



Special Feature for Gas Station Owners

Changes to the State Funding of PCPP and PLRIP Eligible Sites.

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For those who own and operate gas stations and convenience stores, environmental issues can be daunting to understand. At a time when so many gas station owners are faced with numerous decisions regarding the operation of their stores, it is still important to keep your station and underground storage tanks in compliance with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) requirements.

It is critical to find an environmental consultant you can trust to help you meet and maintain these requirements. Many gas station owners were fortunate to be deemed eligible for one of the State Funded Cleanup Programs.

There are some very important changes forthcoming with regards to those convenience stores that qualify for some of the State Funded Cleanup Programs based on the recent Legislative Session here in Florida. These recent changes could save you and/or your insurance carrier money.

A Bill was introduced during this legislative session to increase the public funding for the restoration of certain sites contaminated by petroleum that meet certain criteria. The sites that will be affected are those that are eligible for the Florida Petroleum Liability and Restoration Insurance Program (PLRIP) and the Petroleum Cleanup Participation Program (PCPP). The reason for this change is that the restoration funding assistance established under the Florida Statutes has

been eroded in part by inflation, in part by the necessity to resample sites where funding has been restored, in part by the fact that the time to address some lower priority ranked sites has caused some contamination to further migrate, thereby resulting in more expensive remediation of those sites.

In their current form, eligible sites had funding caps between \$150,000 and \$1,000,000 under PLRIP and up to \$300,000 of funding assistance under PCPP (with an additional \$100,000 or 25% cost share from the site owner). The funding range is subject to the annual appropriation from the Inland Protection Trust Fund (IPTF).

During this session, House Bill 961 and Senate Bill 1982 proposed to change these funding cap amounts and as of two weeks ago, the House bill had passed as a substitute for the Senate bill, pending the final approval in early June from Governor Crist. The new funding caps will change as follows:

PCPP SITES

Eligible sites will have an increase from \$300,000 to \$400,000 in State funding. These sites must not have a Site Rehabilitation Completion Order (SRCO) prior to June 1, 2008. Any sites with an SRCO on file will not qualify for

the 2008 increase. Those sites that do not have an SRCO prior to June 1, 2008, regardless of whether or not they have previously transitioned to non-State funding cleanup status (i.e. insurance funding), may continue State funded cleanup. At no time shall any expenses incurred outside of the Pre-approval program be reimbursed retroactively.

PLRIP SITES

- For those sites currently with a \$1,000,000 cap, funding will be increased to \$1,200,000.
- For those sites currently with a \$150,000 cap, funding will be increased to \$300,000.
- For those sites currently with a \$300,000 cap, funding will be increased to \$400,000.

Those sites that do not have an SRCO prior to June 1, 2008, regardless of whether or not they have previously transitioned to non-State funding cleanup status (i.e. insurance funding), may continue State funded cleanup. At no time shall any expenses incurred outside of the Pre-approval program be reimbursed retroactively.

As the site owners, you should evaluate at what stage of cleanup your site is in and develop a strategy given these developments and changes. If the cleanup funding of your site falls into one of these categories, you should also contact your insurance carrier soon. They will certainly be grateful to hear your news.

FATHERS & DAUGHTERS

A Relationship to Nurture

There is always a lot of hype associated with the importance of a mother's role in the development of a child, and rightfully so! What about the value of a good father, especially when it comes to the role that he plays in bringing up his favorite girl or girls? While many people out there already know the answer, research is also proving the value of a strong father-daughter bond.

Researchers at Vanderbilt University have conducted studies that show girls who are close to their fathers while growing up tend to develop into puberty a bit later than those who do not have the same ties and familial support.

The National PTA cites a number of other benefits of father and daughter bonds.

- Greater academic achievement.
- Greater job opportunities in the future.
- A greater chance to avoid teen pregnancy.
- A better developed sense of self-confidence and self-reliance.
- An ability to set long-term goals.
- A reduction in the likelihood of entering abusive relationships later in life.

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- Stronger ability to avoid and resist peer pressure in regard to sex, drug and alcohol abuse.
- More willingness to take on challenges and try new things.
- A decreased chance of developing depression and eating disorders.

Here are some books that can further help in your quest to bridge the father-daughter gap, especially for those of us who are bringing up our children here in the US where we might not be aware of so many issues that our children may face or be currently facing.

1. **The Dads & Daughters Togetherness Guide: 54 Fun Activities to Help Build a Great Relationship** *Author: Joe Kelly.* Dad can be a girl's best friend with this fun, creative activity book of fifty-four great ideas for spending time with their daughters in ways that create fond memories and lasting bonds. Appropriate for girls seven to seventeen.
2. **Dads and Daughters: How to Inspire, Un-**

derstand, and Support Your Daughter

Author: Joe Kelly

With a strong grasp of the pressures girls face in our culture, this book helps fathers understand the importance of their involvement in their daughters' lives.

3. **Chicken Soup for the Father & Daughter Soul** *Authors: Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Nancy Autio, Patty Aubery, and LeAnn Thieman.* Few of life's relationships compare to that of a father and daughter. From the first time she grasps his finger, to the day he lets her go, their bond deepens. Yet often in our busy world, miles, and sometimes even memories, separate them more than they'd like. Chicken Soup for the Father & Daughter Soul will inspire dads and daughters to embrace these stories and each other, evoking their own memories and deepening their love.

