Department of Environmental Quality
Petroleum Technical Section
Petroleum Tank Release Site Closure Update
June 20, 2013

Status of Cleanup Benchmarks set in 75-11-521, MCA (HB 613, 2011).

Benchmark Date	Benchmark (Required Cumulative Resolved Sites)	Actual Resolved Sites
December 31, 2011	45	46
July 1, 2012	90	92
December 31, 2012	135	142
July 1, 2013	180	198 (as of 6/20/2013)
December 31, 2013	225	
July 1, 2014	270	
December 31, 2014	315	
July 1, 2015	360	

Status

Section 75-11-521(1) MCA. Categorizing petroleum storage tank release sites as resolved is a higher priority than investigation of new releases unless the new release is an imminent danger to the health and safety of the public.

Based on this directive, DEQ:

- Focused on sites easier to resolve (Low-Risk Sites, Low-Cost Cleanups)
- Deferred work to the future for sites that will take a longer time and more effort to close (Higher-Risk Sites, More Costly Cleanups)

Therefore, many of the remaining sites are higher risk, more difficult, and more costly to cleanup.

Programmatic Improvements

DEQ is updating business process to:

- Increase investigation efficiency by reducing multiple workplans for investigations.
- Move to cleanup faster.
- Plan for closure from Day 1.
- Encourage owners and operators to be more proactive in cleanup decisions.
- Develop a database to effectively manage ~1,400 active releases.