Subject: Abandonment of Underground Piping at Liquid Fuels Facilities
Sent to: Posted on Web-Site and Distributed to Petroleum Council and LFHC RRG

Liquid Fuel facilities are frequently modified by adding or moving dispensing positions or by replacing the dispensers. There are occasions where the existing piping may no longer be necessary because of the modifications to the site.

In situations where piping is to be removed from service but the facility continues operating and the tanks are still in use, Fuels Safety will allow the piping to be abandoned in situ, if the following conditions are met:

1. The piping shall be purged of fuel and vapours. The piping shall then be pressure tested and shall hold a pressure of 50 psig or one and one-half times the maximum operating pressure, whichever is greater, for two hours. For double wall systems, only the secondary containment needs to be pressure tested. A copy of the test results shall be retained in accordance with clauses 1.2.3 and 1.2.4 of the Liquid Fuels Handling Code.

2. Where the piping passes the pressure test, the ends of the pipe, where exposed aboveground, shall be permanently sealed by capping or plugging.

3. If the pipe has a diameter greater than 12 inches, it shall be filled with concrete slurry.

If the piping fails the pressure-test, an environmental assessment, delineating all petroleum impacts to both soil and groundwater, will be required.