

**Department of Environmental Quality  
Petroleum Technical Section  
Petroleum Tank Release Site Closure Update  
June 21, 2014**

**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>272 *</b>
<b>July 1, 2014</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>301</b>
<b>December 31, 2014</b>	<b>315</b>	
<b>July 1, 2015</b>	<b>360</b>	

\* The January, 2014 report erroneously reported 262 closed releases. The correct number is 272.

As part of the effort to increase closure of releases, the department has identified many releases where past operations have left significant contamination behind and the owner has limited financial resources to address it. To assist these owners the department initiated a pilot project using funds the Legislature appropriated from the Orphan Share Fund for Fiscal Year 2014. We prioritized these funds to conduct cleanup work where owners had a verifiable inability to pay for the work themselves and where the current owner never operated a station. Some of these people are retired or otherwise no longer involved in viable businesses, and the cost of a cleanup is beyond their ability to pay. This pilot project was very successful and also identified a continuing need for similar owners of past petroleum releases. Based on this, DEQ is working on proposed legislation to continue what the pilot project started. If the EQC would like the department to present the outcomes of this successful pilot project, we can schedule that for a future meeting.