



# UST Program Update October 2015

## Notification of Revised Federal UST Regulations to UST Owners and Operators

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has recently made revisions to the federal underground storage tank (UST) regulations published in the Federal Register below.

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-07-15/pdf/2015-15914.pdf>

On August 20, 2015, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) issued a letter to UST owners and operators notifying them that they must comply with these new federal UST regulations in addition to California UST statutes and regulations. A copy of the letter is posted at the website below.

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/adm\\_notices/fed\\_regs\\_comp\\_deadline.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/adm_notices/fed_regs_comp_deadline.pdf)

Enclosed with the letter are tables to assist UST owners and operators in determining which of the new requirements in the federal UST regulations will affect USTs operated in the State of California. The tables contain compliance deadlines and a general description of each of the new federal UST regulations that are more stringent than current California UST statutes and regulations. The State Water Board will provide more detailed guidance on how to meet the new federal UST requirements in the near future. For questions regarding the letter or the tables, contact Cory Hootman at [cory.hootman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:cory.hootman@waterboards.ca.gov) or (916) 341-5668.

## CERS FAQ Update

The CERS FAQ titled "General Reporting Requirements for UST Sites," located on the CERS Business Portal Help page has been updated to clarify that UST submittal elements are required to be submitted when the UST permit is due for renewal or when any information has changed. It is not required annually unless an annual UST permit is issued (the default UST permit period is five years, as defined in section 2712(c) of title 23 of the California Code of Regulations. For questions regarding the FAQ, contact Gabriel Herrera at [gabriel.herrera@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:gabriel.herrera@waterboards.ca.gov) or (916) 319-9128.

## September 2015 CERS UST Status Report

The State Water Board has recently published the latest quarterly status reports intended for tracking progress towards entering all UST related business and compliance, monitoring and enforcement (CME) data into the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS). The "September 2015 CERS UST Status Report" can be found at the website below.

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ust/adm\\_notices/qtrly\\_cersrpt\\_2015sept.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/adm_notices/qtrly_cersrpt_2015sept.pdf)

The report shows 93.7% of UST sites are now in CERS. Since the first report in May 2014, there has been an increase from 33% to 61% of UST facilities that now have an accepted UST submittal and an increase from 9% to 74% that now have CME data. The report includes a breakdown by Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) and reporting Unified Program Agency (UPA).

A new goal (Goal 4) has been added to the table that tracks the UPA's CERS related performance during the most recent CUPA evaluation. The State Water Board will use Goal 4 as a factor in its decision to allow UPA's to submit the Report 6 electronically. The next quarterly status report will be in December 2015.

## Abandoned UST Initiative

Next Phase of the Abandoned Tank Initiative: UST Gauge & Pump Pilot Program

After taking regulatory action, conducting investigative research, and providing one-on-one property owner outreach, the State Water Board and CUPAs have obtained compliance at 209 out of the 342 Abandoned UST Sites. USTs remain out of compliance at 133 sites categorized by property owner cooperation. The next phase of the Abandoned Tank Initiative involves conducting field visits at selected sites to gauge the tanks to determine if product is present, measure product, and then pump out the tanks. In July 2015, the UST Gauge & Pump Pilot Program was launched with San Bernardino County and Kern County to test a field approach for efficiently gauging and pumping tanks. This has now expanded to Fresno County. All three CUPAs have already committed resources to resolving their abandoned UST sites, together obtaining compliance at 38 facilities. Forty sites remain in these CUPA jurisdictions where abandoned USTs either have product or the contents are unknown. These sites are a top priority for the Initiative. The CUPAs are working closely with U.S. EPA's contractor to conduct inspections, gauge tanks, and compile site-specific information to facilitate tank pumping activities. So far, tank gauging has been completed at 23 sites. Tank pumping will be prioritized based on potential threats to sensitive populations and water resources. Tank gauging and pumping activities will shift to sites overseen by other CUPAs after San Bernardino, Kern, and Fresno Counties are addressed. For further information, contact Laura Fisher at [laura.fisher@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:laura.fisher@waterboards.ca.gov) or 916-341-5870.

## Office of Tank Tester Licensing

### Request for Interior Tank Lining Companies to Submit Notification of UST Lining Activities

As previously advised in the September 2015 State Water Board Monthly update, many CUPAs have expressed significant concern regarding compatibility issues associated with aging UST infrastructure. Particularly, it has been expressed that tank lining is occurring to repair or address these compatibility issues without understanding the root cause. As a result of the significant number of tank lining events going on throughout the state and not having a clear understanding as to why the increased lining events are occurring, **the State Water Board Office of Tank Tester Licensing is requesting that tank**

**lining companies notify the State Water Board 7 days prior to commencing any tank lining activities.**  
This request is issued in the State Water Board letter below.

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ust/adm\\_notices/interior\\_tank\\_lining\\_notification\\_letter&form.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/adm_notices/interior_tank_lining_notification_letter&form.pdf)