

UTAH TANK NEWS

**Summer
2020**

DEQ/DERR Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic

by Mark Crim

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The coronavirus pandemic has taken the world for a ride we are not likely to get off for some time, and the business world makes adjustments for worker and customer safety. On March 12, 2020, with a directive from the Governor's office, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) put into place actions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Utah.

Recommendations at the DEQ, were to begin working from home (teleworking), when possible. In turn, the Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (DERR) established protocols to support teleworking and moved forward with technological changes that were already in-process. Such as an e-signature software that allows DERR employees the ability to process the many compliance letters and or certification letters issued each week. Coming soon, all invoices received by the DERR can be processed digitally, not just for the Petroleum Storage Tank Fund. Other matters needing attention were setting up phone call forwarding functions from the DERR to one's home or cell phone.

Even once one was setup in the telework location, periodic visits to the DERR office are still necessary to get resources, supplies and files needed to work effectively from home. One change that may be considered an advancement for DERR personnel, and probably most businesses, is holding virtual meetings. Virtual meetings have allowed the DERR and its customers to interface in real time. Meetings can be held one on one, or with large groups. For example, on April 21, 2020, the Utah Underground Storage Tank (UST) Advisory Task Force held its first virtual meeting, and another on July 14th. Soon to be determined, the DERR is exploring this technology for staff training and certification classes.

Regarding a physical presence at the DEQ, the offices have been closed to the public since April 3rd to limit person-to-person contact. DEQ stands ready to reopen its offices as soon as practical, as directed by Governor's office.

Under the Certification Corner, found on page 4 of this newsletter, information is presented that discusses options for certification testing, extensions of certification dates, granted on a case by case basis, and actual testing at the DERR, under Covid-19 safety protocols.

Thus, the DERR continues to make improvements to its processes, many of them new, and to provide the best customer service possible in a world forever changed by the Pandemic of 2020.

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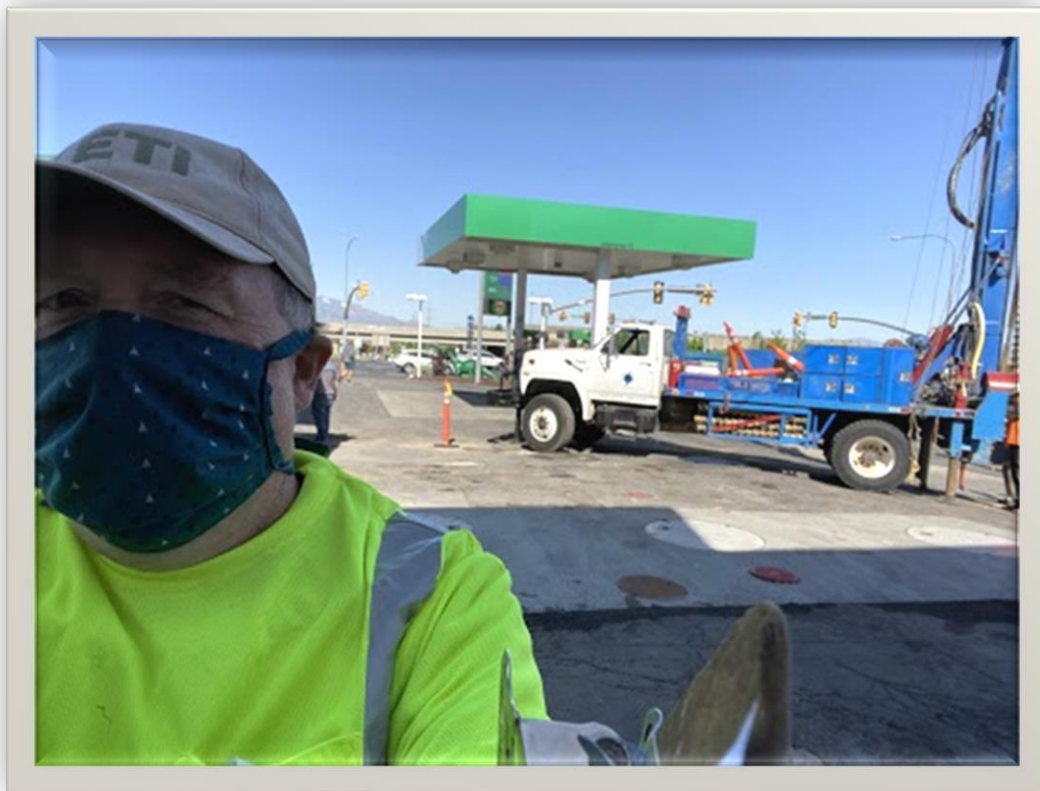
UST INSPECTIONS DURING THE PANDEMIC

by Gary Harris

State underground storage tank (UST) inspectors will continue to conduct Facility inspections for UST compliance, closure and installation matters during the Pandemic. For your protection and theirs, they will be wearing masks and exercising social distancing. The inspectors would prefer not to go inside a Facility building to check records and or monitoring devices. If you could have those records available for review outside of a building, it would be greatly appreciated.

As a reminder for UST Compliance inspections, please have the following available:

- Have a B operator on site, or a qualified representative
 - Keys and or tools to open all tank lids and dispensers
- Test Results
- Monitoring results
- Operator monthly check list
- C operator orientation list



What's Wrong in this Picture?

by Deann Rasmussen



This picture is taken from underneath a dispenser. The presence of ball valves (see yellow handles), underneath breakaway valves, invalidates the breakaway valves. The ball valves need to be replaced with a proper plug from the respective manufacturer. This is a safety issue.

Important Dates to Remember

1. Throughput forms are mailed out around March 15th.
2. Throughput forms are due by April 30th.
3. Annual tank registration and PST Fund fee invoices are mailed around May 15th and the payment deadline for these fees is July 1st.
4. Any facility that has not paid the annual fees by September 1st will lose PST Fund coverage and the Certificate of Compliance will lapse.
5. Certificates of Compliance are mailed around the 15th of December.
6. The Secondary Containment Tests to qualify for the rebate must be received by December 15th.

DERR Updates

Position Changes

Seini Siala, UST Branch Secretary, September 2019

Molly Parker, PST Section, New Hire as an Environmental Scientist, May-2020

Lexi DiFrancesco, New Hire as DERR Receptionist, May 2020

McKenna Murray, CERCLA, New Hire as an Environmental Scientist, December 2019

Tom Daniels, CERCLA Site Assessment/Emergency Response Section Manager, January-2020

Patrick Frier, CERCLA, New Hire as an Environmental Scientist, February-2020

Michelle Horning, CERCLA, New Hire as Environmental Planning Consultant, March-2020

Hannah Marty, CERCLA, New Hire as an Environmental Scientist, May-2020

Robin Osterhoudt, CERCLA, New Hire as an Environmental Scientist, May-2020

Megan Stewart, CERCLA, New Hire as an Environmental Scientist, November 2019

Scott Lippitt, CERCLA, New Hire as an Environmental Scientist, December 2019

Certification Corner

EXAMS for A/B Operators, Groundwater and Soil Samplers, UST Removers, UST Installers, UST Technicians, UST Testers and UST Consultants

Testing Location: Utah DEQ/DERR office at 195 North 1950 West, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Testing Times: DERR is testing on Tuesday and Thursday, by appointment only, and offered by Chelsea Qualls, as availability occurs.

Applications, supporting documents and fees must be submitted 5 business days prior to taking the exam. You can pay fees and register online: <https://deq.utah.gov/certification/derr-payment-portal-shopping-cart>

If you would like to be added to a 'Testing List' or if you are unsure if you are on it, contact Chelsea, she would be happy to check for you. Please contact Chelsea Qualls at cqualls@utah.gov or 801-536-4100.

Certified UST Consultant Recertification Changes

Regarding the Certified UST Consultant course: the DERR is working on creating a virtual course during the pandemic. You can expect the regular course, you know and love, to return once we get back to normal.

Regarding Certified UST Consultant certification: if your certification expired after March 1, 2020, the DERR is granting monthly extensions on that certification, as long as testing is not available, however, your renewal certification will still be calculated at 2 years from the original expiration date. Essentially borrowing time against your certification clock. Please contact Chelsea Qualls at cqualls@utah.gov or 801-536-4100 for any questions you may have.