



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Governor Brad Little
Director John H. Tippets

March 27, 2020

Suzanne Budge
PO Box 984
Boise, ID 83701

Subject: *Implementation of Underground Storage Tank Rules during COVID-19*

Tank Owners, Operators, and Service Providers:

To ensure the safety of your employees and our staff, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will not be conducting routine underground storage tank (UST) compliance inspections at this time. The “Rules Regulating Underground Storage Tank Systems” (IDAPA 58.01.07) must still be adhered to; however, if you temporarily cease operations, DEQ will, within reason, be flexible on a majority of compliance due dates and enforcement.

In areas where public health and safety restrictions are in effect, DEQ recommends the following and will assess compliance with these items at a later date:

Health and Safety

Closely adhere to all federal, state, and local public health and safety guidelines.

Secure the UST Facility

Leak detection, monitoring, and cathodic protection equipment must remain on and be monitored. Respond to leak detection and monitoring alarms appropriately. If your facility’s current leak detection method and/or equipment do not allow remote access, DEQ recommends installing this feature so no delays occur in monthly leak detection or alarm notifications. If this is not feasible, consider assigning one person to physically check the leak detection equipment and records at least once a month.

Documentation

Document delays in conducting tests, maintenance, inspections, and record keeping that prevent your facility from compliance and communicate these delays to DEQ so we can work with you on an appropriate schedule. Ensure you document that all leak detection, monitoring, and cathodic protection equipment remain operational, and all leak detection and monitoring alarms have been responded to appropriately. Documentation should include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Communication with designated operators and service providers
- Postponements and associated reasons
- Records of public closures or restrictions
- Other relevant information showing the efforts made to maintain compliance

If there are no public health and safety restrictions in your area, and you are conducting business as usual, continue to follow your management plan and record-keeping binder. DEQ will assess compliance with these items at a later date.

DEQ's underground and leaking underground storage tank staff is available to assist you and can be reached at the email and phone numbers below. We will still receive and process documents (e.g., testing, notification forms, and sampling and remediation reports). DEQ may attend UST installations, closures, and sampling and remediation events as needed.

If you have any questions, contact your regional compliance officer:

Coeur d'Alene Region—Marc Kalbaugh, (208) 769-1422, marc.kalbaugh@deq.idaho.gov

Lewiston Region—Dana Harper, (208) 799-4370, dana.harper@deq.idaho.gov

Boise Region UST—Chris Bowe, (208) 373-0550, chris.bowe@deq.idaho.gov

Boise Region LUST—Matt Pabich, (208) 373-0550, matthew.pabich@deq.idaho.gov

Twin Falls Region—Eric Bennett, (208) 373-0180, eric.bennett@deq.idaho.gov

Pocatello Region—Julie Worth, (208) 236-6160, julie.worth@deq.idaho.gov

Idaho Falls Region—Michael Summers, (208) 528-2650, michael.summers@deq.idaho.gov

You may also contact Mark Olsen at (208) 373-0138, mark.olsen@deq.idaho.gov or me at (208) 373-0347, kristi.lowder@deq.idaho.gov.

This letter and updates will be posted on our website at <https://www.deq.idaho.gov/assistance-resources/covid-19-response/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Kristi Lowder".

Kristi Lowder
UST/LUST Program Manager
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality