

UST Ref. #CAU14930

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Patricia Eklund  
Chief, OUST, EPA Region IX

**THRU:** Stephanie Wilson *SW*  
UST Section Manager

Wendy Kristin *WKR*  
Manager, UST Corrective Actions Unit

**FROM:** Quinn Thacker *QRT*  
Compliance Officer, Case Review and Assignment Team  
UST Corrective Actions Unit

**DATE:** December 2, 1992

**RE:** LUST File #4715.0188      Painted Desert Inn  
Facility ID #0-003149      Petrified Forest National Park  
I-40 Navajo Exit  
Navajo, Arizona 86509

Underground Storage Tank (UST) Section, Corrective Actions Unit staff have reviewed the above-referenced case file. This site's release involved approximately 40 to 50 gallons of an unspecified type of gasoline due to being struck and punctured by the backhoe at the time of tank removal. This UST system's release is located on Indian land, is not within the jurisdiction of Arizona's UST program, and is being referred to EPA Region IX for case management.

The attached information is the correspondence received or sent to date for this case. A case closure letter was issued on August 19, 1986. If you have any questions regarding this case, please contact Wendy Kristin at (602) 207-4260.

SRW:WDK:QRT:ddq

Attachments

cc: Leslie V. Leonard, Team Leader, RP Lead Team, UST/CAU  
John Gallagher, R&SA, Case Review and Assignment Team, UST/CAU

# ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

BRUCE BABBITT, Governor  
LLOYD F. NOVICK, M.D., M.P.H., Director

August 19, 1986

Mr. L. Edward Gastellum  
Superintendent  
Petrified Forest National Park  
Arizona 86028

Dear Mr. Gastellum:

I am writing in response to your submittal of July 31, 1986. Based upon the information contained in your report, it appears that a loss of petroleum products did not occur at your facility as originally reported to this office on June 17, 1986.

The facility file has been sent to our UST-Coordinator.

Enclosed is EPA's notification form for underground storage tanks; included is a supplemental State sheet. Please complete these and return them to our UST-Coordinator. These forms are required even for abandoned and removed tanks as long as the tanks were in the ground after January 1, 1974.

Any future correspondence should be directed to our UST-Coordinator at 257-2367. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

Sincerely,  
*Rich Kramer*  
Rick Kramer, Hydrologist  
Office of Environmental Health

RK:bk  
Attachments  
cc: John Rampe-UST Compliance

RK081986L/H-1

*The Department of Health Services is An Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer.*



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Petrified Forest National Park  
Arizona 86028



IN REPLY REFER TO:

A7623

July 31, 1986

Mr. Arthur J. Gordon, Hydrologist  
Office of Emergency Response and  
Remedial Action  
Environmental Health Services  
Arizona Department of Health Services  
2005 North Central, Room 200  
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

Dear Mr. Gordon:

Thank you for your letter responding to our report of an accident involving an underground storage tank at Petrified Forest National Park. We are submitting the following information in order to fulfill your agency's requirement of a report of this incident.

On June 12, 1986 at approximately 11:00 a.m., construction crews were excavating a trench near the historic Painted Desert Inn in the northern district of Petrified Forest National Park (T.20N, R. 24E, Sec. 34, SW 1/4). A backhoe struck and punctured what was discovered to be an underground 1000 gallon gasoline storage tank. The tank is believed to have been in use until some time during the 1950's and was thought to have been removed. Gasoline fumes were present, and the area was closed off until measures could be taken to pump out the remaining fuel and remove the tank from the park.

On June 26, 1986, a local contractor pumped out the remaining fuel and removed the tank from the park. Upon removal, it was found that the 1000 gallon tank had been filled with water and that the openings to the tank had been capped off and piping removed. The puncture in the tank was located approximately five inches from the top of the tank, resulting in spillage of approximately 40-50 gallons of liquid into adjacent soils. There were no stains in the soil to indicate that the tank had been leaking prior to the puncture.

There are no wells within a half mile radius of the spillage. The closest wells to the area are, Zuni Well, which is inactive and two miles to the WSW; and the Puerco River Well, which is seven miles due south. The site of the leakage occurred near the edge of a mesa in wind blown soils underlain by volcanic cap rock, which is underlain by Chinle formation deposits. The intermittent Lithodendron Wash drainage is located approximately 400

vertical feet below the site of the leakage and one mile to the north. Weather conditions were warm and dry, with no surface runoff at any time between the accident and removal of the tank.

Unfortunately, no schematic of the gas tanks or piping exists and it was purely by accident that the tank was found. During removal of the tank, an additional 1000 gallon gasoline tank and one 2000 gallon fuel tank (empty) were discovered and removed at the same location. No spillage or leakage occurred and there was no indication that any of the tanks had been leaking.

In order to prevent future problems with abandoned tanks, the park contracted for the removal of an additional 1000 gallon tank, one 500 gallon gasoline tank, and one 500 gallon diesel fuel tank from the Rainbow Forest District of the park (T. 16N, R23E, NW-1/4, Sec. 1). Again, no evidence of leakage or spillage was found. The tanks were removed from the park by the contractor and the holes backfilled.

If you require further information, please feel free to contact us. Thank you again for your concern and assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "L. Edward Gastellum", with a horizontal line underneath.

L. Edward Gastellum  
Superintendent