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**New laws increase costs and complexity to manage  
1,000s of leaking petroleum storage tanks in Texas**

***New software from Southlake-based H<sub>2</sub>A Environmental helps companies  
clean up, cut costs and expedite state reports***

**SOUTHLAKE, Texas – Nov. 11, 2003** – The cost of environmental management just increased exponentially for hundreds of Texas businesses, thanks to new state laws that beef up reporting requirements from petroleum storage tanks “releases,” which includes leaks and spills.

Thousands of these tanks sit both in and above the ground at gas stations, convenience stores, airports, industrial facilities, governmental agencies and private businesses. Releases from petroleum storage tanks (PSTs) – which occur commonly – are reported to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), based in Austin, Texas.

“In the past, a release from a PST was reported on a simple, fill-in-the-blank form of around 10 to 20 pages,” said Kay Hawthorne, who heads H<sub>2</sub>A Environmental Ltd., based in Southlake, Texas. “But under the new rules, these reports have expanded to cover hundreds of pages. In cases where contamination is severe, the reports could span multiple volumes and be several inches thick.”

The complexity of the newly required reports will force most companies to spend thousands of dollars for extensive testing, data modeling and risk assessment, Hawthorne said. PST owners and consultants across the state are deeply concerned that the costs of new reporting will be financially devastating. The average environmental spill in Texas already costs between \$10,000 and \$100,000 to clean up to governmental standards, with larger sites costing as much as several million dollars.

To help mitigate these exploding costs, H<sub>2</sub>A is offering its TRRP *Commander*<sup>™</sup> software, which automates the management of risk assessments and reports required by TCEQ. Whether they use the services of environmental consultants or have a staff dedicated to environmental issues, companies should insist that TRRP *Commander* be used to create reports, Hawthorne said.

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“By using TRRP *Commander*, and its companion software called DATA *Commander*<sup>TM</sup>, our clients have generated cost savings of between 30 and 60 percent,” Hawthorne said. “Plus, they improved the technical quality of their work. In September, TCEQ itself purchased 100-plus licenses of TRRP *Commander*.”

When Texas land or water is contaminated by a spill, leak or other emission of hazardous material, the environmental impact must be thoroughly assessed. This information must be reported to TCEQ, along with a risk-based plan for cleanup. TCEQ requires a bevy of extensive, detailed reports, including complex calculations and reams of data, in the form of an Affected Property Assessment Report (APAR). Under the new rules, this exhaustive information will be required of every site, whether its environmental impact is severe or simply incidental.

**In Dallas County alone, there are more than 5,000 registered PSTs. According to TCEQ, nearly 2,400 leaks have occurred in the county since the state began to require reports of such incidents. The numbers are similar in other large Texas counties: Tarrant County has nearly 3,600 registered PSTs and more than 1,400 reported leaks; Collin County has almost 700 registered PSTs and more than 200 reported leaks; and Harris County has more than 8,200 registered PSTs and more than 3,400 reported leaks.**

TRRP *Commander* already is used by environmental consultants at refineries, energy marketing terminals, pipelines, airports and other sites. It establishes a database standard for TCEQ’s Texas risk reduction program (TRRP), enabling easier analysis and reporting of information between the commission and the companies that must report to it.

In the past, environmental information was entered into homemade spreadsheets, which often led to inaccuracies. The process also required up to hundreds of hours per assessment, since the chemicals involved number in the hundreds.

“Environmental scientists should spend their time doing valuable analysis and field work, not typing numbers into a spreadsheet,” said James Mosley, risk assessment services manager for H<sub>2</sub>A and the designer of TRRP *Commander*. “Our software automates the grunt work and helps in the decision-making process.”

After reporting a release, environmental scientists obtain samples of nearby soil, groundwater, surface water and air. These samples are analyzed, generating data on the

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chemicals that are involved – from one to hundreds. This information is fed into DATA *Commander*, which generates detailed data reports. Lab sample reports can be imported electronically, eliminating manual entry of data.

These data then are uploaded automatically into TRRP *Commander*, which is a database with an easy-to-use interface. The user simply enters site-specific characteristics, such as depth to groundwater. The software then automatically calculates the maximum amount of each chemical that can be left in the soil before remediation is needed.

“One of the best features of TRRP *Commander* is its ability to automatically generate APAR report tables,” Mosley said. “This automated reporting can lead to dramatic time and cost savings. Some of our clients have been shocked at the speed with which we can generate very high quality technical TRRP reports.”

Three TRRP *Commander* products (TRRP Commander PST, TRRP Commander IND, and TRRP Commander PRO) are offered to meet the technical requirements of various users and are immediately available with prices starting at \$3,995. To learn more about TRRP Commander, visit [www.h2altd.com](http://www.h2altd.com), or call 817-251-9466.

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