



UST Program Update May 2019

Semiannual Report 6

Unified Program Agencies (UPAs) successfully navigated the revised format and reporting of the semiannual Report 6 (Report 6) for the July-December 2018 period. This was a difficult reporting period with the new United States Environmental Protection Agency requirement converting from significant operational compliance (SOC) to the technical compliance rate (TCR) performance measures. This change in reporting was complicated by the incomplete development of the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS) 3.0 which required all UPAs to submit a paper version of the Report 6. We appreciate all the hard work to produce timely and accurate Report 6 submittals.

Report 6 is now available in the CERS Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program Reports with the implementation of CERS 3.0. The Report 6 data is derived automatically from the inspection reports as they are uploaded to CERS. CERS identifies the TCR performance measure through specific violations from the 2018 violation library and automatically calculates the necessary information for Report 6.

UPAs previously approved for paperless reporting of the Report 6 can return to reporting paperless. For those UPAs that have not yet completed the approval process for paperless reporting, you are encouraged to continue or begin the process. Prior to being approved for paperless reporting, facility information in CERS including installation dates, system construction and monitoring information needs to be current and correct. Currently, 31 UPAs are approved for the paperless reporting process.

For UPAs to begin the Report 6 data review process for paperless reporting, please contact Mr. Daniel Firth at (916) 341-5711 or at Daniel.Firth@waterboards.ca.gov or with general questions on the Report 6, please contact Mr. Steven Mullery at (916) 341-5850 or at Steven.Mullery@waterboards.ca.gov.

State Water Resources Control Board Staff Review of Sunwest Engineering's Method for Performing Remote Designated Underground Storage Tank Operator Inspections

On April 23, 2019 UPAs were provided, through the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) listserv, a copy of a letter responding to SunWest Engineering's (SunWest's) inquiry concerning

the use of their Electronic Facility Inspection (EFI) for performing remote designated UST operator inspections. State Water Board staff response outlines the EFI process as described in SunWest's inquiry dated June 30, 2017 and determines that EFI satisfies the intent of designated UST operator (DO) inspections. UST owners and operators using EFI must have their facilities visually inspected in accordance with the DO inspection requirements specified in California Code of Regulations, title 23, division 3, chapter 16, sections 2715(b) and 2716. The off-site individual visually observing the conditions at the facility must be a qualified DO. The DO must record the results of the inspection on the "Designated UST Operator Visual Inspection Report" and provide a copy to the UST owner or operator after the inspection is complete. State Water Board's letter shall not be construed as an approval or endorsement of EFI.

For more information regarding this compliance review or for a copy of the letter, please contact Mr. Cory Hootman at (916) 341-5668 or at Cory.Hootman@waterboards.ca.gov.

AC'CENT Environmental Services Dri-sump Containment Tightness Test Method

On March 14, 2019, State Water Board staff responded to an inquiry from AC'CENT Environmental Services regarding the use of their Dri-sump Containment Tightness Test (Dri-sump Test) for secondary containment testing. As we understand it, their method introduces a heavy vapor aerosol into the sump and then an air generator "pulls" the soil gases from around the sump into a viewing chamber to determine if the heavy vapor aerosol is present, indicating the sump is not tight. Our response to AC'CENT Environmental Services outlined the requirements regarding methods used for secondary containment testing and explicitly stated that the method may only be used if it meets one of the following, in the following order: 1) the Dri-sump Test method is included in the manufacturer's published guidelines or standards for testing the secondary containment component; 2) there are no manufacturer's published guidelines or standards for testing the secondary containment component and the Dri-sump Test method is specified in industry code or engineering standards; or 3) there are no published manufacturer's guidelines or standards for testing the secondary containment component, there are no applicable industry codes or engineering standards for testing the secondary containment component, and the Dri-sump Test method is approved by a California registered professional engineer for testing the secondary containment component. At this time, State Water Board staff has concluded that the Dri-sump Test does not meet any of California's secondary containment testing requirements.

For more information regarding the Dri-sump Test, please contact Mr. Cory Hootman at (916) 341-5668 or at Cory.Hootman@waterboards.ca.gov or Mr. Tom Henderson at (916) 319-9128 or at Tom.Henderson@waterboards.ca.gov.

Abandoned Underground Storage Tank Inspections

In a letter dated August 15, 2017, the State Water Board outlined the minimum inspection criteria for documenting and reporting compliance of abandoned UST (AbUST) at facilities with limited or no site access. The inspection checklist and associated letter have been updated to reflect the TCR performance measures associated with the Report 6. Report 6 includes the number of UST compliance inspections conducted, and the number of active USTs. AbUSTs are required to be inspected and reported annually. The letter also addresses AbUST requirements for CERS.

The updated letter and inspection checklist can be found on our website at:

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/ust/docs/abandoned_storage/abust_inspection_letter_and_checklist.pdf

For more information regarding the AbUST requirements, please contact Mr. Tom Henderson at (916) 319-9128 or at Tom.Henderson@waterboards.ca.gov.

How to Report Multi-Day Inspections in CERS

The State Water Board has identified situations where a facility with one CERS identification number has multiple annual compliance inspections (routine inspection) during a 12-month period. Each UST facility should receive one routine inspection.

Routine inspections that take days, weeks, or months should be reported as one inspection regardless of the number of days needed to complete the inspection. Violation dates reported in CERS may not be the same date as the routine inspection date reported in CERS as violations may be observed at any time during a multi-day inspection. If appropriate, a comment may be entered referring the reader to the full inspection record maintained by the UPA.

A routine inspection is a regularly scheduled inspection to evaluate compliance, a routine inspection does not include follow-up inspections. Other inspections include complaint investigations, closure, release investigations, tank installation and/or removal oversight, tank cleaning, and follow-up enforcement inspections, or other inspections that may be in addition to a regularly scheduled inspection.

CERS FAQ, "How to Report Multi-Day Inspections in CERS" may be found on the State Water Board webpage, https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/cers/faqs.html or under Regulator User FAQs in CERS help, <https://cersregulator2.calepa.ca.gov/Help>.

For more information regarding reporting multi-day inspections, please contact Ms. Lisa Jensen at (916) 319-0742 or Lisa.Jensen@waterboards.ca.gov or Mr. Daniel Firth at (916) 341-5711 or at Daniel.Firth@waterboards.ca.gov.

Stay Informed by Signing up for the UST Program Listserv

The State Water Board UST Leak Prevention Unit and Office of Tank Tester Licensing use a listserv, known as Lyris for program announcements and document distribution. State Water Board staff continue to find members of both the UPAs and regulated community who have not heard about the Lyris system. Consequently, regular updates provided by the State Water Board may go unseen. State Water Board staff encourage sharing the listserv information at meetings, technical advisory groups, and regional gatherings. We request your continued assistance with the regulated community and other stakeholders by sharing the listserv opportunity as a method of staying informed.

Subscribe to the UST Program's listserv here:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/ust_subscribe.html. UPA managers and UST inspectors should check the "CUPA/PA UST Managers and Inspectors" box under UST personnel. Members of the regulated community should check the appropriate box for owner/operator, designated operator, manufacturer, etc.