

LIQUID AND SOLIDS WASTE STORAGE TANK - OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Oklahoma Job Sheet - ENG-OK-5

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Stillwater, Oklahoma

OPERATION

1. This structure is designed for _____ days storage capacity.
2. Prevent discharge from the waste storage tank by applying accumulated waste water to the land. Begin pumping when or before the water level reaches the bottom of the NPDES storage which is _____ feet below the top of the tank. Continue pumping until the waste storage tank is completely emptied. Waste should not be spread within 24 hours of predicted rain unless it can be incorporated at the time of application. Ideally, waste should be applied when plant utilization is taking place. Conversely, the winter months and periods with a high probability of surface runoff (mid April through June) should be avoided when possible. Because of the relatively short design storage period (_____ days), some waste will have to be applied during the undesirable period of the year. Timing of waste application based on the producer's judgement of current weather and soil conditions will be required to reduce the potential for surface and groundwater pollution.
3. Agitation prior to pumping may be necessary to suspend the solids to be removed. The addition of outside dilution water may also aid in the pumping process.
4. Testing the waste water for nutrient content to more accurately determine land application rates is recommended.

MAINTENANCE

1. Inspect regularly and repair any cracks or degraded areas in the concrete.

SAFETY

Due to the presence of flammable, oxygen displacing, and toxic gases, safety is an important item for operating and maintaining waste storage tanks.

Prior to entering the tank, the following steps may need to be taken to insure the safety of personnel:

1. Provide forced ventilation.
2. Use self-contained breathing apparatus.
3. Test the air in the tank for oxygen content, flammable gases, and potential toxic air contaminants.
4. Have someone who can perform rescue operations if needed, watch the person in the tank.
5. Post no smoking signs.

Assistance with liquid and solid waste storage tanks operation and maintenance is available from local Natural Resources Conservation Service offices. Assistance is available without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

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