



MPA Removes Last Underground Storage Tank

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*GreenPort Showcase Story
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The Maryland Port Administration (MPA) has been working for the last decade to remove and retire all underground storage tanks on its property. On July 24, 2013, the job was complete.

Underground storage tanks are used mainly to store petroleum products. But, being underground, the tanks are difficult to maintain and inspect. The tanks could deteriorate, resulting in an increased risk of leaks that could impact nearby soil and groundwater.

The MPA took proactive steps to reduce this risk by making the removal of all underground storage tanks an environmental objective in its overarching [Environmental Management System](#).

The last of the tanks to be removed was a 10,000-gallon tank holding the heating oil for MPA's maintenance building on the Dundalk Marine Terminal. It was replaced with natural gas.

The MPA has removed a total of twelve underground storage tanks, all of which were in good condition and without leaks. Most were replaced with above-ground storage tanks that are easier to inspect and maintain as required by federal and state regulations.



The MPA's last underground storage tank was pulled from the Dundalk Marine Terminal in July as a proactive step to protect water quality. Photo/Bill McAllen

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