



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO

GOVERNOR

MIKE D. McDANIEL, Ph.D.

SECRETARY

August 7, 2007

Mr. Carl E. Edlund, Division Director
Multimedia Planning and Permitting Division
USEPA Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue Suite 1200
Mail Code: 6PD
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

RE: UST Compliance Act
Inspection Requirements

Dear Mr. Edlund:

This letter is Louisiana's official response to EPA regarding the Underground Storage Tank (UST) inspection requirements of the UST Compliance Act which required all underground storage tanks installed prior to December 22, 1998, be inspected prior to August 8, 2007. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) has been working with the support of EPA to meet this requirement and I am pleased to report that this requirement of the UST Compliance Act has been met. LDEQ has performed numerous inspections to determine compliance since the 1998 UST upgrade requirements. In addition, in order to accomplish this requirement of the UST Compliance Act, in the past year LDEQ has performed 457 inspections, LDEQ contractors 314 inspections and EPA contractors 913 inspections. Although we have not received all of the reports from the EPA and State contractors, we have received assurances from the contractors that all assigned inspections have been performed and that the reports will soon follow. We appreciate the support and funding that EPA has provided to assist us in meeting this requirement.

We have begun our planning to meet the new three year inspection cycle requirement of the UST Compliance Act. This plan is contingent upon receiving adequate funding from EPA to support the increased number of inspections that are required. We look forward to working with you to obtain an adequate recurring funding source for these inspections and the follow up activities they will require.

If you have any questions or if this letter does not satisfy the requirements of the final UST Compliance Act inspection guidance provided by EPA, please contact me at (225) 219-3233 or via email wilbert.jordan@la.gov.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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We look forward to working with you as we prepare to meet these important requirements.

With kind regards,



Wilbert F. Jordan, Jr.
Assistant Secretary

sc

c: Dr. Mike McDaniel, LDEQ
Dr. Harold Leggett, LDEQ-OEC
Steve Chustz, LDEQ-USTD
Steve Vargo, USEPA-Region 6
Willie Kelley, USEPA-Region 6