



# UST Program Update November 2024

## Facility Compliance Inspection Reporting

California Code of Regulations, title 23, division 3, chapter 16, (Underground Storage Tank (UST) Regulations), section 2713(d) requires the Unified Program Agencies (UPA) to report to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) by January 31st each year the number of UST facilities where a compliance inspection was not performed over the previous calendar year. The State Water Board is required to report annually to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) on several performance measures as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAAct). One of the EPAAct performance measures requires states to certify that all UST facilities have complied with the federal UST inspection frequency requirement.

To assist UPAs in verifying the accuracy of UST facility compliance inspections, UPAs should use the [UST Routine Inspection Frequency](#)<sup>1</sup> search tool in the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS). The State Water Board sent a [letter to UPA managers on October 18, 2024](#)<sup>2</sup> which included instructions on how to use the UST Routine Inspection Frequency search tool. UPAs should use this tool early to identify facilities where a compliance inspection has not been performed during the 2024 calendar year, or to ensure the correct data has been properly uploaded to CERS. This report will assist UPAs in identifying missing inspections or inaccurate data.

State Water Board staff strongly suggest UPAs run the CERS UST Routine Inspection Frequency search now and again in mid-December. 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 EPAAct.

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

## Public Records Information Web Page

In addition to the UST compliance inspection reporting, the EPAAct requires states to annually provide a public summary of the number of current UST facilities, systems, inspections performed, and available data on unauthorized release sources and causes. On November 1, 2024, the State Water Board published the [Public Records Summary](#)

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

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/docs/ust-compliance-inspection.pdf>

[Information of Underground Storage Tanks web page](#)<sup>3</sup>. The reporting period summary is from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 and includes the percentage of UST systems in compliance with the technical compliance rate (TCR) performance measure.

For information regarding the public records web page, contact:  
Tom Henderson at (916) 319-9128 or [Tom.Henderson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Tom.Henderson@waterboards.ca.gov).

## Red Tag Data

The State Water Board has updated the red tag application data and significant violations by type on the [Red Tag Requirements and Guidance webpage](#)<sup>4</sup> using information provided as part of the January – June 2024 Semiannual UST Program Report (Report 6). From July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, 22 UPAs applied red tags on 159 USTs.

For additional information regarding the red tag application data, contact:  
Magnolia Busse at (916) 341-5870 or [Magnolia.Busse@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Magnolia.Busse@waterboards.ca.gov).

## CUPA Evaluation Process Website Updates

The State Water Board evaluation staff (evaluation staff) have uploaded additional content to the [CUPA Evaluation Process Website](#)<sup>5</sup>, specifically the following sections:

### [Date Range of Information Evaluated](#)

Explains how data and documents from CUPA or CERS are reviewed within a date range set by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), as outlined in the Notice Letter and Summary of Findings.

### [UST Permit Review](#)

Discusses the review process for the UST Operating Permit and highlights common discrepancies found in CUPA's UST Operating Permits.

### [Overfill Prevention Equipment](#)

Details the review process for the overfill prevention equipment method on USTs. It also includes a step-by-step explanation of how data is obtained and analyzed from CERS.

### [Waste Oil Tanks](#)

Details the review process for the overfill prevention equipment method on waste oil tanks. It also includes a step-by-step explanation of how data is obtained and analyzed from CERS.

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<sup>3</sup> [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/leak\\_prevention/public\\_record\\_sum\\_info.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/leak_prevention/public_record_sum_info.html)

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/enforcement/red\\_tag\\_regs\\_index.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/enforcement/red_tag_regs_index.html)

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/leak\\_prevention/performance-evaluations/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/leak_prevention/performance-evaluations/)

### [Abandoned Underground Storage Tanks](#)

Details the review process for the CUPA's abandoned tank inspections and CERS data.

### [Return to Compliance](#)

Outlines how return to compliance (RTC) data is analyzed, along with components that affect RTC.

### [Technical Compliance Rate](#)

Provides a detailed summary of the technical compliance rate and its importance. It also includes a table of all violation numbers associated with U.S. EPA TCR (USEPATCR) 9a-9d and discusses how the evaluation staff analyzes TCR data from Report 6, comparing it with the California average.

### [Unresolved Deficiencies and Findings](#)

Discusses the process of reviewing unresolved deficiencies or findings from the previous evaluation cycle. It explains when a deficiency or finding should be resolved or carried over to the next evaluation cycle.

### [What Starts with the Notice Letter \(Updated\)](#)

Updated with the most current Pre-notification and Notification letter templates for reference, including the list of documents evaluation staff request as part of the facility file review.

For additional information regarding the CUPA Evaluation Process website, contact: Michelle Suh at (916) 323-0878 or [Michelle.Suh@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Michelle.Suh@waterboards.ca.gov).

## **Veeder-Root TLS-XB**

The Veeder-Root TLS-XB is an expansion box used in conjunction with the TLS-450PLUS to provide additional sensor and probe inputs. The TLS-XB is installed at facilities that require additional modules for release detection equipment that the TLS-450PLUS cannot provide space for by itself. This allows larger facilities to expand their sensor and probe usage beyond the TLS-450PLUS factory default.

The TLS-XB cannot operate independently of the TLS-450PLUS and does not change the release detection capability of the TLS-450PLUS. Therefore, the TLS-XB is not considered to be a separate monitoring panel and is not required to be listed on Local Guidance letter 113. Facilities using the TLS-450PLUS that require additional modules at their facility may use the TLS-XB to meet their capacity. Additionally, individuals installing and testing the TLS-XB must possess a current training certification from the manufacturer before performing the work.

For additional information regarding the Veeder-Root TLS-XB, contact:  
Austin Lemire-Baeten at (916) 327-5612 or [Austin.Lemire-Baeten@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Austin.Lemire-Baeten@waterboards.ca.gov).

## Line Leak Detectors on Manifolded Pipe

UST Regulations, section 2636(f)(2) requires all buried, pressurized pipe to be monitored by a line leak detector (LLD) capable of detecting a release equivalent to three gallons per hour (gph) at 10 pounds per square inch (psi). Recently, staff have observed several scenarios in the field where LLDs were configured such that portions of the buried pressurized pipe were unmonitored, or the LLDs were installed in a way that otherwise rendered them ineffective.

There are two types of LLDs: mechanical LLDs and electronic LLDs. A key difference between the two types is that mechanical LLDs only detect releases downstream of their installation location while most electronic LLDs can detect releases both upstream and downstream of where they are installed. Figure 1 below shows a mechanical LLD installation where the buried, pressurized pipe (in red) between the turbines and mechanical LLD is unmonitored. The green line depicts the monitored product line downstream of the mechanical LLD.

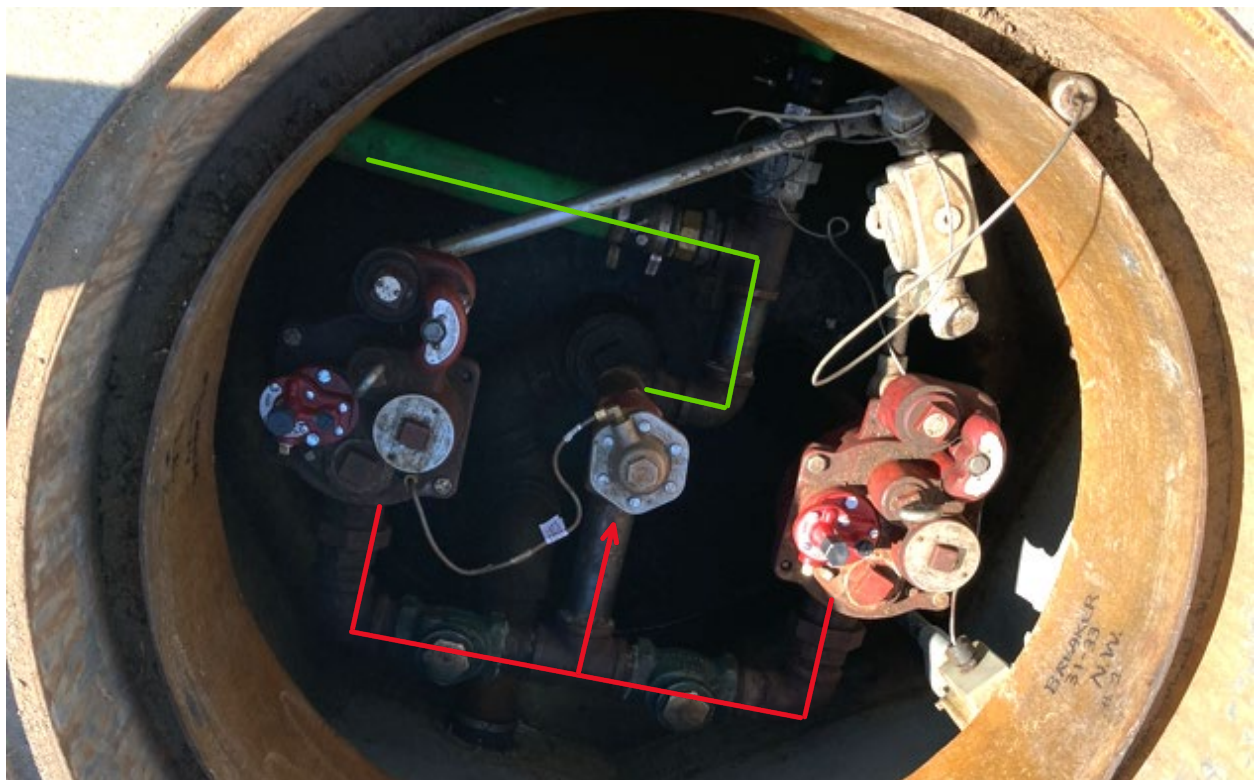


Figure 1: Bay Area TAG. (2024). MLLD with Two STPs [Email].

There are likely several ways to correctly monitor the system above. One example is using an electronic LLD instead of the mechanical LLD shown in Figure 1 to monitor the

pipings upstream of the LLD (in red). The electronic LLD would need to be programmed to shut down both turbines if a three gph release was detected.

The State Water Board is aware that some LLD manufacturer installation procedures state the installation shown in Figure 1 is appropriate for mechanical LLDs. Manufacturers have incorrectly assumed that the unmonitored portion of the line is secondarily contained and therefore does not need to be monitored. The State Water Board is working with those manufacturers to correct their installation procedures.

For additional information regarding LLDs on manifolded pipe, contact:  
Austin Lemire-Baeten at (916) 327-5612 or [Austin.Lemire-Baeten@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Austin.Lemire-Baeten@waterboards.ca.gov).