



New Employees

The Underground Storage Tank Program has a new section supervisor.

Leanne Hackney was hired last December to replace Redge Meierhenry who retired from the program. Leanne comes to us with over 17 years' experience in the environmental science field, holding a Master's in Chemistry from the University of Colorado. Many of you may already recognize Leanne, as she has been working as an environmental science specialist for the UST Program since 2012, issuing permits, reviewing compliance inspections and helping owners and operators achieve overall compliance. Leanne says, "I am very excited and honored to be selected as the steward for the Underground Storage Tank Program. During the last three years, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the stellar group of people in the program, as well as the owners and operators that comprise the regulated UST community. I look forward to continuing the legacy that was left to me, as well as bringing the program to new heights."



Leanne Hackney

The Petroleum Tank Cleanup Section has three new project managers.

Latysha Pankratz joined the team in July 2015. She was born and raised in Butte, Montana. She traveled to the University of Minnesota Morris where she received a Bachelor's degree in Geology. Before joining the DEQ, she spent five years in law

enforcement. Latysha is passionate about the environment and enjoys working and playing in it. She enjoys all things outdoors and spends most of her free time skiing, hiking, rock climbing, biking, camping, and fishing with her husband and children who also share her love and passion for nature. Latysha will be working in the Bozeman field office.



Latysha Pankratz

Heidi Barnes joined the section in 2016. She was born and raised in East Helena, Montana and is a recent graduate of Carroll College with a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Engineering. Heidi is an avid outdoorswoman and enjoys hunting and fishing with her husband. She will be working in the Helena office.



Heidi Barnes

Dean Kinney joined the section in 2016. He grew up in the Seattle, Washington area and graduated from the University of Washington. Prior to joining DEQ, Dean worked in the environmental field. After being hired by DEQ, he moved from Renton, Washington to the Kalispell area. Dean enjoys all kinds of outdoor activities. He will be working in the Kalispell field office.



Dean Kinney