

**Department of Environmental Quality  
Petroleum Technical Section  
Petroleum Tank Release Site Closure Update  
September 12, 2013**

**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>	<b>45</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>July 1, 2012</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>December 31, 2012</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>142</b>
<b>July 1, 2013</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>207</b>
<b>December 31, 2013</b>	<b>225</b>	
<b>July 1, 2014</b>	<b>270</b>	
<b>December 31, 2014</b>	<b>315</b>	
<b>July 1, 2015</b>	<b>360</b>	

**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.

DEQ is beginning to observe that owner/operators of several releases we are working to close do not have the financial resources or cash-flow to complete required work to cleanup and close their releases. DEQ is exploring potential solutions and would be available to present these at a future meeting if EQC is interested in assisting owner/operators and communities.