March 20, 2020

UPDATE TO AST/UST CONSTRUCTION INSPECTIONS FROM MARCH 18, 2020 EMAIL

Good Morning,

DES has determined that in the instance of AST/UST construction inspections modification to the steps implemented to reduce person to person contact are necessary to allow for critical construction projects to continue.

Moving forward all AST/UST construction inspections will be possible with modifications to ensure they are conducted in a manner that will protect the health of the facility owners/operators, construction staff and DES staff.

All inspections will be conducted following the "social-distancing" model to the greatest extent possible. Only 1 representative of the installation company (the ICC certified individual unless otherwise previously arranged) shall be present for any onsite inspections. In some instances it may be requested that the installer not be onsite at all but rather be available via telephone.

PLEASE contact the Plan Review Engineer indicated on your construction approval letter for specific detail on specific inspections.

Generally, inspections will be conducted as follows:

1. Documentation: All necessary documentation to and from DES, including but not limited to tightness testing, registration, ICC Certified installer report (AST), SPCC certification page, DES inspection report, etc., shall be transferred via email.

2. AST Inspections:
   - Pre-backfill (systems with underground (UG) components): In most cases DES will conduct the inspection alone. The installer should be available by telephone unless site specific access requirements require them to be there for DES to perform the inspection. All required documentation will be provided as indicated in "documentation" section above. DES will communicate issues discovered to the installer (by telephone and/or email) and issue Authorization to Backfill Report once issues have been addressed.
   - Operational (final/post-backfill for systems with UG components): DES will conduct the inspection with ONLY the installer. DES will communicate issues discovered to the installer (on site, by telephone and/or email) and issue Authorization to Operate Report once issues have been addressed.

3. UST Inspections:
   - Pre-backfill: In most cases DES will conduct the inspection alone. The installer should be available by telephone unless site specific access requirements require them to be there for DES to perform the inspection. All required documentation will be provided as indicated in "documentation" section above.
DES will communicate issues discovered to the installer (by telephone and/or email) and issue Authorization to Backfill Report once issues have been addressed.

- **Post-backfill (final/operational):** Inspections will not be performed on site. Instead an "office" inspection shall be performed by DES with the installer providing standard UST forms found here: [https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/orcb/ocs/astp/categories/forms.htm](https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/orcb/ocs/astp/categories/forms.htm), as required by the plan review engineer for the specific installation. Additionally, the installer shall provide specific photo documentation as required by the plan review engineer for the specific installation. DES will communicate issues discovered to the installer (on site, by telephone and/or email) and issue Authorization to Operate Report once issues have been addressed.

4. **Contacts:** Reminder that voicemail messages have been changed to indicate to contact us via email. Plan Review Engineer email addresses are:

- Chad Hayes: [chad.hayes@des.nh.gov](mailto:chad.hayes@des.nh.gov)
- Tim Noury: [timothy.noury@des.nh.gov](mailto:timothy.noury@des.nh.gov) (corrected from previous message)

Please keep in mind that these steps are being taken to keep construction in NH moving forward. This is not considered the new "normal" but rather a "modification" to combat an unusual national situation.

**PLEASE** contact the Plan Review Engineer indicated on your construction approval letter for specific detail on specific inspections.


As always please feel free to reach out to me (email only at this time) with questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued understanding.

Chad M. Hayes, P.E.
Technical Standards and Design Review Subsection Chief
NH Department of Environmental Services, Waste Management Division
PO Box 95; 29 Hazen Drive Concord, NH 03302
603-271-0686
[Chad.Hayes@des.nh.gov](mailto:Chad.Hayes@des.nh.gov)