



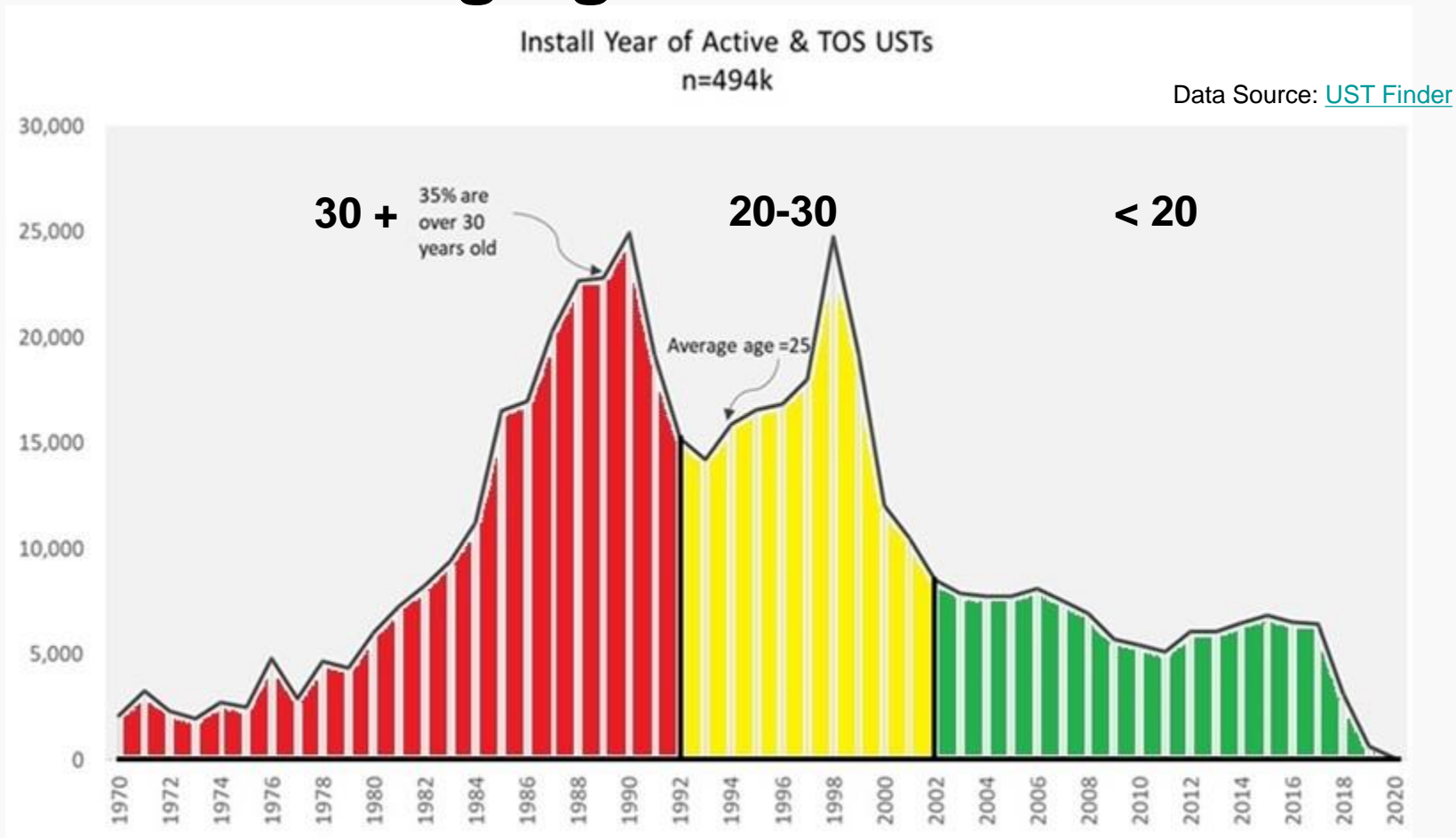
# **2022 National Tanks Conference Aging USTs**

## ***EPA's Aging UST Systems Web Area***

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# The Aging USTs Situation





# Aging USTs: A Concern for Owners, UST & LUST Programs, & Communities

Potential UST  
Compliance  
Pressures

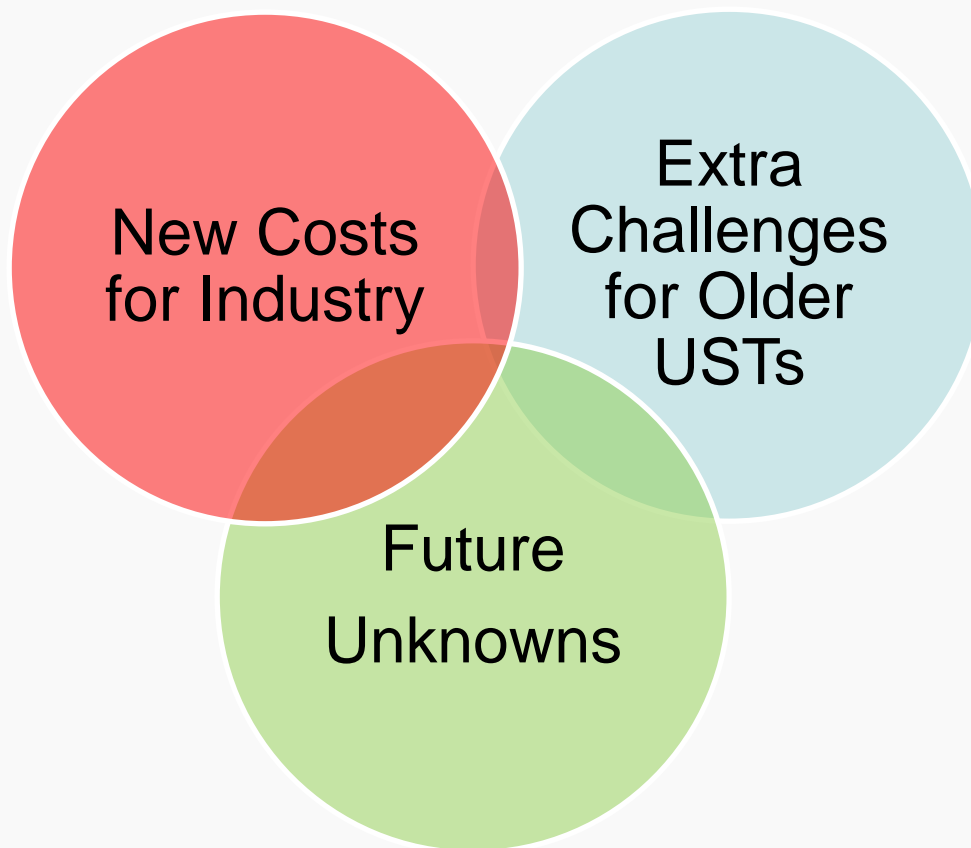
New LUSTs,  
fewer stations  
paying into  
LUST funds

1000's of New  
Vacant  
Properties

Decreased  
community  
services  
where  
stations close



# UST Specific Considerations for Owners and Operators of Aging UST Systems





# EPA's New Aging UST Systems Web Area

## Aging UST Systems

There are approximately 500,000 petroleum underground storage tank systems at 200,000 facilities in the United States, many of which are nearing or already older than 30 years of age. Underground storage tank systems are defined as an underground storage tank, connected underground piping, underground ancillary equipment, and containment system, if any. Underground storage tank systems typically include dozens of components and are hereafter referred to simply as USTs.

The UST industry has changed significantly in the last decade. Some owners and operators of aging USTs may be considering how these changes impact them.

The following are some of these recent changes in the UST industry:

- Damaging [corrosion](#) of UST equipment has become common in much of the country.
- Many places have experienced changes in rainfall, resulting in more floods, droughts, or intense rain due to climate change. These precipitation changes, along with more extreme temperatures and [natural disasters](#), can impact UST operations or damage infrastructure.
- Most owners and operators have additional UST regulatory requirements (based on the 2015 [federal UST regulation](#)) intended to improve protection of human health and the environment.
- [New fuels](#) have entered the U.S. market, some of which can be stored only in certain USTs.
- The U.S. transportation industry has already begun a major [technology transition](#) [exit](#) that will take place over the coming decades. The U.S. government has recently [committed billions](#) [exit](#) of dollars to a multitude of programs that seek to deploy a network of electric vehicle chargers, zero-emission fueling infrastructure, and zero-emission transit and school buses.

On this page, readers will find information about:

- [Regulatory requirements for aging USTs](#)
- [Insurance and financial responsibility for aging USTs](#)
- [Investigating older tanks](#)

## Regulatory Requirements for Aging USTs

The federal UST regulation does not require USTs be removed based on age. The regulation sets

- Released July 2022
- Two parts
- Part 1 Focus areas:
  - Significant, recent industry changes
  - Regulatory requirements
  - Insurance and financial responsibility
  - Investigating older tanks in UST systems



# EPA's New Aging UST Systems Web Area:

**Considering Transitions for Aging UST Systems**

Today, owners and operators are increasingly considering options regarding their aging underground storage tank systems (USTs) as they deal with additional regulatory requirements, new fuels, financial responsibility, and other ongoing changes in the industry. Various options are available to them to continue operating or to close their USTs.

EPA also recognizes that owners and operators of USTs often have additional considerations beyond those associated with the UST operation itself that may impact the choices an owner or operator makes about their UST. Whether they choose to continue operating or close their UST, they must do so in compliance with the UST regulations.

On this page, readers will find information about:

- [Options for operating, upgrading, or closing aging USTs](#)
- [Considerations for adding electric vehicle charging, hydrogen, or natural gas fueling capabilities at facilities with USTs](#)
- [Funding sources for owners of aging USTs who are considering a transition](#)

The primary choices owners and operators have regarding the operation of their aging UST are:

- **Keep an aging UST in operating status, with no changes to aging UST equipment until repairs or replacement are required.**

Under the federal UST regulation, owners of aging USTs can continue operating their UST without replacing equipment as long as they continue to pass inspections and tests, and they do not have releases.\* However, all USTs inevitably require some equipment be repaired or replaced, and older USTs typically need more equipment repaired or replaced than newer USTs.

\* Some state implementing agencies have additional requirements for aging USTs. For example, California requires all USTs with either single-walled tank or piping components be permanently closed by December 31, 2025, and others have similar deadlines that have already passed.

- **Change the UST operating status to temporary out of use.**

Owners of aging USTs may have the option to empty their tank or tanks and place the UST into [temporary closure](#) for a period of time while they evaluate their options. Owners and operators must follow the regulatory requirements in 40 CFR 280.70.

The state implementing agency may have different requirements to temporarily close USTs. Check with your implementing agency for their requirements if you are considering this option.

- **Part 2 Focus areas:**
  - **Options for operating, upgrading, or closing aging UST systems**
  - **Considerations for adding EV, H2, or natural gas fueling capabilities**
  - **Funding sources for owners of aging USTs who are considering a transition**



# Questions?

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