As Engrossed: 2/24/93

1	State of Arkansas
2	79th General Assembly A Bill
3	Regular Session, 1993 HOUSE BILL 1199
4	By: Representative McJunkin
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6	
7	For An Act To Be Entitled
8	"AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE ANNOTATED TITLE 8, CHAPTER
9	7, SUBCHAPTER 9, TO RAISE THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSURANCE FEE
10	TO FOUR-TENTHS OF ONE CENT FOR A LIMITED TIME; TO LOWER
11	THE DEDUCTIBLE TO TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR ACCESS TO THE
12	PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK TRUST FUND FOR CORRECTIVE ACTION;
13	TO ALLOW LIMITED USE OF TRUST FUNDS FOR COSTS OF THE
14	DEPARTMENT OF POLLUTION CONTROL AND ECOLOGY; TO ALLOW THE
15	DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENTS FROM THE TRUST
16	FUND; TO GIVE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AUTHORITY TO INTERVENE
17	IN THIRD PARTY SUITS INVOLVING THE TRUST FUND; TO PROTECT
18	TRADE SECRETS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER
19	PURPOSES."
20	
21	Subtitle
22	"TO AMEND THE PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK TRUST FUND ACT."
23	
24	BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
25	
26	SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Annotated §8-7-902 is amended to read as
27	follows:
28	"8-7-902. Definitions.
29	As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise requires:
30	(1) _Aboveground storage tank_ means any one or a combination of
31	containers, vessels, and enclosures located above ground, including structures
32	and appurtenances connected to them, whose capacity is greater than one
33	thousand three hundred twenty gallons (1,320 gals.) and not more than thirty
34	thousand gallons (30,000 gals.) and that is used to contain or dispense motor
35	fuels, distillate special fuels, or other refined petroleum products. Such

- 1 term does not include mobile storage tanks used to transport petroleum from
- 2 one location to another or those used in the production of petroleum or
- 3 natural gas;
- 4 (2) _Accidental release_ means any sudden or nonsudden release of
- 5 petroleum from a storage tank that results in a need for corrective action or
- 6 compensation for bodily injury or property damage, or both, neither expected
- 7 nor intended by the tank owner or operator;
- 8 (3) _Advisory committee_ or _committee_ means the Advisory Committee on
- 9 Petroleum Storage Tanks as established in this subchapter;
- 10 (4) Commission means the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology
- 11 Commission;
- 12 (5) Corrective action means those actions which may be necessary to
- 13 protect human health and the environment as a result of an accidental release,
- 14 sudden or nonsudden;
- 15 (6) _Department_ means the Arkansas Department of Pollution Control and
- 16 Ecology;
- 17 (7) Director means the Director of the Arkansas Department of
- 18 Pollution Control and Ecology;
- 19 (8) Distributor means and includes any person, including the State of
- 20 Arkansas and any political subdivision thereof, but not including the United
- 21 States of America or any of its instrumentalities except to the extent
- 22 permitted by the Constitution or laws thereof, who is customarily in the
- 23 wholesale business offering for resale or delivery of motor fuels to dealers,
- 24 consumers, or others in tanks of two hundred gallons (200 gals.) or more which
- 25 are not connected to a motor vehicle; and is:
- 26 (A) Making the first sale in the State of Arkansas of any motor fuel,
- 27 imported into the state from any other state, territory, or foreign country,
- 28 after it shall have been received within this state within the meaning of §
- 29 26-55-201 et seq.; or
- 30 (B) Consuming or using in the State of Arkansas any motor fuel so
- 31 imported and shall have purchased it before it shall have been received by any
- 32 other person in this state, within the meaning of § 26-55-201 et seq.; or
- 33 (C) Producing, refining, preparing, distilling, manufacturing,
- 34 blending, or compounding motor fuel in this state;
- 35 (9) _Fund_ means the Petroleum Storage Tank Trust Fund created by this

- 1 subchapter;
- 2 (10) Occurrence means an accident, including continuous or repeated
- 3 exposure to conditions, which results in a release from a storage tank;
- 4 (11) _Owner or operator_, when the owner or operator are separate
- 5 parties, means the person who is required to obtain financial assurances under
- 6 the state or federal underground storage tank program;
- 7 (12) Person means any individual; corporation; company; firm;
- 8 partnership; association; trust; joint-stock company or trust; venture;
- 9 municipal; state; or federal government or agency; or any other legal entity,
- 10 however organized;
- 11 (13) Petroleum means petroleum, including crude oil or any fraction
- 12 thereof, which is liquid at standard conditions of temperature and pressure
- 13 [sixty degrees Fahrenheit (60° F) and fourteen and seven-tenths pounds (14.7
- 14 lbs.) per square inch absolute];
- 15 (14) _Storage tank_ means an aboveground storage tank or underground
- 16 storage tank as defined in this subchapter;
- 17 (15) Release means any spilling, leaking, emitting, discharging,
- 18 escaping, leaching, or disposing from a storage tank into ground water,
- 19 surface water, or subsurface soils. This term does not include releases that
- 20 are permitted or authorized by the department or by federal law;
- 21 (16) Supplier means any person who is customarily in the wholesale
- 22 business of offering distillate special fuels or liquefied gas special fuels
- 23 for resale or use to any person in this state and who makes bulk sales of
- 24 fuel. The term _supplier_ shall include pipeline importers, first receivers,
- 25 and second receivers;
- 26 (17) _Terminal_ means a bulk storage facility for storing petroleum
- 27 products supplied by pipeline or marine vessels;
- 28 (18)(A) Underground storage tank means any one (1) or combination of
- 29 tanks, including underground pipes connected thereto, which is or has been
- 30 used to contain petroleum, and the volume of which, including the volume of
- 31 the underground pipes connected thereto, is ten percent (10%) or more beneath
- 32 the surface of the ground.
- 33 (B) The term underground storage tank does not include any:
- 34 (i) Farm or residential tank of one thousand one hundred gallons (1,100
- 35 gals.) or less capacity used for storing motor fuel for noncommercial

- 1 purposes; (ii) Tank used for storing heating oil for consumptive use on the 3 premises where stored; (iii) Septic tank; (iv) Intrastate and interstate pipeline facilities regulated by the 6 Public Service Commission or other applicable state or federal agency and all 7 other pipeline facilities, including gathering lines regulated under: (a) The Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968, 49 U.S.C. App. 1671, 9 et seq., 49 USCS Appx. 1671 et seq.; The Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Act of 1979, 49 U.S.C. App. 11 2001, et seq.; (v) Surface impoundment, pit, pond, or lagoon; 12 (vi) Storm water or wastewater collection system; 13 14 (vii) Flow-through process tank; 15 (viii) Liquid trap or associated gather lines directly related to oil 16 or gas production and gathering operations; or (ix) Storage tank situated in an underground area, such as a basement, 17 18 cellar, mineworking, drift, shaft, or tunnel, if the storage tank is situated 19 upon or above the surface of the floor. 20 (x) Any pipes connected to any tank which is described in subparagraphs 21 (i) through (ix) of this subdivision. 22 (19) Substantial compliance means there is a reasonable assurance 23 that the owner or operator is in compliance with all state and federal laws 24 and regulations relating to storage tanks, including those relating to 25 financial responsibility." 26 27 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Annotated §8-7-903 is amended to read as 28 follows: "8-7-903. Rules and regulations - Powers of department. 29 (a) The Director of the Department of Finance and Administration is 30 31 authorized to adopt appropriate rules and regulations not inconsistent with 32 this subchapter as he may deem necessary to carry out the intent and purposes
- 34 (b) The commission is authorized to adopt appropriate rules and

33 of and to assure compliance with this subchapter.

35 regulations not inconsistent with this subchapter to carry out the intent and

- 1 purposes of and to assure compliance with this subchapter.
- 2 (c) The department shall have the authority to enter upon the property
- 3 of any owner or operator of an aboveground storage tank to obtain information,
- 4 conduct surveys, or review records for the purpose of determining substantial
- 5 compliance, as defined by this subchapter and regulations promulgated
- 6 thereunder, with all state and federal laws and regulations relating to
- 7 aboveground storage tanks prior to commission approval of a claim for
- 8 reimbursement or disbursement."

- SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Annotated §8-7-904 is amended to read as
- 11 follows:
- 12 "8-7-904. Advisory committee.
- 13 (a) (1) There is established an advisory committee on petroleum storage
- 14 tanks to be composed of the following members:
- 15 (A) A representative from the property and casualty segment of the
- 16 insurance industry;
- 17 (B) A representative from a company that is a refiner and also has
- 18 service stations or other motor fuel retail outlets in the state;
- 19 (C) A representative from a company that is a jobber or wholesaler of
- 20 petroleum products in the state;
- 21 (D) An independent retail service station dealer;
- 22 (E) The State Fire Marshal or his designee;
- 23 (F) A representative from a company that installs or repairs petroleum
- 24 storage tanks; and
- 25 (G) A representative from a company that has one or more employees with
- 26 knowledge and expertise regarding environmental protection and management
- 27 matters.
- 28 (2) The Governor shall appoint the members of the advisory committee.
- 29 The member appointed under subdivision (a)(1)(B) of this section shall be from
- 30 a list of three (3) names submitted by the Arkansas Petroleum Council. The
- 31 member appointed under subdivision (a)(1)(C) of this section shall be from a
- 32 list of three (3) names submitted by the Arkansas Oil Marketers Association.
- 33 The member appointed under subdivision (a)(1)(D) of this section shall be from
- 34 a list of three (3) names submitted by the Service Station Dealers of
- 35 Arkansas. The member appointed under subdivision (a)(1)(G) of this section

- 1 shall be from a list of three (3) names submitted by the Arkansas
- 2 Environmental Federation.
- 3 (3) Each member of the committee shall serve a four-year term and until a
- 4 successor has been appointed.
- 5 (4) Any vacancies shall be filled by the Governor to serve the remainder
- 6 of the term.
- 7 (b) Committee members shall serve without compensation but shall be
- 8 entitled to per diem and mileage allowances for attendance at committee
- 9 meetings at the same rate authorized by law for legislators' attendance at
- 10 meetings of joint interim committees of the General Assembly. Committee
- 11 members shall be entitled to reimbursement for actual expenses incurred for
- 12 lodging while attending committee meetings which involve overnight stays.
- 13 (c) The committee shall select a member to serve as chairman each year.
- 14 (d) The committee shall meet as necessary to carry out its duties under
- 15 this subchapter and at the call of the chair.
- 16 (e) The department shall provide adequate staff to support the activities
- 17 of the committee.
- 18 (f) The committee shall adopt all rules and regulations necessary to
- 19 conduct its business.
- 20 (g) The committee shall advise and make recommendations to the director
- 21 regarding claims for payment under this subchapter.
- 22 (h) The committee shall advise the department and the commission
- 23 regarding promulgation of rules and regulations concerning storage tanks.
- 24 (i) No member of the committee shall participate in any decision on any
- 25 claim in which the firm or organization by which that member is employed, or
- 26 in which that member has a direct or indirect financial interest, is
- 27 involved."

- 29 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code Annotated §8-7-905 is amended to read as
- 30 follows:
- 31 "8-7-905. Petroleum Storage Tank Trust Fund.
- 32 (a) There is established on the books of the State Treasurer, State
- 33 Auditor, and Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a fund to be known as the
- 34 Petroleum Storage Tank Trust Fund , hereinafter referred to as the fund .
- 35 (b) The fund will be administered by the director who shall make

- 1 disbursements from the fund as authorized by this subchapter.
- 2 (c) The fund shall consist of gifts, grants, donations, and such other
- 3 funds as may be made available by the General Assembly, including all interest
- 4 earned upon money deposited in the fund, all fees assessed under this
- 5 subchapter, any moneys recovered by the department, and any other moneys
- 6 legally designated for the fund.
- 7 (d) Moneys in the fund may be expended by the director solely for the
- 8 following purposes, as limited by the provisions of subsection (e) of this
- 9 section:
- 10 (1) The state share mandated by the federal Resource Conservation and
- 11 Recovery Act of 1976, as amended;
- 12 (2) To pay costs incurred by the commission or the advisory committee
- 13 in the performance of their duties under this subchapter;
- 14 (3) To pay reimbursement for taking corrective action or to compensate
- 15 owners or operators for claims by third parties for bodily injury and property
- 16 damage, or both, caused by accidental releases from qualified storage tanks;
- 17 (4) To pay reasonable and necessary costs and expenses of the
- 18 department for taking corrective action, caused by accidental releases from a
- 19 storage tank of unknown ownership or when corrective action is not commenced
- 20 by the owner or operator in a timely manner;
- 21 (5) To reimburse owners and operators in the vicinity of the release
- 22 for performing short-term testing or monitoring which is in addition to that
- 23 required by the department's rules and regulations if the department has a
- 24 reasonable basis for believing that such petroleum underground storage tank or
- 25 tanks may be the source of the release. The owners and operators of petroleum
- 26 underground storage tanks, including out-of-service and nonoperational tanks,
- 27 not found to be the source of the release and who cooperated with the
- 28 department may apply to the fund for reimbursement, for such testing and
- 29 monitoring costs, not including lost managerial time or loss of revenues
- 30 because of temporary business closure.
- 31 (6) To pay department costs as needed for its operations under this
- 32 subchapter and §8-7-801 et seq. in an amount not to exceed three hundred
- 33 fifty-nine thousand dollars (\$359,000) in fiscal year 1993-1994 and not to
- 34 exceed three hundred eighty-seven thousand dollars (\$387,000) in fiscal year
- 35 1994-1995 and thereafter. This source of funding shall be used by the

- 1 department only if funding from storage tank registrations, as provided in §8-
- 2 7-802(a)(2), is insufficient to meet the reasonable needs of the department.
- 3 (e) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this subchapter, the
- 4 director, upon finding that a release may present an imminent and substantial
- 5 hazard to the health of persons or to the environment and that an emergency
- 6 exists requiring immediate action to protect the public health and welfare or
- 7 the environment, may, without receiving prior advice from the advisory
- 8 committee, issue an order reciting the existence of such an imminent hazard
- 9 and emergency and ordering a disbursement or reimbursement of up to fifty
- 10 thousand dollars (\$50,000) from the fund so that such action may be taken as
- 11 he determines to be necessary to protect the health of such persons or the
- 12 environment and to meet the emergency.
- 13 (f)(1) No expenditure from the fund shall be made for expenses for
- 14 retrofitting or replacement of petroleum storage tanks.
- 15 (2) No expenditure from the fund pursuant to subdivisions (d)(3) and
- 16 (d)(5) of this section shall be made for attorneys fees.
- 17 (g) The liability or obligation of the fund is not the liability or
- 18 obligation of the State of Arkansas provided, however, that this subsection
- 19 shall not be construed as relieving the fund of any liability or obligation
- 20 prescribed in this subchapter upon the entry of a valid court order or valid
- 21 final order of the Arkansas State Claims Commission establishing a judgment
- 22 against any state agency, board, department, or commission or where a
- 23 settlement agreement has been reached arising from third-party claims against
- 24 any state agency, board, department, or commission where such state agency,
- 25 board, department, or commission is determined to be the owner or operator.
- 26 (h) Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to abrogate or waive
- 27 the provisions of Article 5, § 20, Arkansas Constitution."

- 29 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code Annotated §8-7-906 is amended to read as
- 30 follows:
- 31 "8-7-906. Petroleum environmental assurance fee.
- 32 (a) There is established a petroleum environmental assurance fee to be
- 33 paid, except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, on each gallon of
- 34 motor fuel or distillate special fuel purchased or imported into this state.
- 35 (b) The fee shall be paid by the first distributor or supplier

- 1 receiving fuel from a terminal in this state, or, if the fuel will never be
- 2 stored in a terminal in this state, then by the distributor or supplier who
- 3 first imports fuel into this state by tank truck.
- 4 (c) Exchanges of fuels on a gallon-for-gallon basis within a terminal
- 5 or fuels exported from this state are exempt from the fee.
- 6 (d) Proof of payment shall be provided to the owner or operator.
- 7 (e) The fee shall be remitted to the Director of the Department of
- 8 Finance and Administration at the time, in the manner, and on forms prescribed
- 9 by the director and may be collected and remitted at the same time and in the
- 10 same manner as the motor fuel tax and special motor fuels tax under §§
- 11 26-55-101 et seq. and 26-56-101 et seq.
- 12 (f) All fees collected under this subchapter shall be deposited in the
- 13 Petroleum Storage Tank Trust Fund. The applicable fund balances shall be
- 14 required to be maintained in perpetuity.
- 15 (g) Beginning on July 1, 1993 and continuing through December 31, 1998,
- 16 the maximum rate for the environmental assurance fee shall be four-tenths
- 17 (4/10th) of one cent (1¢) for each gallon of fuel. After December 31, 1998,
- 18 the maximum rate for the environmental assurance fee shall be at a rate of
- 19 two-tenths (2/10ths) of one cent (1¢) for each gallon of fuel. The fees shall
- 20 be collected at the maximum rate provided, however, that when the balance of
- 21 the fund reaches fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000), the rate shall drop at
- 22 the beginning of the next calendar quarter to such rate as the commission
- 23 determines is necessary to maintain a fifteen million dollar (\$15,000,000)
- 24 balance. The rate shall be increased at the beginning of the next calendar
- 25 quarter when the fund balance drops to twelve million dollars (\$12,000,000) or
- 26 less and remain at the higher amount not to exceed the applicable maximum rate
- 27 provided herein until the fund balance reaches fifteen million dollars
- 28 (\$15,000,000). The commission shall review the fund balance at least
- 29 quarterly and report the rate of collection for the environmental assurance
- 30 fee for the upcoming quarter to the Director of the Department of Finance and
- 31 Administration.

- 32 (h) All fees shall be subject to collection and enforcement of
- 33 collection under the Arkansas Tax Procedure Act, §26-18-101 et seq."

35 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code Annotated §8-7-907 is amended to read as

- 1 follows:
- 2 "8-7-907. Payments for corrective action.
- 3 (a) No payment for corrective action shall be paid from the fund until
- 4 the owner or operator has expended ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) on
- 5 corrective action for the occurrence except in cases where the director is
- 6 using his emergency authority under §8-7-905(e). It is the intent of the
- 7 General Assembly that this initial level of expenditure be considered the
- 8 equivalent of an insurance policy deductible. Owners or operators of
- 9 underground storage tanks must demonstrate financial responsibility for the
- 10 ten thousand dollar (\$10,000) deductible for corrective actions.
- 11 (b) Payment for corrective action shall not exceed one million dollars
- 12 (\$1,000,000) per occurrence.
- 13 (c) All payments for corrective action expenses of the owner or
- 14 operator shall be made only following proof that:
- 15 (1) Corrective action has adequately addressed the release and the
- 16 release is no longer a threat to public health and safety or the environment;
- 17 (2) At the time of discovery of the release, the owner or operator had
- 18 paid all fees required under state law or regulations applicable to petroleum
- 19 storage tanks;
- 20 (3) At the time of the occurrence, the owner or operator was in
- 21 substantial compliance as defined by this subchapter and regulations
- 22 promulgated thereunder and with all state and federal laws and regulations
- 23 relating to storage tanks, including those relating to financial
- 24 responsibility; and
- 25 (4) The department was given timely notice of the release and the owner
- 26 or operator cooperated fully with the department in corrective action to
- 27 address the release.
- 28 (d) The commission may provide through rule and regulation for interim
- 29 payments for corrective action. Interim payments shall be subject to these
- 30 limitations:
- 31 (1) Proof of compliance with the requirements of subdivisions
- 32 (c)(2)-(4) of this section must be provided.
- 33 (2) Specific assurances must be provided that an approved corrective
- 34 action plan, department directive or order is being implemented and followed
- 35 to date.

- 1 (3) Interim payments shall consist of payment of an amount not to 2 exceed ninety percent (90%) of reimbursable expenditures to date. The 3 remaining ten percent (10%) shall be released only upon final payment for
- 5 (e) In the event moneys are expended from the fund for corrective
- 6 action and the owner or operator was not at the time of the occurrence in
- 7 substantial compliance as defined by this subchapter and regulations
- 8 promulgated hereunder, the department may recover from the owner or operator
- 9 the amount of moneys expended from the fund for the corrective action by
- 10 filing an action in the appropriate circuit court or by using the
- 11 administrative procedures set forth in §8-7-804."

4 corrective action concerning the occurrence.

- SECTION 7. Arkansas Code Annotated §8-7-908 is amended to read as
- 14 follows:
- 15 "8-7-908. Third-party claims.
- 16 (a) No payment to any owner or operator against whom a third-party
- 17 claim is brought for bodily injury or property damage, or both, shall be paid
- 18 from the fund until the owner or operator has expended twenty-five thousand
- 19 dollars (\$25,000) on third-party claims for the occurrence except in cases
- 20 where the director is using his emergency authority under § 8-7-905(e). It is
- 21 the intent of the General Assembly that this initial level of expenditure be
- 22 considered the equivalent of an insurance policy deductible. Owners and
- 23 operators of underground storage tanks must demonstrate financial
- 24 responsibility for the twenty-five thousand dollar (\$25,000) deductible for
- 25 third-party liability costs.
- 26 (b) Payment for third-party claims shall not exceed one million dollars
- 27 (\$1,000,000) per occurrence.
- 28 (c) All payments for third-party claims shall be made only following
- 29 proof that:
- 30 (1) At the time of the occurrence, the owner or operator was in
- 31 substantial compliance with the financial responsibility requirements;
- 32 (2) At the time of discovery of the release, the owner or operator had
- 33 paid all fees required under state law or regulations applicable to petroleum
- 34 storage tanks; and
- 35 (3) A valid final court order or valid final order of the Arkansas

- 1 State Claims Commission establishing a judgment against the owner or operator
- 2 for bodily injury or property damage caused by an accidental release from a
- 3 qualified storage tank has been entered.
- 4 (d) Any owner or operator against whom a third-party claim is filed in
- 5 court or in the State Claims Commission shall give written notice of the claim
- 6 to the Department no later than sixty (60) days after service of summons or
- 7 receipt of notification of the claim from the State Claims Commission. Upon
- 8 receipt of such notice, the Department shall immediately notify the Attorney
- 9 General, who shall have the right to intervene in any such lawsuit in order to
- 10 protect the interests of the State in the fund. Payment of third-party claims
- 11 from the fund may be denied for any owner or operator who fails to give the
- 12 Department notice as required herein.
- 13 (e) The commission may provide through rules or regulations for
- 14 payments for third-party claims under settlement agreements between the
- 15 parties without entry of a final court order or State Claims Commission order.
- 16 Settlement payments for third-party claims shall be subject to these
- 17 limitations:
- 18 (1) Proof of compliance with the requirement of subdivisions (c)(1) and
- 19 (c)(2) of this section must be provided.
- 20 (2) Specific assurances, such as dismissal with prejudice of the cause
- 21 of action, that payment shall release the owner or operator from all future
- 22 liability to the third-party claimant for this occurrence must be provided.
- 23 (3) The director must determine that litigation would result in costs
- 24 to the fund which would exceed the settlement amount and, therefore, it would
- 25 be in the best interests of the fund to pay the settlement amount.
- 26 (f) In the event moneys are expended from the fund for third-party
- 27 claims and the owner or operator was not at the time of the occurrence in
- 28 substantial compliance as defined by this subchapter and regulations
- 29 promulgated hereunder, the department may recover from the owner or operator
- 30 the amount of moneys expended from the fund for the third-party claim by
- 31 filing an action in the appropriate circuit court or by using the
- 32 administrative procedures set forth in §8-7-804."

- 34 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code Annotated Title 8, Chapter 7, Subchapter 9 is
- 35 amended by adding a new section to read as follows:

- 1 "8-7-909.
- 2 (a) Any records, reports, or information obtained by the department or
- 3 its employees in the administration of this subchapter, except release data,
- 4 shall be kept confidential upon a showing satisfactory to the director that
- 5 the records, reports or information would constitute a trade secret under the
- 6 Arkansas Trade Secrets Act, §4-75-601 et seq.
- 7 (b) As necessary to carry out the provisions of this subchapter,
- 8 information afforded confidential treatment may be transmitted under a
- 9 continuing claim of confidentiality to other officers or employees of the
- 10 state or of the United States, if the owner or operator of the facility to
- 11 which the information pertains is informed of the transmittal and if the
- 12 information has been acquired by the department under the provisions of this
- 13 subchapter.
- 14 (c) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to limit the
- 15 department_s authority to release confidential information during emergency
- 16 situations.
- 17 (d) Any violation of this section shall be unlawful and shall
- 18 constitute a misdemeanor."

- 20 SECTION 9. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
- 21 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
- 22 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

23

- 24 SECTION 10. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
- 25 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
- 26 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
- 27 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
- 28 act are declared to be severable.

29

- 30 SECTION 11. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
- 31 hereby repealed.

- 33 SECTION 12. Emergency. It is hereby found and determined by the
- 34 Seventy-Ninth General Assembly that underground fuel storage tanks are a
- 35 threat to the environment; that an increase in the petroleum environmental

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1 assurance fee is needed to properly protect the environment; that to
2 effectively and economically administer the fee this act must be effective as
3 of July 1, 1993. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act
4 being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety
5 shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 1993.
6 /s/L. McJunkin
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