

Decommission A Tank Before It Becomes A Problem

Buying or selling a home that is currently being heated with fuel oil? Living in a house that may have been converted to natural gas from an oil burning furnace?

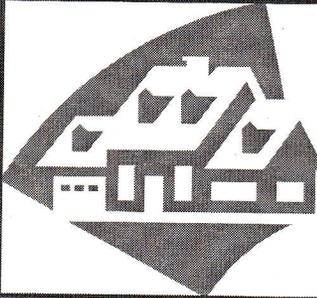
During a real estate transaction, property owners are required to disclose if an underground oil tank exists on the property. A buyer should perform due diligence to determine if a tank is present. When you acquire a property with underground oil tanks, you become responsible for the tank and any environmental impact it may have caused.

As time passes, the more likely it becomes that an underground heating oil tank will begin to leak. DEQ recommends underground tanks be used no longer than 20-25 years. Many tanks in Eastmoreland were installed in the 1940s and 1950s and are 55 to 65-years-old or older.

Determining whether tanks are present on a property and knowing their precise status is an important step in gauging the value of a property. Correctly functioning active tanks and properly decommissioned tanks protect the property's occupants from potentially harmful health effects, and protect the environment from pollutants as well.

A tank scan utilizing state-of-the-art subsurface locating equipment and property records research will determine if an older, abandoned tank exists on the property. Active tanks should be measured and sampled. If a tank is not leaking, the next step is to decommission it and record completion of the job with DEQ. If a tank is found to be leaking, multiple clean-up options are available, depending on the concentration of contamination present in soil sample results. Locally-based Soil Solutions Environmental Services has full capabilities in all phases of DEQ approved clean-up options, from simple report writing and Risk Based closure assessments to excavation, transport and disposal of contaminated soils.

To download a fact sheet about tank decommissioning options, please visit <http://www.soilsolutionsenvironmental.com/tank>

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