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CLEANING UP THE EARTH

(Denver, Colo.) -- Each year eleven million gallons of oil and gas silently seep into American soil from underground storage tanks. The annual lost amount of fuel product is equal to the 1988 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska. The resulting impact on the environment will be no less devastating.

Similar to the damaging effect the oil spill had on Alaska and its inhabitants, petroleum-contaminated soils have become a health hazard to the American people. The contaminated soils can affect ground water and eventually pollute drinking water. One company, Soil Recycling Technologies, (SRTI), has created a service to clean or remediate the soil and alleviate the owner of the problem from any future liability.

Soil becomes contaminated when it comes in contact with petroleum released from underground storage tanks (USTs). At most gas stations across the country, gasoline is stored in USTs. From there the gas moves through pipelines and hoses into the pumps and ultimately into automobiles. "Unfortunately, tanks installed before 1984 didn't have to meet the standards in place today and many of these tanks have leaked," said Jim Short, President of SRTI. "Simply put, the soil is contaminated and should be dealt with before the consequences become more devastating."

The threat posed by leaking USTs to soil and groundwater is immense. The EPA estimates that between 350,000 and 400,000 leaking tanks exist within the United States. To date, approximately 44,000 USTs have been remediated (less than 10% of the

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estimated problem.) In addition, approximately 5,000 new leaking UST sites are identified and confirmed each month in the United States.

As the government became aware of the severity of the problem, regulations were adopted to determine if USTs were leaking. The regulations require upgrading of old tanks and performance standards for installation of new USTs. UST owners are now financially responsible for leaks and pollution associated with their USTs. As a result, many states have established Trust funds which reimburse UST owners or operators for the cost associated with remediation.

In 1980, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, also known as CERCLA or the Superfund was established. It provides for joint and several liability of any person who has brought a hazardous substance to a landfill. Joint and several liability means that anyone can be responsible for the cost of the entire clean up of a landfill site regardless of the volume or toxicity of material that they delivered to the landfill. For example, a service station owner who delivered a relatively minor amount of petroleum-contaminated soils to a landfill could become liable for the entire cost of remediating the landfill under CERCLA.

Historically, UST owners and operators have landfilled their petroleum-contaminated soils. Now, because of CERCLA, contaminated soil owners are looking for alternatives. According to Jim Short, "the potential liability associated with CERCLA should eliminate landfilling as an option for most UST owners and operators.

"The best solution to contaminated soils is the SRTI system," said Short. "We provide an effective, permanent method to clean the soil and at the same time, remove the owner from any potential liability.

"We use a technology known as Low Temperature Thermal Desorption (LTTD). The process heats the soil in a rotary kiln at a temperature high enough to remove the

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petroleum from the soil. The petroleum becomes supplemental fuel to the treatment process. The result is clean, recycled soil that can then be recycled as backfill. The removal of the petroleum contaminant is immediate and is 99+% effective," Short said.. In fact, SRTI's process is so efficient that SRTI has sought and received designation of the treated material as a non-waste in Colorado.

LTTD is only part of SRTI's economic solution. SRTI combines its cost-effective technology with four additional risk management tools to create the SRTI 5-Level Risk Management Plan. Under the plan:

1. SRTI takes legal title to and responsibility for the soil.
2. SRTI removes the contamination during the LTTD process.
3. SRTI presents a Certificate of Destruction and post-treatment test results confirming that the soils meet the applicable clean-up standards.
4. SRTI carries Pollution Liability Insurance protecting owners from any future liability.
5. SRTI guarantees the work and the price for its service.

As leaking USTs continue to be discovered, more people will be utilizing SRTI's services to remediate their soil and eliminate their liability rather than storing their problems in landfills. SRTI's service offers an answer to UST owners' problems, both immediately and in the future.

Soil Recycling Technologies (SRTI), based in Denver, Colorado, provides soil remediation services through a network of facilities across the country. SRTI uses the Low Temperature Thermal Desorption (LTTD) method and provides owners a cost-effective means of eliminating future environmental liability.

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