

SENATE BILL NO. 9

INTRODUCED BY J. KEANE

BY REQUEST OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE USE OF PETROLEUM MIXING ZONES IN THE REMEDIATION AND RESOLUTION OF PETROLEUM RELEASES; GRANTING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING SECTIONS 75-11-307, 75-11-309, 75-11-503, AND 75-11-505, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 75-11-307, MCA, is amended to read:

"75-11-307. Reimbursement for expenses caused by release. (1) Subject to the availability of money from the fund under subsection (6), an owner or operator who is eligible under 75-11-308 and who complies with 75-11-309 and any rules adopted to implement those sections must be reimbursed by the board from the fund for the following eligible costs caused by a release from a petroleum storage tank:

(a) corrective action costs as required by a department-approved corrective action plan, except that if the corrective action plan:

(i) addresses releases of substances other than petroleum products from an eligible petroleum storage tank, the board may reimburse only the costs that would have reasonably been incurred if the only release at the site was the release of the petroleum or petroleum products from the eligible petroleum storage tank; or

(ii) includes the establishment of a petroleum mixing zone, as defined in 75-11-503, the board may reimburse the cost of an easement established pursuant to [section 5(3)(a)]; and

(b) compensation paid to third parties for bodily injury or property damage. The board may not reimburse for property damage until the corrective action is completed.

(2) An owner or operator may not be reimbursed from the fund for the following expenses:

(a) corrective action costs or the costs of bodily injury or property damage paid to third parties that are determined by the board to be ineligible for reimbursement;

(b) costs for bodily injury and property damage, other than corrective action costs, incurred by the owner or operator;



1 (c) penalties or payments for damages incurred under actions by the department, board, or federal, state,  
2 local, or tribal agencies or other government entities involving judicial or administrative enforcement activities and  
3 related negotiations;

4 (d) attorney fees and legal costs of the owner, the operator, or a third party;

5 (e) costs for the repair or replacement of a tank or piping or costs of other materials, equipment, or labor  
6 related to the operation, repair, or replacement of a tank or piping;

7 (f) expenses incurred before April 13, 1989, for owners or operators seeking reimbursement from the  
8 petroleum tank release cleanup fund and expenses incurred before May 15, 1991, for owners or operators  
9 seeking reimbursement from the petroleum tank release cleanup fund for a tank storing heating oil for  
10 consumptive use on the premises where it is stored or for a farm or residential tank with a capacity of 1,100  
11 gallons or less that is used for storing motor fuel for noncommercial purposes;

12 (g) expenses exceeding the maximum reimbursements provided for in subsection (4);

13 (h) costs for which an owner or operator has received reimbursement or payment from an insurer or  
14 other third party; and

15 (i) expenses for work completed by or on behalf of the owner or operator more than 5 years prior to the  
16 owner's or operator's request for reimbursement. This limitation does not apply to claims for compensation paid  
17 to third parties for bodily injury or property damage. The running of the 5-year limitation period is suspended by  
18 an appeal of the board's denial of eligibility for reimbursement. If a written request for hearing is filed under  
19 75-11-309, the suspension of the 5-year limitation period is effective from the date of the board's initial eligibility  
20 denial to the date on which the initial eligibility denial is overturned or reversed by the board, a district court, or  
21 the state supreme court, whichever occurs latest. The board may grant reasonable extensions of this limitation  
22 period if it is shown that the need for the extension is not due to the negligence of the owner or operator or agent  
23 of the owner or operator.

24 (3) An owner or operator may designate a person as an agent to receive the reimbursement if the owner  
25 or operator remains legally responsible for all costs and liabilities incurred as a result of the release.

26 (4) Subject to the availability of funds under subsection (6):

27 (a) for releases eligible for reimbursement from the fund that are discovered and reported on or after April  
28 13, 1989, from a tank storing heating oil for consumptive use on the premises where it is stored or from a farm  
29 or residential tank with a capacity of 1,100 gallons or less that is used for storing motor fuel for noncommercial  
30 purposes, the board shall reimburse an owner or operator for:

1 (i) 100% of the eligible costs, up to a maximum total reimbursement of \$500,000, for properly designed  
2 and installed double-walled tank system releases that were discovered and reported on or after October 1, 1993,  
3 and before October 1, 2009; or

4 (ii) 50% of the first \$10,000 of eligible costs and 100% of subsequent eligible costs, up to a maximum total  
5 reimbursement of \$495,000 for all other releases; and

6 (b) for all other releases eligible for reimbursement from the fund that are discovered and reported on  
7 or after April 13, 1989, the board shall reimburse an owner or operator for:

8 (i) 100% of the eligible costs, up to a maximum total reimbursement of \$1 million, for properly designed  
9 and installed double-walled tank system releases that were discovered and reported on or after October 1, 1993,  
10 and before October 1, 2009; or

11 (ii) 50% of the first \$35,000 of eligible costs and 100% of subsequent eligible costs, up to a maximum total  
12 reimbursement of \$982,500 for all other releases.

13 (5) If an insurer pays or reimburses an owner or operator for costs that qualify as eligible costs under  
14 subsection (1), the costs paid or reimbursed by the insurer:

15 (a) are considered to have been paid by the owner or operator toward satisfaction of the 50% share  
16 requirements of subsection (4)(a)(ii) or (4)(b)(ii) if the owner or operator receives the payment or reimbursement  
17 before applying for reimbursement from the board;

18 (b) are not reimbursable from the fund; and

19 (c) except for the amount considered to have been paid by the owner or operator pursuant to subsection  
20 (5)(a), are considered to have been reimbursed from the fund for purposes of determining when the board has  
21 paid the maximum amount payable from the fund under subsection (4)(a)(ii) or (4)(b)(ii).

22 (6) If the fund does not contain sufficient money to pay approved claims for eligible costs, a  
23 reimbursement may not be made and the fund and the board are not liable for making any reimbursement for the  
24 costs at that time. When the fund contains sufficient money, eligible costs must be reimbursed subsequently in  
25 the order in which they were approved by the board."

26

27 **Section 2.** Section 75-11-309, MCA, is amended to read:

28 **"75-11-309. Procedures for reimbursement of eligible costs -- corrective action plans.** (1) An owner  
29 or operator seeking reimbursement for eligible costs and the department shall comply with the following  
30 procedures:

1 (a) If an owner or operator discovers or is provided evidence that a release may have occurred from the  
2 owner's or operator's petroleum storage tank, the owner or operator shall immediately notify the department of  
3 the release and conduct an initial response to the release in accordance with state and federal laws and rules  
4 to protect the public health and safety and the environment.

5 (b) Except for a tank for which a permit is sought under 75-11-308(1)(b)(iii) and that is closed within 120  
6 days of discovery of the release, following discovery of the release, the petroleum storage tank must remain in  
7 compliance with applicable state and federal laws and rules that the board determines pertain to prevention and  
8 mitigation of petroleum releases.

9 (c) The owner or operator shall conduct a thorough investigation of the release, report the findings to  
10 the department, and, as determined necessary by the department, prepare and submit for approval by the  
11 department a corrective action plan that conforms with state, tribal (when applicable), and federal corrective  
12 action requirements.

13 (d) (i) The department shall review the corrective action plan and forward a copy to a local government  
14 office and, when applicable, a tribal government office with jurisdiction over a corrective action for the release.  
15 The local or tribal government office shall inform the department if it wants any modification of the proposed plan.

16 (ii) Based on its own review and comments received from a local government, tribal government, or other  
17 source, the department may approve the proposed corrective action plan, make or request the owner or operator  
18 to modify the proposed plan, or prepare its own plan for compliance by the owner or operator. A plan finally  
19 approved by the department through any process provided in this subsection (1)(d) is the approved corrective  
20 action plan.

21 (iii) After the department approves a corrective action plan, a local government or tribal government may  
22 not impose different corrective action requirements on the owner or operator.

23 (e) A corrective action plan prepared by the owner, operator, or department for any petroleum storage  
24 tank release may include the establishment of a petroleum mixing zone as defined in 75-11-503.

25 ~~(e)(f)~~ The department shall notify the owner or operator of its approval of a corrective action plan and  
26 shall promptly submit a copy of the approved corrective action plan to the board.

27 ~~(f)(g)~~ The owner or operator shall implement the corrective action plan or plans approved by the  
28 department until the release is resolved. The department may oversee the implementation of the plan, require  
29 reports and monitoring from the owner or operator, undertake inspections, and otherwise exercise its authority  
30 concerning corrective action under Title 75, chapter 10, part 7, Title 75, chapter 11, part 5, and other applicable

1 law and rules.

2 ~~(g)~~(h) (i) The owner or operator shall document in the manner required by the board all expenses  
3 incurred in preparing and implementing the corrective action plan. The owner or operator shall submit claims and  
4 substantiating documents to the board in the form and manner required by the board.

5 (ii) The board shall review each claim and determine if the claims are actual, reasonable, and necessary  
6 costs of responding to the release and implementing the corrective action plan.

7 (iii) If the board requires additional information to determine if a claimed cost is actual, reasonable, and  
8 necessary, the board may request comment from the department and the owner or operator.

9 (iv) If the department determines that an owner or operator is failing to properly implement a corrective  
10 action plan, it shall notify the board.

11 ~~(h)~~(i) The owner or operator shall document, in the manner required by the board, any payments to a  
12 third party for bodily injury or property damage caused by a release. The owner or operator shall submit claims  
13 and substantiating documents to the board in the form and manner required by the board.

14 ~~(i)~~(j) In addition to the documentation in subsections ~~(1)(g)~~ and (1)(h) and (1)(i), when the release is  
15 claimed to have originated from a properly designed and installed double-walled tank system, the owner or  
16 operator shall document, in the manner required by the board, the following:

17 (i) the date that the release was discovered; and

18 (ii) that the originating tank was part of a properly designed and installed double-walled tank system.

19 (2) If an owner or operator is issued an administrative order for failure to comply with requirements  
20 imposed by or pursuant to Title 75, chapter 11, part 5, or rules adopted pursuant to Title 75, chapter 11, part 5,  
21 all reimbursement of claims submitted after the date of the order must be suspended. Upon a written  
22 determination by the department that the owner or operator has returned to compliance with the requirements  
23 of Title 75, chapter 11, part 5, or rules adopted pursuant to Title 75, chapter 11, part 5, suspended and future  
24 claims may be reimbursed according to criteria established by the board. In establishing the criteria, the board  
25 shall consider the effect and duration of the noncompliance.

26 (3) The board shall review each claim received under subsections ~~(1)(g)~~ and (1)(h) and (1)(i), make the  
27 determination required by this subsection, inform the owner or operator of its determination, and, as appropriate,  
28 reimburse the owner or operator from the fund. Before approving a reimbursement, the board shall affirmatively  
29 determine that:

30 (a) the expenses for which reimbursement is claimed:

1 (i) are eligible costs; and  
2 (ii) were actually, necessarily, and reasonably incurred for the preparation or implementation of a  
3 corrective action plan approved by the department or for payments to a third party for bodily injury or property  
4 damage; and

5 (b) the owner or operator:

6 (i) is eligible for reimbursement under 75-11-308; and

7 (ii) has complied with this section and any rules adopted pursuant to this section. Upon a determination  
8 by the board that the owner or operator has not complied with this section or rules adopted pursuant to this  
9 section, all reimbursement of pending and future claims must be suspended. Upon a determination by the board  
10 that the owner or operator has returned to compliance with this section or rules adopted pursuant to this section,  
11 suspended and future claims may be reimbursed according to criteria established by the board. In establishing  
12 the criteria, the board shall consider the effect and duration of the noncompliance.

13 (4) (a) If an owner or operator disagrees with a board determination under subsection (3), the owner or  
14 operator may submit a written request for a hearing before the board.

15 (b) A written request for a hearing must be received by the board within 120 days after notice of the  
16 board's determination is served on the owner or operator by certified mail. The notice of determination must  
17 advise the owner or operator of the 120-day time limit for submitting a written request for a hearing to the board.  
18 Not less than 50 days or more than 60 days after the board serves the notice of determination, the board shall  
19 serve on the owner or operator a second notice by certified mail advising the owner or operator of the deadline  
20 for requesting a hearing. Service by certified mail is complete on the date shown on the certified mail receipt.

21 (c) If a written request is received within 120 days, the hearing must be held at a meeting of the board  
22 or as otherwise permitted under the Montana Administrative Procedure Act no later than 120 days following  
23 receipt of the request or at a time mutually agreed to by the board and the owner or operator.

24 (d) If a written request is not received within 120 days, the determination of the board is final.

25 (5) The board shall obligate money for reimbursement of eligible costs of owners and operators in the  
26 order that the costs are finally approved by the board.

27 (6) (a) The board may, at the request of an owner or operator, guarantee in writing the reimbursement  
28 of eligible costs that have been approved by the board but for which money is not currently available from the fund  
29 for reimbursement.

30 (b) The board may, at the request of an owner or operator, guarantee in writing reimbursement of eligible

1 costs not yet approved by the board, including estimated costs not yet incurred. A guarantee for payment under  
 2 this subsection (6)(b) does not affect the order in which money in the fund is obligated under subsection (5).

3 (c) When considering a request for a guarantee of payment, the board may require pertinent information  
 4 or documentation from the owner or operator. The board may grant or deny, in whole or in part, any request for  
 5 a guarantee."

6

7 **Section 3.** Section 75-11-503, MCA, is amended to read:

8 **"75-11-503. Definitions.** Unless the context requires otherwise, in this part, the following definitions  
 9 apply:

10 (1) "Board" means the board of environmental review provided for in 2-15-3502.

11 (2) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

12 (3) "Dispose" or "disposal" means the discharge, injection, deposit, dumping, spilling, leaking, or placing  
 13 of any regulated substance into or onto the land or water so that the regulated substance or any constituent of  
 14 the regulated substance may enter the environment or be emitted into the air or discharged into any waters,  
 15 including ground water.

16 (4) "Person" means the United States, an individual, firm, trust, estate, partnership, company,  
 17 association, corporation, city, town, local governmental entity, or any other governmental or private entity, whether  
 18 organized for profit or not.

19 (5) "Petroleum mixing zone" means an area where water quality standards may be exceeded subject  
 20 to the conditions of [section 5] and consistent with rules adopted under 75-11-318, 75-11-319, and 75-11-505.

21 ~~(5)(6)~~ "Regulated substance":

22 (a) means:

23 (i) a hazardous substance as defined in 75-10-602; or

24 (ii) petroleum, including crude oil or any fraction of crude oil, that is liquid at standard conditions of  
 25 temperature and pressure (60 degrees F and 14.7 pounds per square inch absolute);

26 (b) does not include a substance regulated as a hazardous waste under Title 75, chapter 10, part 4.

27 ~~(6)(7)~~ "Storage" means the actual or intended containment of regulated substances, either on a  
 28 temporary basis or for a period of years.

29 ~~(7)(8)~~ "Underground storage tank" or "tank":

30 (a) means, except as provided in subsections ~~(7)(b)(i)~~ (8)(b)(i) through ~~(7)(b)(xi)~~ (8)(b)(xi):

- 1 (i) any one or a combination of tanks used to contain a regulated substance, the volume of which is 10%  
 2 or more beneath the surface of the ground;
- 3 (ii) any underground pipes used to contain or transport a regulated substance and connected to a storage  
 4 tank, whether the storage tank is entirely above ground, partially above ground, or entirely under ground; and
- 5 (iii) ancillary equipment designed to prevent, detect, or contain a release from an underground storage  
 6 tank;
- 7 (b) does not include:
- 8 (i) a farm or residential tank that was installed as of April 27, 1995, that has a capacity of 1,100 gallons  
 9 or less and that is used for storing motor fuel for noncommercial purposes;
- 10 (ii) a farm or residential tank that was installed as of April 27, 1995, that has a capacity of 1,100 gallons  
 11 or less and that is used for storing heating oil for consumptive use on the premises where it is stored;
- 12 (iii) farm or residential underground pipes that were installed as of April 27, 1995, and that are used to  
 13 contain or to transport motor fuels for noncommercial purposes or heating oil for consumptive use on the  
 14 premises where it is stored from an aboveground storage tank with a capacity of 1,100 gallons or less;
- 15 (iv) a septic tank;
- 16 (v) a pipeline facility, including gathering lines, regulated under:
- 17 (A) the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968, 49 U.S.C. 1671, et seq.;
- 18 (B) the Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Act of 1979, 49 U.S.C. 2001, et seq.; or
- 19 (C) state law comparable to the provisions of law referred to in subsection ~~(7)(b)(v)(A)~~ (8)(b)(v)(A) or  
 20 ~~(7)(b)(v)(B)~~ (8)(b)(v)(B), if the facility is intrastate;
- 21 (vi) a surface impoundment, pit, pond, or lagoon;
- 22 (vii) a storm water or wastewater collection system;
- 23 (viii) a flow-through process tank;
- 24 (ix) a liquid trap or associated gathering lines directly related to oil or gas production and gathering  
 25 operations;
- 26 (x) a storage tank situated in an underground area, such as a basement, cellar, mine, draft, shaft, or  
 27 tunnel, if the storage tank is situated upon or above the surface of the floor;
- 28 (xi) any pipe connected to a tank described in subsections ~~(7)(b)(i)~~ (8)(b)(i) through ~~(7)(b)(ix)~~ (8)(b)(ix);
- 29 or
- 30 (xii) underground pipes connected to an aboveground storage tank at a petroleum refinery that is subject



1 to facilitywide corrective action permit provisions under 75-10-406 or the federal Resource Conservation and  
2 Recovery Act of 1976, 42 U.S.C. 6901 through 6987, as amended."

3

4 **Section 4.** Section 75-11-505, MCA, is amended to read:

5 **"75-11-505. Administrative rules -- underground storage tanks -- petroleum mixing zones.** (1) The  
6 department may adopt, amend, or repeal rules for the prevention and correction of leakage from underground  
7 storage tanks, including:

8 ~~(1)~~(a) reporting by owners and operators;

9 ~~(2)~~(b) financial responsibility;

10 ~~(3)~~(c) release detection, prevention, and corrective action;

11 ~~(4)~~(d) procedures and standards for the issuance, nonissuance, renewal, nonrenewal, modification,  
12 revocation, suspension, and enforcement of permits authorizing the operation of underground storage tanks;

13 ~~(5)~~(e) standards for design, construction, installation, and closure;

14 ~~(6)~~(f) development of a schedule of annual fees, not to exceed \$108 for a tank over 1,100 gallons and  
15 not to exceed \$36 for a tank 1,100 gallons or less, for each tank, for tank registration to defray state and local  
16 costs of implementing an underground storage tank program. The department may prorate fees to cover periods  
17 not equal to 12 months in order to provide staggered scheduling of renewal dates.

18 ~~(7)~~(g) a system for assessment of administrative penalties, notice, and appeals under 75-11-525; and

19 ~~(8)~~(h) delegation of authority and funds to local agents for inspections and implementation. The  
20 delegation of authority to local agents must complement and may not duplicate existing authority for  
21 implementation of rules adopted by the department of justice that relate to underground storage tanks.

22 (2) In accordance with [section 5], the department:

23 (a) shall adopt rules governing the inclusion of a petroleum mixing zone, as defined in 75-11-503, in a  
24 corrective action plan; and

25 (b) may incorporate by reference rules adopted by the board of environmental review pursuant to  
26 75-5-301 and 75-5-303 related to mixing zones for ground water."

27

28 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Corrective action -- petroleum mixing zones.** (1) A corrective action plan  
29 prepared pursuant to 75-11-309 may include the use of a petroleum mixing zone, as defined in 75-11-503, in  
30 conjunction with the final remediation and resolution of a petroleum release.

- 1 (2) If a petroleum mixing zone is included in a corrective action plan, it may be established only when:  
2 (a) all reasonably accessible source material has been removed;  
3 (b) the plume of contamination in the ground is defined;  
4 (c) natural breakdown or attenuation is occurring within the plume; and  
5 (d) no further corrective action is reasonably required at the site.

6 (3) The boundary of a petroleum mixing zone established in accordance with this section must be  
7 contained within the:

- 8 (a) boundary of the property on which the petroleum release originated unless a recorded easement on  
9 an adjoining property allows the petroleum mixing zone to extend onto the adjoining property; and  
10 (b) unconfined aquifer.

11 (4) Monitoring of a petroleum mixing zone may not be required unless there is a unique, overriding  
12 site-specific, impact-related reason to require monitoring.

13 (5) At the downgradient boundary of a petroleum mixing zone, the concentration of any petroleum  
14 constituent, including benzene, may not result in a significant change in water quality as determined by criteria  
15 established in law or by departmental rule.

16 (6) Once a petroleum mixing zone is established:

- 17 (a) the petroleum release is considered to be resolved;  
18 (b) no further corrective action for the petroleum release is required; and  
19 (c) the department shall issue a letter to the owner or operator stating that no further action is required.

20 (7) A corrective action plan approved by the department pursuant to 75-11-309 prior to [the effective date  
21 of this act] may be amended to include a petroleum mixing zone in accordance with this section.

22  
23 **NEW SECTION. Section 6. Codification instruction.** [Section 5] is intended to be codified as an  
24 integral part of Title 75, chapter 11, part 5, and the provisions of Title 75, chapter 11, part 5, apply to [section 5].

25  
26 **NEW SECTION. Section 7. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

27 - END -