



UST Program Update March 2021

Updates to Local Guidance 150 – Underground Storage Tank Overfill Prevention Systems

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has updated Local Guidance (LG) 150 on overfill prevention equipment (OPE). The purpose of LG 150 is to clarify OPE requirements for underground storage tanks (USTs), the relation between OPE and secondary containment requirements, and when USTs may be exempt from OPE requirements. The document also provides guidance on the OPE inspection criteria, documentation, and record retention.

LG 150 and other LG letters can be found on the State Water Board's [UST Program – Available Local Guidance \(LG\) Letters](#)¹ webpage.

For additional information regarding LG 150, contact:

Mr. Sean Farrow at (916) 324-7493 or Sean.Farrow@waterboards.ca.gov, or

Mr. Tom Henderson at (916) 319-9128 or Tom.Henderson@waterboards.ca.gov.

Energy Policy Act of 2005 Certification

On an annual basis, the State Water Board is required to certify compliance with the UST provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct). One of these certification provisions requires states to confirm the federal 3-year minimum UST facility inspection frequency to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA).

The U.S. EPA directed the State Water Board to utilize the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS) to the extent possible to verify Unified Program Agencies (UPAs) are meeting the federal 3-year minimum UST facility inspection frequency. In February 2021, State Water Board staff reviewed inspection data provided by the UPAs and from CERS for calendar year 2020. State Water Board staff then provided the U.S. EPA with a list of all UST systems requiring inspections, their corresponding inspection dates, and a final certification. State Water Board staff appreciates the

¹ https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/leak_prevention/lgs/

diligence of UPAs in complying with the new inspection reporting requirements, for conducting all necessary inspections, and for providing timely responses to requested CERS review.

For additional information regarding the EAct Certification, contact:

Ms. Jessica Botsford at (916) 341-7338 or Jessica.Botsford@waterboards.ca.gov, or Ms. Laura Fisher at (916) 341-5870 or Laura.Fisher@waterboards.ca.gov.

23rd Unified Program Annual Training Conference – Underground Storage Tank Leak Prevention Presentations

The 23rd Unified Program Annual Training Conference (Conference) began February 2, 2021 and will continue through March 18, 2021. State Water Board staff appreciate the opportunity to present timely and diverse subject matter at this year's Conference, and further appreciates the UPAs efforts in adapting to this year's virtual platform and contributing their valuable knowledge and experience. The training sessions provide numerous opportunities to educate attendees on the intricacies of the UST Program, ultimately benefiting the long-term success of the Unified Program.

Below are brief summaries of UST Leak Prevention staff presentations:

Panoramic View of the Underground Storage Tank Leak Prevention Program

Laura Fisher presented an extensive overview of UST Program activities over the last year and upcoming activities planned for the future of the UST Program. The presentation covered California's continued small number of unauthorized releases compared to the national average as well as the connection between inspections and compliance. Additional topics included information on ongoing programs such as the EAct Certification, the State Water Board's response to COVID-19, Airport Hydrant Systems, improvements at the Office of Tank Tester Licensing, and UST regulations that became effective during 2020.

Improving Underground Storage Tank Programs by Proactively Reconciling Common Findings

Jessica Botsford and Wesley Franks presented a discussion on some of the more common and important findings identified during triennial Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) Performance Evaluations, and proactive steps which can be taken to reconcile these occurrences. Session topics included closure of USTs, local ordinances, UST operating permits, temporary closure of USTs, abandoned USTs, and enhanced leak detection testing.

Infrequently Asked Questions Regarding Pipe

Tom Henderson presented an in-depth perspective of all things piping to address difficult UST construction and monitoring questions. Additional topics covered included piping exemptions, single-walled piping requirements, secondary containment, line tightness testing requirements, new forms, and communication. Finally, Tom discussed the piping requirements for all UST systems after the single-walled tanks are permanently closed no later than December 31, 2025.

The presentations outlined above can be found on the [CUPA Forum](#)² webpage. State Water Board staff look forward to seeing everyone in person at next year's Conference.

For additional information regarding UST Leak Prevention staff presentations, contact: Mr. Tom Henderson at (916) 319-9128 or Tom.Henderson@waterboards.ca.gov, or Ms. Jessica Botsford at (916) 341-7338 or Jessica.Botsford@waterboards.ca.gov.

State Water Board Underground Storage Tank Forms Web Page

UST forms required for use by California Code of Regulation, title 23, chapter 16, and the Semi-Annual UST Report (Report 6) form, are now located on the newly developed State Water Board [UST Reporting and Inspection Forms](#)³ webpage.

For additional information regarding UST forms, contact: Mr. Tom Henderson at (916) 319-9128 or Tom.Henderson@waterboards.ca.gov, or Ms. Laura Fisher at (916) 341-5870 or Laura.Fisher@waterboards.ca.gov.

International Code Council Certification Using Proctored Remote Online Testing

The International Code Council (ICC) has begun offering examinations for the California UST Inspector, California UST System Designated Operator, and California UST Service Technician using the [Proctored Remote Online Testing Option](#)⁴ (PRONTO). PRONTO will increase the timeliness of appointments and will assist those who may have been delayed from taking examinations due to social distancing associated with COVID-19 health and safety protocols. ICC examinations will continue to be available in person at Pearson VUE facilities.

² <https://calcupa.org/conference/index.html>

³ https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/publications/forms.html

⁴ <https://www.iccsafe.org/professional-development/assessment-center/proctored-remote-online-testing/>

For additional information regarding ICC examinations, contact:

Mr. Tom Henderson at (916) 319-9128 or Tom.Henderson@waterboards.ca.gov, or

Ms. Laura Fisher at (916) 341-5870 or Laura.Fisher@waterboards.ca.gov.

United States Environmental Protection Agency's Underground Storage Tank Finder

The U.S. EPA has developed [UST Finder](#)⁵, an ARCGIS, web-based application comprised of UST and leaking UST (LUST) information. UST Finder contains comprehensive data and mapping of USTs and LUST sites reported by the states and territories, which includes locations and facility information of both active and closed USTs and LUST sites. California UST information was obtained from CERS September 2020 and LUST information was obtained from GeoTracker February 2019. UST Finder also contains information on the proximity of USTs and LUST sites to: 1) surface and groundwater public drinking water protection areas; 2) estimated number of private domestic wells and number of people living nearby; 3) flood zones; and 4) wildfire events. A user of UST Finder can import ARCGIS data files for additional layers not currently available in UST Finder, and export UST and LUST site information as ARCGIS data files for use by other software programs.

UST Finder is supported by the following web browsers: Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Apple Safari, and Microsoft Edge. To assist with using UST Finder the U.S. EPA has also developed instructional guidance and three instructional videos. UPAs and other interested parties may access UST Finder and these guidance materials by using the link provided above or by navigating to the [Division of Water Quality – Underground Storage Tank Program](#)⁶ webpage and clicking on the “U.S. EPA UST Finder” bullet in the section titled “From USEPA.”

For additional information regarding the U.S. EPA's UST Finder, contact:

Mr. Sean Farrow at (916) 324-7493 or Sean.Farrow@waterboards.ca.gov, or

Mr. Tom Henderson at (916) 319-9128 or Tom.Henderson@waterboards.ca.gov.

Updates to American Petroleum Institute Recommended Practice 1604 – Closure of Underground Petroleum Storage Tanks

The American Petroleum Institute (API) has updated Recommended Practice (RP) 1604, the [Closure of Underground Petroleum Storage Tanks](#)⁷, dated February, 2021. API's updated RP 1604 covers procedures for the closure in place,

⁵ <https://www.epa.gov/ust/ust-finder>

⁶ <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/>

⁷ <https://standards.globalspec.com/std/14362425/api-rp-1604>

permanent closure by removal, temporary closure, and off-site disposal of UST systems.

For additional information regarding API's updated RP 1604, contact:

Mr. Tom Henderson at (916) 319-9128 or Tom.Henderson@waterboards.ca.gov, or

Ms. Laura Fisher at (916) 341-5870 or Laura.Fisher@waterboards.ca.gov.