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**NEWS RELEASE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

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**DEP SECRETARY SAYS FUNDING AVAILABLE TO CLEANUP LEAKING UNDERGROUND HEATING OIL TANKS**

HARRISBURG – With the end of the state's 2007-08 fiscal year approaching, Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty said today that owners of leaking underground heating oil tanks have time to take advantage of a state grant program that can help them pay for corrective actions.

"The costs of cleaning up a leaking underground heating oil tank can be a substantial burden on homeowners and small businesses," said McGinty. "Anyone with a leaking underground heating oil tank should know that help is available from the commonwealth. Pennsylvanians and in-state businesses can take advantage of this opportunity and begin a cleanup as soon as possible."

Grants are available through the underground heating oil tank cleanup reimbursement program for those who have underground heating oil tanks that have experienced a leak anytime since Jan. 30, 1998. The tanks must have a capacity of 3,000 gallons or less and be used to store heating oil that is consumed where it is stored. The reimbursement is limited to the actual costs of corrective action or \$4,000, whichever is less. A \$1,000 deductible must first be paid by the tank owner. The reimbursement and deductible apply on a per tank basis.

Corrective action costs that are eligible for reimbursement include excavating, emptying, cleaning, removing, transporting and disposing of a leaking storage tank; excavating contaminated soil; transporting and disposing wastes; and restoring disturbed or contaminated areas by backfilling, grading and re-vegetating. The costs associated with removing underground storage tanks that have not leaked or repairing aboveground heating oil tanks—including those located in basements or cellars—are not eligible for

reimbursement. For more information about the underground heating oil tank cleanup reimbursement program, visit [www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us) keyword: storage tank cleanup, or e-mail [tankcleanup@state.pa.us](mailto:tankcleanup@state.pa.us). Interested persons can also call the storage tanks cleanup program in Harrisburg at 717-783-9475 or any DEP regional office. Regional office numbers can be located by clicking the appropriate region of the map on the left side on DEP's homepage.

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