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GOVERNOR

JARED BLUMENFELD
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

State Water Resources Control Board

October 2, 2019

To: Unified Program Agencies and Other Interested Parties

REGULATORY STATUS OF UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS STORING AQUEOUS UREA SOLUTION

On August 31, 2010, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) provided guidance on the regulatory status of underground storage tanks (USTs) storing urea solution, commonly known as diesel exhaust fluid (DEF). This letter supersedes the previous guidance dated August 31, 2010 regarding the allowable percentage of urea in DEF, found on the State Water Board Technical UST Program Notifications page: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/tech_notices.html.

DEF is used in Selective Catalytic Reduction technology to reduce the emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NOx) from diesel engine exhaust. Standard DEF is 32.5 percent urea solution; however, it can vary slightly in composition, generally in a range of 31.8 – 33.2 percent urea solution. Standard DEF is not a hazardous substance as defined in Health and Safety Code, chapter 6.7, section 25281 and is not regulated under part 280 of 40 Code of Federal Regulations.

If you have any additional questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Tom Henderson at tom.henderson@waterboards.ca.gov or (916) 319-9128.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura S. Fisher".

Laura S. Fisher, Chief
UST Leak Prevention Unit &
Office of Tank Tester Licensing

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR