

# Petroleum products equipment management

Bell's petroleum storage tanks are essential to ensure back-up power for our networks as well as to meet our daily operational needs. They are critical assets in emergencies, as in the Great Ice Storm of 1998 where Bell's central offices played a key role in providing warm shelter for their communities during widescale and prolonged power outages across Quebec.

Our storage tanks may be above ground or underground. Aboveground tanks are easier to secure and inspect and therefore preferred in installation and replacement projects.

We understand the environmental risks associated with every aspect of petroleum product storage and management. Accordingly, our standard of care for these tanks generally surpasses the regulatory requirements of federal, provincial and U.S. state regulations (in the 6 states where Bell is present) that govern the installation, operation and removal of petroleum product tanks.

Of Bell's approximately 3600 petroleum storage tanks, 93% are aboveground. We manage and monitor our petroleum storage tanks and equipment to maintain their integrity and prevent accidental spills. We perform annual inspections on every tank and conduct compliance audits as required by regulations..





Our plan for managing our equipment also includes:

- Reducing (or optimizing) the number of tanks and minimizing the installation of underground tanks
- Replacing single-walled aboveground tanks (with a capacity above 4,000 litres and located outside buildings) with double-walled tanks
- Ensuring that we follow the equipment inspection program rigorously
- Executing a multi-year replacement upgrade plan to replace or upgrade tanks by priority, based on a risk analysis

We have also installed leak alarms on petroleum equipment at key and critical sites and connected them to a centralized control center for 24hr monitoring.

*To the extent this information sheet contains forward-looking statements including, without limitation, outlooks, plans, objectives, strategic priorities, commitments, undertakings and other statements that do not refer to historical facts, these statements are not guarantees of future performance or events, and we caution you against relying on any of these forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties and are based on assumptions that give rise to the possibility that actual results or events could differ materially from our expectations expressed in, or implied by, such forward-looking statements. Refer to BCE Inc.'s most recent annual management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), as updated in BCE Inc.'s subsequent quarterly MD&As, for further information on such risks, uncertainties and assumptions. BCE Inc.'s MD&As are available on its website at [bce.ca](http://bce.ca), on SEDAR at [sedar.com](http://sedar.com) and on EDGAR at [sec.gov](http://sec.gov).*