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Environmental Protection
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Solid Waste And Emergency Response (5403G)

 **EPA** *Introducing...*

Expedited Site Assessment Tools For Underground Storage Tank Sites

A Guide For Regulators

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United States
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Purpose

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed a guide to help underground storage tank regulators evaluate and promote expedited site assessments at underground storage tank (UST) sites. *Expedited Site Assessment Tools For Underground Storage Tank Sites: A Guide For Regulators (510-B-97-001)* is designed to enable the reader to answer the following basic questions about expedited site assessments at UST facilities:

- What is an expedited site assessment?
- How is an expedited site assessment conducted?
- What equipment can be used in an expedited site assessment?
- Under what site conditions are specific site assessment tools appropriate?

Background

EPA's Office of Underground Storage Tanks estimates that at least 360,000 sites are likely to require site assessments in the next few years. The majority of these assessments will result from owners' and operators' closing or replacing old tanks to comply with the December 22, 1998 regulatory deadline. Additional assessments will be required to investigate backlogged sites and new releases.

There have been many improvements in site assessment technologies over the last few years. When they are systematically integrated into the site assessment process, these new technologies can speed up the on-site decision-making process.

As the first step in the corrective action process, site assessments are critical to making appropriate remediation decisions. Using expedited site assessments can streamline the corrective action process, improve data collection, and reduce the overall cost of remediation.

Audience

Federal, state, and local regulators who review corrective action plans and site assessment reports are the primary audience for the *Guide*. The *Guide* will also be useful to consultants, engineers, lenders, public health professionals, environmental education centers, and others involved in the cleanup or remediation of leaking underground storage tank sites.

Contents

This *Guide* is organized into six chapters.

- I. *Introduction* provides an overview of the entire manual.
- II. *The Expedited Site Assessment Process* presents the steps involved in an expedited site assessment.
- III. *Surface Geophysical Methods* describes and compares the most appropriate, cost effective surface geophysical methods for UST site assessments.
- IV. *Soil Gas Surveys* describes active and passive soil gas survey methodologies and explains their applicability at UST sites.
- V. *Direct Push Technologies* describes the applicability of the components and tools used with direct push technologies.
- VI. *Field Methods For The Analysis Of Petroleum Hydrocarbons* describes the eight most appropriate methods for analyzing petroleum hydrocarbons on-site and provides the reader with an easy-to-understand means of determining the applicability of each method.

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Each chapter includes summary tables and figures. A list of the references cited appears at the end of each chapter; a glossary of relevant terms appears at the end of the *Guide*.

Ordering Information

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For more information on the UST Program, you can contact us via our world wide web site at:

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