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TANK TIMES

HOT Market Must Self-Regulate

The Oregon DEQ Heating Oil Tank (HOT) program staff has been reduced to a single full time officer, Tim Brown, and Tim hasn't the time or resources required for auditing the work of HOT Service providers.

We frequently identify and report HOT contractors who fail to follow DEQ and Water Resources Department (WRD) rules regulating our activity. We discover these violations when we bid or perform cleanup projects where others have performed initial site assessment soil sampling. Unfortunately, non-compliant cleanup work is not visible; however, the information below will help realtors and homeowners identify and report these visible violations.

Requirements, Identification and Reporting

Valid Initial Site Assessment (ISA) samples must be collected within 6" of the tank ends; any initial site assessment soil sample bore hole greater than one foot away from the fill pipe is likely to be located too far from the tank end to yield a valid initial site assessment sample. Ask your HOT service provider to confirm the location of the tank end.

Geotechnical (sample) bore holes must be filled with bentonite clay within 72 hours. An open ISA boring can allow surface contaminants or the oil from a leaking tank to reach groundwater. An unfilled bore hole is easily identified. Report violations to Kris Byrd at Oregon Water Resources, (503) 986-0851 or email, byrdkr@wrdd.state.or.us.

Untimely reporting can result in the unwitting purchase of a liability. If a property owner has not received the DEQ HOT Program "release letter" within a week of discovery, the release may not have been reported. Call Edie at the HOT Program, 503.667.8414 to inquire. You can also search the DEQ's Leaking Underground Storage Tank database, easily accessible from our website, danatanks.com.

DTT&S Helps Protect Tryon Creek

Tryon Creek is a valuable urban resource. Its tributaries originate southwest of Hillsdale. The watershed covers roughly 4,200 acres in Lake Oswego and Portland including the 667 acre Tryon Creek State Park. Only 20% of the Tryon Creek watershed is in protected natural areas. The urban sources of pollution include automotive fluids, household and garden chemicals, and particulate matter.

Continued next column

Cleanup First to Protect All Parties

In the Autumn, 2009 issue of the Tank Times we featured an article titled "Cleanup = Investigation, Suggestions for Property Transactions." The first suggestion read: "No one should ever take possession of a property with an unknown environmental condition. Since all cleanup projects are investigative, no one can know the environmental condition until the work is complete, the lab data is in and the contractor has issued a certification letter."

We are performing a cleanup project where the real estate transaction closed before the cleanup had begun. The release was far more complex than anticipated. The sellers used the proceeds from their sale to purchase a new home; the cleanup money in escrow is depleted; the new owner is facing unhealthy conditions at the site; and the brokers are in a very difficult and uncomfortable position.

Tryon Creek (from Column 1)

In mid-October, Dana Thompson Tanks & Soil constructed a "Rain Garden" designed to protect water quality in Nettle Creek, a tributary of Tryon Creek. This work was performed for Lake Oswego United Church of Christ, at 1111 SW Country Club Road. The project was driven by the church's "Green Team", supported by METRO and The City of Lake Oswego. The project was made possible with a grant from the Oregon Lottery and generous donations of time and resources from OTAK Engineering, Dana Thompson Tanks & Soil, the Clackamas County Soil & Water Conservation District and members of the LOUCC congregation.

The objective of the project is to filter and reduce levels of soluble and particulate pollutants entering the watershed in runoff from the church's parking lot. Additionally, the rain garden will be used as a demonstration resource to educate the general public and property owners in Clackamas County and the Portland Metro area about surface water collection and treatment systems. DTT&S' work involved removing approximately 900 square feet of asphalt and over 50 cubic yards of soil, and installing a drain line with overflow and piping routed to a concrete storm drain. The area is filled with an amended soil mix and planted appropriately. Storm water from the parking lot will be directed through the rain garden. In coming weeks we will post photos, video and other links on our website.

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