

## **UST GRANT PROGRAM WORK PLAN**

### **Federal Fiscal Year 2005 - 2006**

#### **Federal Compliance**

To the maximum extent practicable, the State has linked this cooperative agreement to the structure of U.S. EPA's Strategic Plan and GPRA goals. U.S. EPA's structure outlines certain outcomes and outputs that must be appropriately addressed. For the FFY 06 Underground Storage Tank agreement, the outcome is improving UST compliance through active inspection, enforcement and compliance assistance program. The State's goal is to increase compliance by at least one percent (1%) each year as measured by Significant Operating Compliance (SOC). For FFY 06, the percent increase goal of UST facilities in SOC with both release detection and release prevention (spill, overflow and corrosion protection) is 69%, which is a 1% increase over the State's FFY 05 level. Another outcome of the UST program is the number of new confirmed releases. U.S. EPA has a national goal of less than 10,000 new confirmed releases per year. The Department's goal is to continue to reduce that number.

#### **Program Administration**

Funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant will provide for activities conducted by the Department of Commerce in the administration of the Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program within the State of Wisconsin. Program efforts will include the administration, operation and enforcement of regulations specific to federally regulated USTs. Through these efforts, the Department will provide for storage tank database administration, annual UST inspections and subsequent regulatory enforcement of non-compliance that impacts the environment and public health and safety

The necessary administrative support and management services will be provided for successful UST program implementation, as described below. The Administrator for the Environmental & Regulatory Services Division, Director of the Petroleum Products and Tanks Bureau, and the Department Budget Analyst administer the grant allocated under this cooperative agreement according to the provisions and restrictions of the cooperative agreement and to the statutes and regulations governing such expenditures.

The Section Chief of the Storage Tank Regulation Section will provide such management support and oversight as is necessary to efficiently accomplish the program tasks and objectives of this cooperative agreement, and will report to the U.S. EPA according to the schedules and in the timeframes of the semiannual performance measure reports as required. The Department will respond to requests from the U.S. EPA for special information within a reasonable timeframe.

#### **Reporting**

Schedules for routine STARS performance measures reporting are by semi-annual periods; the first semi-annual report will cover the period from October 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006. The second semi-annual report will cover the period from April 1, 2006 through September 30, 2006.

The semi-annual STARS report will include the Significant Operational Compliance measures.

### **Policy and Rule Development**

Any rule or policy changes or legislative developments will be reported to keep the U.S. EPA informed of new developments. The outcome of legislative meetings or hearings that affect the UST program will be detailed in the respective year-end report.

### **Staff Development Training**

A continuing goal of the UST program is to provide both internal and external technical training for inspectors and contractors, as well as regulatory training for tank system owners and operators. The delivery of technical training includes Department-sponsored workshops, some in collaboration with trade organizations, which are designed to improve specific expertise and overall professional competency. Training will also include computer and database training for in-house purposes, as well as specialized training depending on staff personnel development requirements.

### **Public Outreach**

Commerce promotes compliance with federal and state requirements through outreach efforts designed to disseminate regulatory and technical information. The Division will conduct activities to promote compliance with these rules, including the distribution of "Code Interpretations" and "Program Letters", a quarterly Department Internet newsletter, which is distributed to customers and other interested parties. Articles related to UST issues are furnished to trade associations, and speaking engagements are conducted by staff at various trade and professional association meetings and conferences. The Bureau also distributes publications and regulations prepared by U.S. EPA to persons requesting such information.

### **Program Activities**

Funding provided through the EPA UST grant will be used to support storage tank program services for the period from October 30, 2005 through September 31, 2006. Under the grant, the Department of Commerce will perform the work activities described below, including a 25% program match requirement.

The Program Administration activities performed will be as follows:

- Maintain a tank inventory database, including information on leak detection compliance and the status of federally regulated tank systems.
- Continue to maintain formal regulatory oversight and enforcement process to ensure storage tank system compliance.
- Perform annual UST inspections using Department of Commerce (COMM) inspection staff and Local Program Operators.
- Maintain enforcement program designed to obtain compliance with the state's regulations of flammable and combustible liquid storage tank systems;
- Provide programmatic training for all technical, support and inspection staff as the needs arise.
- Conduct plan review for all tank systems 5,000 gallon capacity or larger and those jurisdictions not covered by a Local Program Operator contract.
- Conduct program outreach to the regulated public through presentations, speeches, brochures, technical guides, etc.

- Continue to create, implement and maintain an Internet site as an information resource and outreach tool with the public. Provide data access via an Internet server providing regulators, contractors, consultants, and other public entities and individuals with data and critical indicators regarding or involving the primary UST and environmental aspects of the Commerce UST program. Continue to create enhancements to the Internet site and Internet tank database.