



UST Program Update March 2016

Informational Workshop on Permanent Closure of Single-Walled USTs March 29 in Los Angeles

Underground Storage Tank (UST) Leak Prevention Program staff will discuss in detail the design and construction requirements, as well as the closure requirements, imposed by Senate Bill 445 (Stats. 2014, Ch. 547). Replacing, Removing, or Upgrading Underground Storage Tanks (RUST) Program staff will discuss loan and grant funding opportunities available to assist eligible small business owners/operators to meet the single-walled UST removal requirement. Lastly, UST Cleanup Fund staff will present information regarding cleanup funds available to assist eligible owners/operators with cleaning up petroleum-related contamination from the UST.

The workshop is from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 in the Carmel Room of the Junipero Serra State Office Building at 320 West Fourth St., Los Angeles, CA 90013. For more information, please contact Jessica Botsford at Jessica.botsford@waterboards.ca.gov or (916) 341-7338.

Office of Enforcement Settles Cleanup Fund Cases Related to a Previous Felony Case

The State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board's) Office of Enforcement recently settled five Cleanup Fund cases with site owners that used contractor PW Environmental to investigate and remediate petroleum contamination at their sites. In September of 2015, PW Environmental pled no contest to a felony of grand theft related to overbilling the Cleanup Fund. These settlements resulted in the five site owners waiving their claims and appeals pending with the Cleanup Fund for work performed by PW Environmental and resulted in a savings of more than \$389,000 to the Cleanup Fund.

For more information, see the press releases at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press_room/press_releases/2016/pr21616_pw_claimants.pdf and http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press_room/press_releases/2015/pr092315_pw_release.pdf.

New Spill Container FAQs Posted

The State Water Board released a frequently asked question (FAQ) titled, "Are spill containers required to be approved by an independent testing organization or have affirmative statements of compatibility?" The FAQ explains that spill containers are not required to be approved by an independent testing organization or have affirmative statements of compatibility, though they are required to be compatible with the hazardous substances stored in the UST. The link to the FAQ can be

found on the State Water Board's website at

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/leak_prevention/faq13.shtml .

For more information, please contact Gabriel Herrera at gabriel.herrera@waterboards.ca.gov or (916) 319-9128.

Revised Documents Posted

Three FAQs for the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS) have been updated to reflect new information. Two FAQs, "How should a changed UST Tank ID be handled," for regulator users, and "Can or should I change a UST Tank ID number," for business users, have new information about closing duplicate UST records that result from changing a UST Tank ID number. The third FAQ, "Creating a Valid UST Report 6," reflects the changes that have recently been made to the CERS Report 6. Links to all the FAQs can be found on the State Water Board's website at

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/cers/faqs.shtml.

The "Request/Certification for Paperless Report 6 Reporting" has been updated to reflect recent changes in the CERS Report 6. The application/certification can be found as part of the document titled, "Underground Storage Tank Report 6 Paperless Reporting Requirements" and can be found on our website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/adm_notices.shtml.

For more information, please contact Gabriel Herrera at gabriel.herrera@waterboards.ca.gov or (916) 319-9128.

Email Address to Notify Board of Equalization of Exempted Tank Status

The Board of Equalization (BOE) would like to provide Certified Unified Program Agencies with a new email address to notify the BOE regarding UST exemptions (Health and Safety Code, chapter 6.7, 25283.5) granted or rescinded to UST owners/operators. This information is important to the BOE in case of potential audits or appeals. The BOE assigns exempted UST owners "blanket exemption" account numbers in their Integrated Revenue Information System for tracking purposes, but no reporting requirements are associated with these "blanket exemption" accounts. As a reminder, owners/operators of exempted USTs are not required to make submittals to CERS.

Please notify the BOE of: 1) any changes to UST exemption status; or 2) new UST exemptions granted at STFD-UST@boe.ca.gov with "**STFD-UST Exemption Status**" in the subject line.

For questions related to CERS submittals please contact Gabriel Herrera at Gabriel.herrera@waterboards.ca.gov or (916) 319-9128. For BOE questions, contact Julie Huber at Julie.huber@boe.ca.gov.

Office of Tank Tester Licensing Request for Interior Tank Lining Companies to Submit Notification of UST Lining Activities

As previously advised in the January 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