
State Water Resources Control Board

UST CLEANUP FUND PROGRAM NEWS: ELECTRONIC INVOICING – NOW AVAILABLE FOR CLAIMS WITH NEW LETTERS OF COMMITMENT SUBMITTING OLD COSTS

(March 21, 2016)

The UST Cleanup Fund is issuing Letters of Commitment (LOCs) to claims on the Priority List. Many of these claims contain over 20 years of costs for work performed at their site. As these claims receive LOCs, claimants may submit Reimbursement Requests (RRs) to the UST Cleanup Fund for reimbursement of eligible costs. The UST Cleanup Fund prefers to receive the initial and future RRs for these claims electronically.

Stakeholders have informed the UST Cleanup Fund that many claimants prefer to submit RRs electronically for these older costs, but that some information may be missing, and uploading RRs electronically would not be possible. Health and Safety Code section 25299.57(b)(2)(C) and Fund Regulations section 2812(d)¹ require specific information to be submitted. However, the UST Cleanup Fund will review the RRs to determine whether a complete cost eligibility review can occur with the information provided.

Beginning March 21, 2016, the GeoTracker CUF Invoicing portal is able to accept electronic RR submissions for claims with new LOCs for costs **invoiced prior to January 1, 2012** that contain missing information and would result in invoice line item data gaps on the Electronic Invoicing Spreadsheet. Claimants are required to **complete ALL** fields (columns) on the Electronic Invoicing Spreadsheet. However, in fields (columns) that would contain missing information, claimants are required to use the values as indicated in the CUF Invoicing User Guide to complete the Electronic Invoicing Spreadsheet. All other rules outlined in the CUF Invoicing User Guide still apply.

IMPORTANT: The UST Cleanup Fund, in conjunction with the Office of Enforcement Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Unit, routinely audits, investigates and, as necessary, prosecutes for fraud, waste, and abuse against the program. Each claimant is responsible for actively monitoring its

¹ The State Water Board's regulations concerning the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund (Fund) are codified at California Code of Regulations, title 23, division 3, chapter 18, section 2803 et seq. All references to the "Fund Regulations" are to the applicable sections of title 23 of the California Code of Regulations.

consultant and thoroughly examining costs in RRs submitted to the UST Cleanup Fund. Claimants should question costs that are not clear or appear inconsistent with activities being conducted at the site. Consultants should use professional judgment and raise issues to their claimants, regulatory agency, and the UST Cleanup Fund. Consultants should also ensure invoices adhere to requirements as stated in Health and Safety Code section 25299.57(b)(2)(C) and Fund Regulations section 2812(d).

All claims are subject to audit at any time. Claimants and their consultants should maintain an accurate record-keeping and financial management system that provides efficient accountability of all reimbursed funds used to clean up the above-mentioned site. Retain records continually for at least three years after final payment from the UST Cleanup Fund. The retention period shall be extended until completion of any audit in progress.

~~~HELPFUL LINKS~~~

USTCF Homepage:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ustcf/

CUF Invoicing User Guide

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ustcf/docs/fund_gto/electronic_invoicing_user_guide.pdf

CUF Invoicing Spreadsheet Template

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ustcf/gto/docs/electronic_invoicing_spreadsheet_template.xls

~~~CONTACT US~~~

If you have any questions, please contact us by:

Email to: ustcleanupfund@waterboards.ca.gov

Subject Line: "CUF Electronic Invoicing"

Email inquiries will be responded to within 48 hours.

Telephone Message Line: 1-800-813-Fund (3863)

Telephone messages will be responded to within 48 hours.

~~~FRAUD-PREVENTION NEWS~~~

Report Potential Fraud and See Press Releases on Fraud-Prevention Activities:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ustcf/fraud.shtml

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK CLEANUP FUND FRAUD, WASTE & ABUSE PREVENTION INFORMATIONAL SHEET

On September 25, 2014, the Governor signed into law SB 445 (Hill) Underground storage tanks (UST): hazardous substances: petroleum: groundwater and surface water contamination. This new law will assist with investigating and combating fraud against the Cleanup Fund (Fund) by:

- Authorizing the State Water Board to impose administrative civil liability penalties of up to \$500,000 per violation on those who make fraudulent claims and misrepresentations to the Fund.
- Barring claimants and consultants convicted of fraud against the Fund from further participation in the Fund.
- Authorizing the State Water Board to recover the costs associated with investigating and prosecuting fraud cases against the Fund from persons who were proven to have engaged in fraud.
- Granting administrative authority to prosecute cases

View cases related to fraud, waste, and abuse prevention: Visit the website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ustcf/fraud.shtml.

Report potential fraud: Call our toll-free message line at 1-800-813-FUND (3863) or email the Fraud Reporting Complaint Form to ReportFraud@waterboards.ca.gov. The Fraud Reporting Complaint Form can be found at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ustcf/docs/fraudcomplaint_form.pdf.

For questions regarding the Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Prevention Unit, contact Ms. Kim Sellards, PG, CFE at (916) 341-5869 or Kim.Sellards@waterboards.ca.gov.