**Section 176.360 Assessing the Site at Removal of, Previously Removed, Abandonment-in-Place or Change-in-Service of USTs**

a) Before the STSS leaves the site for the day and while the excavation for a removal is still open (prior to any backfill placed back into the excavation), prior to submitting a permit for abandonment-in-place or up through the day of the abandonment-in-place, or prior to a change in service from a regulated product to an unregulated product, the following procedures shall be conducted:

1) The owner or operator shall perform a site assessment using the procedures and requirements of Section 176.330;

2) The owner or operator, or the owner or operator's designated representative, shall immediately report a release or suspected release, based upon a visual observation by STSS or upon a site assessment showing the existence of a release, to IEMA and any other entities required under Section 176.320 and secure an incident number. If confirmation of the release is via a visual observation by STSS or otherwise confirmed while STSS is still on site, the incident number shall be provided to STSS at the conclusion of the removal or abandonment-in-place and prior to the departure of STSS.

3) If contaminated soils, contaminated groundwater or free product as a liquid or vapor, resulting from a UST release is discovered, the owner or operator shall begin initial response and initial abatement procedures in accordance with Sections 176.310, 176.320 and 176.350 and begin corrective action pursuant to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 734.

b) When directed in writing by OSFM, the owner or operator of a UST previously removed shall assess the excavation zone (including, if so ordered, re-excavating and assessing the site where the tank had been located) in accordance with Section 176.330. The owner of the UST may also be required to submit a completed Notification for Underground Storage Tanks form in accordance with Section 176.440.

(Source: Amended at 47 Ill. Reg. 6949, effective May 2, 2023)