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Rules and Regulations**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**40 CFR Part 280**

**Underground Storage Tanks; Technical Requirements**

**Agency:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**Action:** Interim final rule.

Summary: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is today publishing an interim final rule amending the technical requirements for underground storage tanks (USTs) promulgated in the Federal Register on September 23, 1988 (53 FR 37082). Specifically, EPA is extending for 270 days (or until September 22, 1991) the time frame UST owners and operators have to install automatic line leak detectors on new or existing underground pressurized piping systems *without* the minimum performance of the detection equipment having to meet the 40 CFR 280.43 (a) (3) requirements for a probability of detection of 0.95 and a probability of false alarm of 0.05. Under today's modification, owners and operators are still required to (1) equip all pressurized piping with an automatic leak detector and (2) have either an annual line tightness test conducted, or begin conducting monthly monitoring by December 22, 1990. Also, all automatic line leak detectors are still required to detect leak rates of 3 gallons per hour (gph) at 10 pounds per square inch (psi) within 1 hour as contained in § 280.44 (a), but the associated possibilities of detection and false alarm in § 280.43 (a) (3) are being delayed until September 22, 1991, for automatic line leak detectors only.

**Effective Date:** The amendment to 40 CFR part 280 contained in this rulemaking published today is effective January 2, 1991.