Oil Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC): *Guidelines for Kansas Farms*

The Oil Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) program as revised by the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) establishes reporting requirements for certain farms related to on-farm oil storage. This publication details the current status and reporting requirements.

The goal of the SPCC program is to prevent oil spills into waters of the United States and adjoining shorelines. Oil spills can cause damage to the environment and injuries to people. A key element of this program requires farmers and other facilities that exceed the SPCC oil storage requirements to have an oil spill prevention plan, called an ***SPCC Plan***. This plan outlines how a potential oil spill will be contained so it does not damage water resources.

Under SPCC, a farm is: "*a facility on a tract of land devoted to the production of crops or raising of animals, including fish, which produced and sold, or normally would have produced and sold, $1,000 or more of agricultural products during a year*."

The SPCC program applies to a farm that meets **ALL THREE (3)** of the following:

1. Stores, transfers, uses, or consumes oil or oil products, such as diesel fuel, gasoline, lubrication oil, hydraulic oil, adjuvant oil, crop oil, vegetable oil, or animal fat.
2. Stores more than 2,500 gallons in aggregate of oil or oil products in aboveground containers with capacities of 55 gallons or more; and **reportable** discharge history.

   OR

   Stores more than 2,500 gallons but less than 6,000 gallons in aggregate and **no reportable** discharge history.
3. Could reasonably be expected to discharge oil to waters of the United States or adjoining shorelines, such as interstate waters, intrastate lakes, rivers, and streams. The environment and flow properties of oil when combined with a rain event must be considered.

Farms that meet all three criteria are covered by SPCC. Operators review the fact sheet "SPCC Program: Farms and the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA)" at https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-06/documents/final_wrrda_fact_sheet_4-24-15.pdf.

Does my farm needs an SPCC Plan?

Follow the flowchart in Figure 1 (on page 2) to determine SPCC applicability to your farm and type of plan based on total aboveground oil storage capacity and reportable discharge history.

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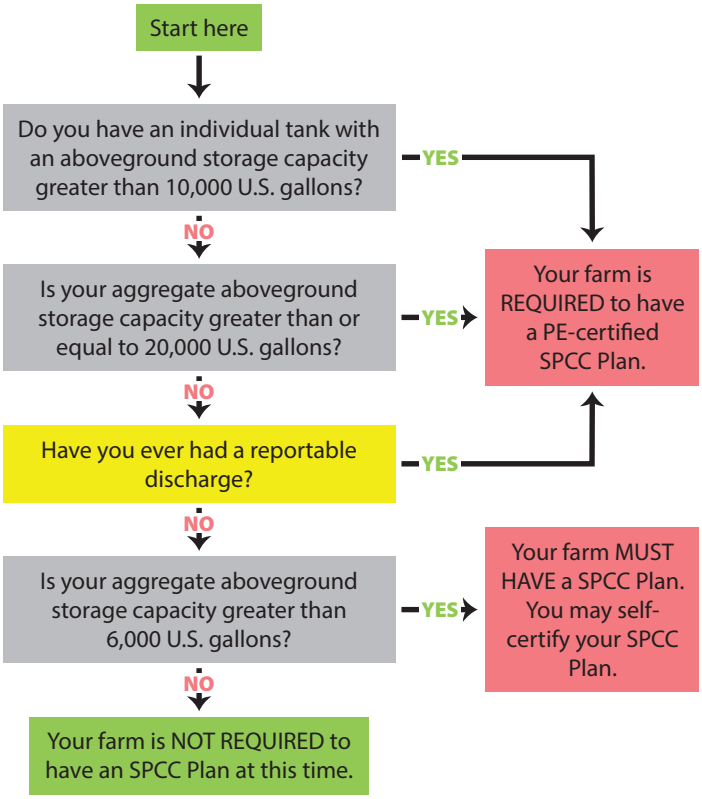

Figure 1. Flowchart to determine farm's SPCC applicability and type of Plan (https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-06/documents/final_wrrda_fact_sheet_4-24-15.pdf).

How do I prepare a plan?

If a farm needs an SPCC Plan and qualifies to self-certify, the owner or operator of the facility must develop and implement an SPCC Plan that describes oil handling operations, spill prevention practices, discharge or drainage controls, and the personnel, equipment, and resources at the facility that are used to prevent oil spills from reaching navigable waters or adjoining shorelines. A template SPCC Plan can be downloaded from: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-05/documents/tier1template.pdf

Although each SPCC Plan is unique to the facility, there are certain elements that must be described in every plan, including:

- Operating procedures at the facility to prevent oil spills;
- Control measures (such as secondary containment) installed to prevent oil spills from entering navigable waters or adjoining shorelines; and
- Countermeasures to contain, clean up, and mitigate the effects of an oil spill that has affected navigable waters or adjoining shorelines.

Farms not meeting the criteria to self-certify are required to have a plan developed and certified by a Professional Engineer (PE). Regardless of whether a facility is self- or PE-certified, the owner/operator is responsible for complying with the rule. A copy of the rule is available at *www.epa.gov/oilspill*.

What do I do with my SPCC Plan?

The plan should be maintained at your facility if you are usually present at least four hours a day or at your nearest office if the facility is not staffed. Your SPCC Plan must be reviewed every five years and/or updated when any changes are made to storage and/or containment.

What if I do not prepare a plan or fail to comply?

When a plan is required, failure to produce a plan during an EPA inspection of the farm may result in a fine.

What does NOT need to be counted when calculating the aggregate aboveground oil storage capacity on the farm?

- All containers on separate parcels that have a capacity of 1,000 gallons or less.
- Containers storing heating oil used solely at a single-family residence (e.g., personal residence of the farm owner or operator).
- Pesticide application equipment or related mix containers (with adjuvant oil).
- Any milk and milk product container and associated piping and equipment.
- Completely buried oil tanks (underground storage tanks or USTs) and associated piping and equipment that are subject to all of the technical requirements under EPA's underground storage tank regulations at 40 CFR part 280 or 281.
- Containers holding animal feed ingredients approved for use in livestock feed by the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The Environmental Protection Agency's SPCC Program became effective Jan. 14, 2010, with a compliance date of Nov. 10, 2010. The SPCC implementation date

for agriculture was May 10, 2013. Storage thresholds were adjusted as part of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 and signed into law on June 10, 2014, and remains subject to revision based on ongoing research.

SPCC Documents

For a completed example of a Tier 1 Qualified Facility SPCC Plan visit: *https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-05/documents/sample_plan.pdf*

For a blank form for a Tier 1 Qualified Facility SPCC Plan visit: *https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-05/documents/tier1template.pdf*

Resources

EPA's SPCC for Agriculture website: *https://www.epa.gov/oil-spills-prevention-and-preparedness-regulations/spill-prevention-control-and-countermeasure-spcc*

EPA's SPCC main website: *https://www.epa.gov/oil-spills-prevention-and-preparedness-regulations*

Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) website: *https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/water-resources-reform-and-development-act-wrrda-guidance-clean-water-state-revolving-fund*

North Dakota State University SPCC resources: *https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/waterquality/spcc-1*

Tier I – SPCC Sample Plan for a farmstead

This facility diagram is only for illustrating the example facility to help readers visualize the information in the scenario and the sample SPCC Plan. Inclusion of a facility diagram in the SPCC Plan is not a requirement for a Tier I Qualified Facility opting to complete the Tier I Qualified Facility SPCC Plan Template.

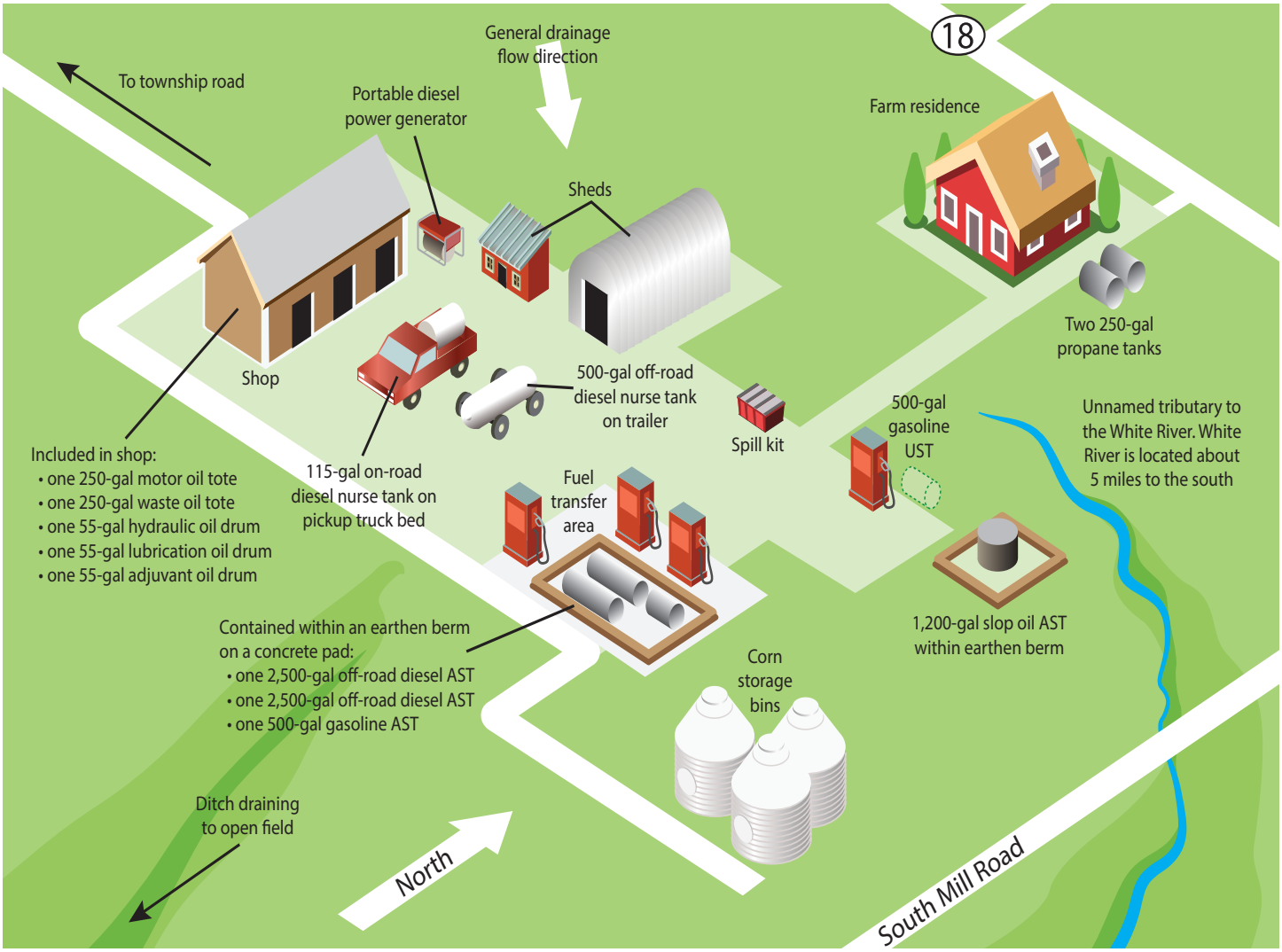

Figure 2. Sample farm layout diagram with oil storage examples.

SPCC Sample Inventory for farmstead in Figure 2.

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Plan Requirements

1. Oil Storage Containers (§112.7(a)(3)(i)):

Table G-2 Oil Storage Containers and Capacities

This table includes a complete list of all oil storage containers (aboveground containers[a] and completely buried tanks[b]) with capacity of 55 U.S. gallons or more, unless otherwise exempt from the rule. For mobile/portable containers, an estimated number of containers, types of oil, and anticipated capacities are provided. ☒

Oil Storage Container *(indicate whether aboveground (A) or completely buried (B))*	Type of Oil	Shell Capacity (gallons)
A – Horizontal, single wall, cylindrical UL-142 steel tank #1 on concrete saddles and pad	Diesel, off-road	2,500
A – Horizontal, single wall, cylindrical UL-142 steel tank #2 on concrete saddles and pad	Diesel, on-road	2,500
A – Horizontal, single wall, cylindrical UL-142 steel tank #3 on concrete saddles and pad	Gasoline	500
A – Vertical, single wall, cylindrical UL 142 steel tank #4 on ground	Slop oil	1,200
A – Steel tank mounted on trailer	Diesel, off-road	500
A – Steel tank mounted on pickup truck	Diesel, on-road	115
A – Polyethylene tote #1 (single use)	Motor oil	250
A – Polyethylene tote #2 (single use)	Waste oil	250
A – Steel drum #1 (single use)	Hydraulic oil	55
A – Steel drum #2 (single use)	Lubrication oil	55
A – Steel drum for adjuvant oil	Adjuvant oil	55
B – Horizontal, single wall, cylindrical UL 58 steel UST	Gasoline	500

Total Aboveground Storage Capacity[c] 7980 gallons
Total Completely Buried Storage Capacity 500 gallons
Facility Total Oil Storage Capacity 8480 gallons

[a] Aboveground storage containers that must be included when calculating total facility oil storage capacity include: tanks and mobile or portable containers; oil-filled operational equipment (e.g. transformers); other oil-filled equipment, such as flow-through process equipment. Exempt containers that are not included in the capacity calculation include: any container with a storage capacity of less than 55 gallons of oil; containers used exclusively for wastewater treatment; permanently closed containers; motive power containers; hot-mix asphalt containers; heating oil containers used solely at a single-family residence; and pesticide application equipment or related mix containers.

Please note that the owner or operator is still responsible to respond to spills from exempt containers and report any spills that reach navigable waters; consequently, the owner or operator may want to consider providing secondary containment for these containers. Facilities with containers not subject to the SPCC rule should consult with local authorities or agencies to determine whether there are regulatory or code requirements, for instance fire and safety codes, that apply to the containers. Also, note that exempt containers and any other object stored in secondary containment structures, e.g., dikes and berm, for tanks regulated by the SPCC rule reduce their containment capacity, increasing the potential for a reportable oil discharge.

[b] Although the criteria to determine eligibility for qualified facilities focuses on the aboveground oil storage containers at the facility, the completely buried tanks at a qualified facility are still subject to the rule requirements and must be addressed in the template; however, they are not counted toward the qualified facility applicability threshold.

[c] Counts toward qualified facility applicability threshold.

Facility Name: Doe's Family Farm

Tier I Qualified Facility SPCC Plan

Figure 3. Sample oil storage inventory requirements for farmstead in Figure 2.

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