application must be accompanied by the following information:

- (1) proof of ownership, including information disclosing all owners of record of the property, except in the case where the applicant is a mobile home park resident;
- (2) for farm or residential aboveground heating fuel storage tank owners, a copy of the federal income tax return for the previous year;
- (3) identification of the contractor performing any heating fuel storage tank closure, replacement, or upgrade;
- (4) an estimated cost of tank closure, replacement, or upgrade;
- (5) the amount and type of assistance requested;
- (6) a schedule for the work;
- (7) description of surrounding area, including location of water supply wells, surface waters, and other sensitive receptors; and
- (8) such other information and assurances as the Secretary may require.

Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 8003(a) is amended to read:

(a) The Secretary may take action under this chapter to enforce the following statutes and rules, permits, assurances, or orders implementing the following statutes, and the Board may take such action with respect to subdivision (10) of this subsection:

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(8) 10 V.S.A. chapter 59, relating to underground storage tanks and aboveground storage tanks;

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Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2016, except that 10 V.S.A. § 1929a(d)–(g) (aboveground storage tank inspection, database, delivery, and removal requirements) shall take effect on July 1, 2017.