



Lahontan Water Board Program Fact Sheet FY 2017-18

Underground Storage Tank (UST)

Overview

The UST program protects public health and safety and the environment from releases of petroleum and other hazardous substances from UST systems. The program is administered by the State Water Board and consists of four program elements: leak prevention, cleanup, enforcement, and tank tester licensing. The Region received 3.0 PYs for FY 17/18 to oversee the cleanup element of the UST program. Approximately 85 percent of the funding is provided through the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund and the remaining 15 percent is provided by the federal government. On July 1, 2017, there were 59 open Water Board-lead UST cleanup cases in the region.

Key Efforts

Due to the maturity of the program and State Water Board's 2012 approval of the "Plan for Implementation of Low Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy and Additional Program Improvements" (Plan), all high-threat cases are being addressed and the caseload primarily consists of mature cases and is shrinking. Of the 59 open cases, 17 were identified as "Open-Eligible for Closure" and 18 did not have responsive or willing responsible parties. Most active cases are in the southern Lahontan Region with 24 in San Bernardino County and 12 in Los Angeles County. Staff's primary focus for the fiscal year will be to provide timely and consistent guidance to ensure protection of human health and the environment, issues closures for eligible cases, and coordinate with the State Water Board and USEPA to address remaining "Inactive" cases, in addition to:

- Providing review and comment on workplans and reports within 60 days of receipt
- Reviewing each case annually
- Filling out "Policy" checklists and "Paths to Closure" every year
- Directing investigation and remedial actions to resolve "Impediments to Closure" identified during the annual "Policy" checklist reviews
- Coordinating and collaborating with responsible parties and UST Cleanup Fund staff to develop "Project Execution Plans"
- Conducting public participation for all proposed closures
- Providing technical and contract assistance to the EAR program
- Ensuring information in Geotracker is up to date and available for public review
- Participating in Program roundtables and training

Accomplishments (March 2017 to Present)

- Updated “Policy” checklists and “Paths to Closure”
- Responded to work plans and case closure requests within 60 days over 90 percent of the time
- Worked cooperatively with State Water Board and USEPA staff to identify potential paths to closure for select “stuck” cases.
- Assisted in the development of project execution plans for each of the six Emergency, Abandoned, and Recalcitrant (EAR) program nominated sites.
- Used informal enforcement directives to achieve monitoring well abandonment prior to closure for several stalled cases.
- Ensured adequate public participation opportunity for proposed closures in Baker area through coordination with the Office of Public Participation
- Updated and uploaded information to Geotracker for public review

Performance Targets and Measures

Summary of Performance Targets for FY 16-17

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| • Number of projected case closures: 18 | Completed: 22 |
| • Number of projected cases into active remediation*: 1 | Completed: 1 |

Performance Targets for FY 17-18 and Progress to Date

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|---|----------------------|
| • Number of projected case closures: 15 | Completed to date: 3 |
| • Number of projected cases into active remediation*: 3 | Completed to date: 1 |

**This target reflects the number of cases that have progressed from investigation to active remediation during the year.*

Unaddressed Work

Scanning and uploading of existing hard copy reports and files into Geotracker.

“Inactive” cases that have not been nominated to the EAR program will likely continue to languish due to a lack of willing or responsive responsible parties.