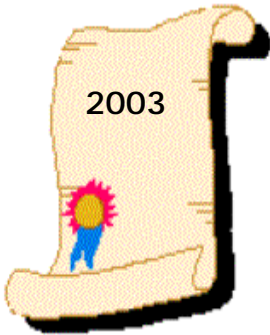


PAYMENT OF ALL OUTSTANDING FEES REQUIRED FOR ISSUANCE OF 2003 CERTIFICATES OF COVERAGE



As part of the Board's efforts to maintain a solvent Fund, the Board **will not** issue Certificates of Coverage for the 2003 Program Year to an owner that has current and/or prior year fees and penalties outstanding.

The Fund is a risk pool mechanism where all participants pay fees into the Fund and the Fund reimburses those owners with eligible releases. If some owners do not pay their fees, the burden for reimbursement is unfairly shifted to those who do. Owners should remember that the Fund is like a co-op. One owner's costs are all owners' costs. If an owner fails to pay any fee assessed and/or properly manage eligible costs for corrective action, tank fees are adversely affected for all tank owners, not just those performing clean-ups.

Owners with outstanding fees are not in compliance with the law. The law states that failure to pay **any** annual fee or penalty fee assessed will result in the non-issuance or revocation of a Certificate of Coverage.

Thus any owner with outstanding fees or penalties, even if the current program year's fees have been paid, will not be issued a current year Certificate of Coverage.

As a reminder, an owner must possess a valid Certificate of Coverage to satisfy BUSTR's financial responsibility requirements and, more importantly, to be eligible to make a claim against the Financial Assurance Fund when a release is first suspected or confirmed.

If you owe prior year fees and/or penalties it is strongly recommended that you contact the Board before the 2003 fee assessment invoice is mailed in late April. If you need a payment plan, that can be arranged by contacting John Hickey or Khia Naylor at 614-752-8963. Any accounts that have not been resolved will be referred to the Ohio Attorney General for collection.

IMPORTANT INSERT IN THIS EDITION



Vice Chairman of the Board, John H. Hull, P.E., President of Hull & Associates, Inc. and two of his staff members, David B. Mustafaga, CPG and James P. Hogan have authored an article "Evaluating Lifecycle Costs and Meeting Clean-up Goals at Petroleum-Release Corrective Action Sites" that appears as an insert in this edition of the "Pipeline".

Performing cost effective corrective action helps maintain a solvent Fund and keeps tank fees at an affordable level. Please read this informative and important article and share it with your consultant.