



UST Program Update January 2023

UST Facility Compliance Inspection Reporting Deadline

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) sent a letter to the Unified Program Agencies (UPAs) on November 18, 2022 regarding the annual underground storage tank (UST) facility compliance inspection reporting requirements. California Code of Regulations, title 23, division 3, chapter 16 (UST Regulations), section 2713(d) requires the UPAs to report to the State Water Board **no later than January 31st** each year, the number of UST facilities where a compliance inspection was not performed over the previous calendar year.

To assist UPAs in verifying the accuracy of UST facility compliance inspections, the State Water Board and the California Environmental Protection Agency created the [UST Routine Inspection Frequency¹](#) search tool. UPAs should utilize this tool early to identify those facilities where a compliance inspection has not been performed during the 2022 calendar year, or to ensure the correct data has been properly uploaded to California Environmental Reporting System (CERS). This report will assist UPAs in identifying missing inspections and/or inaccurate data. State Water Board staff strongly suggest UPAs run the CERS *UST Routine Inspection Frequency* search now. As a reminder, virtual or desk audit UST compliance inspections without an on-site element do not satisfy the UST compliance inspection provision of the Energy Policy Act.

For more information regarding compliance inspections reporting requirements, contact: Mr. Tom Henderson at (916) 319-9128 or Tom.Henderson@waterboards.ca.gov.

Report 6 Deadlines

State Water Board will soon distribute the Semi-Annual UST Program Report (Report 6) forms and instructions for the July 1 through December 31, 2022 reporting period. The completed Report 6 documents are due to the State Water Board no later than

¹ <https://cersregulator2.calepa.ca.gov/Reports/USTRoutineInspectionFrequencySearch>

March 1, 2023. Consistent with the last several reporting periods, UPAs will continue to report field constructed tanks, facilities with USTs that have received a red tag, and facilities that have abandoned or temporarily closed USTs.

For additional information regarding Report 6 requirements, contact;
Mr. Steven Mullery at (916) 341-5850 or Steven.Mullery@waterboards.ca.gov or
Mr. Tom Henderson at (916) 319-9128 or Tom.Henderson@waterboards.ca.gov.

Technical Compliance Rate for Abandoned Tanks

The UPAs are required to report the technical compliance rate (TCR) for inspected USTs, to include abandoned USTs, as part of the Report 6. The State Water Board then reports the collected TCR data to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). The State Water Board has recently observed TCR data for abandoned UST claiming the systems are in compliance and meet all the TCR requirements. In 2019, the State Water Board provided an [inspection checklist for abandoned tanks](#)² to assist UPA inspectors. The State Water Board encourages UPAs to utilize the inspection checklist as it ensures the abandoned UST are correctly noted as out of compliance and not meeting the TCR requirements. As a reminder, since abandoned tank facilities are often inaccessible, the annual compliance inspection may be performed without an on-site inspection component. Finally, abandoned USTs must be recorded in the CERS. The State Water Board published in the CERS [Frequently Asked Questions](#)³ the process to report abandoned USTs in CERS in 2017.

For additional information regarding TCR for abandoned tanks, please contact:
Mr. Austin Lemire-Baeten at (916) 327-5612, or
Austin.Lemire-Baeten@waterboards.ca.gov.

UST Permanent Closure Notification

Beginning in 2018, the State Water Board clarified the UPA duties to notify a UST owner or operator in writing that a permanently closed UST has, to the satisfaction of the UPA, been removed from the UST program. State Water Board staff developed a UST permanent closure notification template that is now available on [State Water Board CUPA Evaluation website](#)⁴. UPAs are encouraged to use this template to confirm that

² https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/docs/abandoned_storage/abust_inspection_letter_and_checklist.pdf

³ https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/cers/tutorials/ru06_abandoned_usts.html

⁴ <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/performance-evaluations.html>

an owner or operator has properly closed their UST(s) in accordance with Health and Safety Code, chapter 6.7, section 25298(c) and UST Regulations, section 2672.

For additional information regarding the UST closure procedures, please contact: Mr. Tom Henderson at (916) 319-9128 or Tom.Henderson@waterboards.ca.gov.

New UST Leak Prevention Staff

The UST Leak Prevention Unit is pleased to announce Ms. Char'Mane Robinson has been hired to support the Certified Unified Program Agency Performance Evaluation team. Char'Mane recently obtained her Master of Science in Environmental Geosciences from California State University East Bay. She previously worked at the Office of Information Management and Analysis, Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program team and has also worked for the State Water Board, Office of Enforcement conducting field inspections of wastewater, drinking water, and industrial facilities. Char'Mane can be reached at Charmane.Robinson@waterboards.ca.gov.