

**Department of Environmental Quality
Petroleum Tank Cleanup Section
Petroleum Tank Release Site Closure Update
December 16, 2015**

The Department of Environmental Quality Petroleum Tank Cleanup section oversees the cleanup of petroleum releases from underground and above ground petroleum storage tanks. The program began overseeing cleanup in 1989. Following is a summary table of interesting numerical facts about the cleanup program.

Confirmed releases in FY16 (since July 1, 2015)	11
Closed (Resolved) releases in FY16 (since July 1, 2015)	35
Total Confirmed Releases since 1989	4,656
Total Resolved Releases since 1989	3,475
Total Active (not Resolved) Releases, as of December 16, 2015	1,181

As the table indicates, DEQ is closing about three-times the number of releases that are confirmed. This trend consistently goes back 2008. The total number of releases that are confirmed per year varies around 30; DEQ has consistently closed about 100 releases per year since 2008.

DEQ has started a comprehensive review of cleanup technologies most appropriate to achieve site closure for sites in Montana. DEQ is also collaborating with the Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Board on cleanup plans for the open releases, and the completion of an actuarial review of the fund to evaluate whether the fund can support the level of cleanup needed and/or project the pace of cleanup based upon revenue in the fund.

Updated information will be shared with the council as it becomes available. For further information or questions, please contact Rebecca Ridenour at (406) 444-6436 or RRidenour@mt.gov.