

**Department of Environmental Quality  
Petroleum Tank Cleanup Section  
Petroleum Tank Release Site Closure Update  
May 18, 2015**

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

<b>Benchmark Date</b>	<b>Benchmark</b> (Required Cumulative Resolved Sites)	<b>Actual Resolved Sites</b>
<b>December 31, 2011</b>	45	46
<b>July 1, 2012</b>	90	92
<b>December 31, 2012</b>	135	142
<b>July 1, 2013</b>	180	207
<b>December 31, 2013</b>	225	272
<b>July 1, 2014</b>	270	301
<b>December 31, 2014</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>362</b>
<b>July 1, 2015</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>377*</b>

\* Value reported is through April 30, 2015.

DEQ achieved the total statute required closure numbers ahead of schedule – that is, that statute required DEQ to close 360 releases total by the end of June 2015 and we achieved that number by December 2014. That fact does not change how DEQ is continuing to approach closures.. We will continue through the statute’s required next reporting period (June 30, 2015) with the same focus and commitment to closing releases.

Following the sunset of the statute reporting requirements, DEQ will continue to close releases at the 90 per year and is positive that the 2015 Orphan Share spending will be reflected in the closure numbers.

However, closure of releases can only continue to occur as work is completed to make sure human health and the environment is protected. Many releases are eligible for reimbursement from the Petroleum Tank Release Cleanup Fund (PTRCF), but this fund is limited in its annual revenue. The releases that need significant cleanup require far more funding than the PTRCF can realistically address.