



September 16, 2021

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SUBJECT: Permanent Closure of Underground Storage Tank Systems  
UFC Cenex, 401 N U Avenue, Villisca, IA  
UST Registration No. 198606188  
Tentative Date of Closure 10/04/2021

Dear Ms. Schlapia:

The DNR UST Section has received the closure notification for the above-referenced location. An Iowa licensed remover must be on site to supervise the permanent closure procedures. It is essential that the licensed remover contact local authorities to obtain the necessary permits and to learn of specific requirements.

In accordance with Rule 567--135.15(455B) of the Iowa Administrative Code (IAC), certain procedures must be followed when an underground storage tank system is permanently closed. Follow the steps outlined below that are further explained in the UST Closure guidance document, which is posted on the UST Section website: [www.iowadnr.gov/UST-Owners-Operators/Tank-Closure-Information](http://www.iowadnr.gov/UST-Owners-Operators/Tank-Closure-Information)

1. Always practice extreme care and safety during removal and disposal off-site or during tank fill-in-place procedures. Workers will be exposed to hazardous, flammable and combustible liquids and vapors in the work area. Use the DNR's UST Permanent Closure Guidance documents.
2. Drain any remaining product in the piping into the tank. Vacuum and flush pipe with one or two gallons of water or nitrogen. Disconnect piping from the tank. Remove product piping.
3. Remove all liquids from the tank. Use explosion-proof or air-operated pumps. Vacuum trucks should be located upwind of the tank. The suction hose must be grounded. The exhaust gases must be vented at least 12 feet above ground surface.
4. Remove tank appurtenances (gauge pipes, fill pipes, STPs, etc.) Leave vent line connected until the tank is purged or inerted.
5. Air purge the tank (force explosive vapors out) or inert the tank (remove or displace the oxygen in the tank). When purging, a combustible gas meter is used to measure the reduction in the concentration of flammable vapors. The meter reads from 0 to 100 percent of the LFL or LEL. The goal is to achieve a reading below 10 percent LEL (NFPA 30, 2003 C.4.10).
6. Inert the tank with 1½ to 2 pounds of dry ice per 100 gallons of tank capacity. Vapors must be vented at least 12 feet above ground. Nitrogen gas may also be used to inert the tank. The gas can be pumped into the tank from a hose through the fill hole to the bottom of the tank.
7. When inerting, use an oxygen meter to determine the oxygen concentration. The tank is safe for removal when a reading from 1-10 percent of oxygen is achieved [NFPA 30, 2003, C.4.10 (2)].
8. Plug the openings, except for one 3 mm (1/8-inch) hole at the top of the tank and remove the tank from the excavation. Place it on a level surface and block it.
9. Vacuum flush or triple wash and rinse the tanks. Remove all rinseate and sludge from tanks. Tanks may be cleaned on site as long as it is approved by local public safety officials. Tank cleaning must always be done at a safe location where public access can be restricted and where public safety is not compromised, and not on a sensitive geologic area.
10. A certified groundwater professional must supervise the closure assessment. Soil and groundwater samples must be collected and sent to an Iowa certified lab to be analyzed.

Contact the certified lab that will perform the analysis well before the closure takes place so all the materials are ready and available on the day of removal. The number of samples to be collected is determined by the number and size of the tanks and length of piping (see guidance document on the DNR UST Section Website).

If you are installing a new UST system (tanks and piping) or replacing tanks and/or piping, be advised all UST systems must have secondary containment, i.e., double-wall tanks and piping, liquid-tight sumps and under dispenser containment.

NOTE: If planning to install tanks or piping, a Notice of Intent to Install form must be sent to the DNR 30 days prior to install date; forms must be submitted to the DNR at [USTOPERATIONS@DNR.IOWA.GOV](mailto:USTOPERATIONS@DNR.IOWA.GOV). Please direct questions on installs to [James.Gastineau@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:James.Gastineau@dnr.iowa.gov) or by phone at 515.725.8450.

Contact the DNR Field Office in your region at least 24 hours before the actual closure to inform them of the time of removal (see Guidance Document for your region's field office and phone number).

A closure report must be submitted to the department within 45 days of permanent closure. Your registration record will be updated upon receipt of the closure report confirming the permanent closure of the tank system.

State funding may be available to assist you with the costs of permanently closing underground storage tanks. The Iowa UST Fund Program provides up to \$15,000 to UST owners to assist with the costs of the closure activities. To determine your eligibility and to make a claim for funding, a UST Fund Closure Claim form must be submitted. You can obtain the form from the UST Fund at [www.iowadnr.gov/UST-Fund-Board](http://www.iowadnr.gov/UST-Fund-Board). If you have questions regarding the UST Fund Program, contact James Gastineau by phone at 515.725.8450 or by email at [james.gastineau@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:james.gastineau@dnr.iowa.gov)

If you have any questions regarding the UST closure requirements, contact Lisa Niedermayer at 515.393.9851 or [lisa.niedermayer@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:lisa.niedermayer@dnr.iowa.gov).

Sincerely,

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK SECTION  
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
[bonnie.garrison@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:bonnie.garrison@dnr.iowa.gov)

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