

Tankline Bulletin

JUNE 2025

New Contractor Rules

On May 8, 2025, the Environmental Quality Commission voted to adopt updates to Chapter 340, Division 160 of the Oregon Administrative Rules. The EQC is the commission, appointed by the Governor, who oversees DEQ on her behalf. And OAR 340-160 are the rules that govern the licensing and work requirements for the contractors who perform services on regulated underground storage tanks.

There are two very important things to know upfront about the new requirements:

- **The new rules come into effect on July 1, 2025**
- **They apply only to UST Service Providers and Supervisors.**

The updated rules establish new requirements for notifications for testing and repairs, for reporting of test results, and for permission to proceed past defined points during tank work.

DEQ is hosting a Zoom webinar on June 25, 2025, 9 - 11am, to present the changes and answer questions. This webinar will be recorded and made available afterward on DEQ's website. To register for the webinar, go to: <https://bit.ly/4kceUA9>

New UST Staff

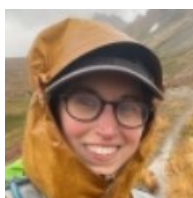
The UST Compliance Program is very happy to welcome three new inspectors and our Duty Officer, who are currently with us on limited duration assignments.



Diamond Oden and Alex Spencer come to UST from the Air Quality Program, where you might already have met them during GDF inspections.



Blake Gilbert comes to UST from the Vehicle Inspection Program, the one program at DEQ that does even more inspections that we do.



Emily Litke is our UST Duty Officer. She processes financial responsibility and license submittals in YDO and follows up with enforcements.

Your DEQ Online

The UST Program went live in YDO on January 7, 2025. It has definitely been a challenging transition for everyone. We are grateful for your patience and understand your frustration with this piece of software. If you have not yet signed up for your Responsible Official account, you will have to do so when it's time to submit proof of financial responsibility for your UST system. DEQ no longer accepts paper or email submittals for UST.

The main DEQ page for YDO is here: <https://bit.ly/45vHnw7> (It's also the top result when you search for "Your DEQ Online.") From here, you can sign up for your user account, ("Your User Account,") and, with a little digging, find the user guides for the various UST submittals ("How to Use Your DEQ Online," then click on "Underground Storage Tanks," then on "How Do I Use Your DEQ Online?") This page also contains a link to the "Your DEQ Online Help Desk," which answers questions about general, non-UST topics like verifying your identity.

One of the hardest things to figure out is how to link your sites to the UST submittals. We have made a little video that shows this process: <https://bit.ly/4mD9K1C>

UST Program Coordinator Dave Pardue is the YDO "Super User" for the UST Program. He is the one who wrote the user guides for UST submittals and can help you if you get stuck. His cell number is 503-360-4287 and his email is dave.pardue@deq.oregon.gov

Compliance Inspections

The 2005 Energy Policy Act requires that every UST facility in the US be inspected every three years. Oregon has struggled with this requirement, but with the new staff you met on the first page, we are well on our way to catching up with our inspection backlog. One big milestone is that, by the end of 2025, we hope to have inspected every gas station since our last big rule update, which came in to effect on October 1, 2020.

Recall that October 1, 2020 was the deadline for every UST that powers an emergency generator to have functional release detection. It was also the deadline to begin monthly and annual walkthrough inspections, and overfill prevention testing and the hydrostatic testing of spill buckets and containment sumps used for interstitial monitoring. These tests are required every three years, so, by the end of 2026, every UST facility that was in operation on October 1, 2020 will have had to do three sets of tests.

We're continuing to learn all the ways YDO helps us see the bigger picture of the UST universe in Oregon. For example, so far this fiscal year (from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025), with your help, our UST inspectors have conducted more than 300 site visits and inspected over 950 underground storage tanks across the state. Inspectors have also been present for 37 tank installations and 49 tank decommissionings during this same time period.

We know that site visits can sometimes feel stressful, and we truly appreciate your ongoing cooperation and partnership. These visits are a critical part of protecting Oregon's environment and ensuring safe fuel storage practices.

While it's easy to focus on the day-to-day operations at your own facility, it's important to remember the broader context. Your site is one of 1,638 active UST facilities across Oregon. The tanks at your location are part of a much larger system of 5,167 underground storage tanks statewide. Together, these tanks store more than 53 million gallons of petroleum at any given time.

Thank you for being an essential part of this work. We appreciate your efforts in helping protect Oregon's groundwater.

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800-452-4011 | TTY: 711 | deqinfo@deq.oregon.gov

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