

Update PTRCB Meeting November 7, 2022

Audit & stakeholder workgroup updates

DEQ proposed draft changes to Petroleum Storage Tank Cleanup Laws to address Audit Finding number 2. Audit finding number 2 is the recommendation that **“the Montana legislature clarify statute by making amendments as needed to clarify the Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Board does not have a role in approving or basing reimbursement on the specific methods prescribed w/in approved corrective action plans that bring an eligible petroleum release to closure.”** DEQ posted the first version of the draft changes in August to the PTC website and the final draft changes September 16. A public meeting for the draft changes was held September 27 and we received 7 comments and letters. DEQ did not respond but did post the comments and letters online on the PTC page, under the legislative audit update accordion. As a reminder, the draft statute changes are not currently part of a bill. A legislator would have to sponsor the bill to move the language forward for consideration as law.

The legislative audit committee meeting was held October 4. DEQ presented updates on the audit findings and our Corrective Action Plan and received questions about tank pulls and closures. In response to these questions, DEQ drafted a Fact Sheet on tank installations, tank removals and releases. This fact sheet is supplied as a handout and can be found in this Month’s Montana Underground Storage Tank Newsletter or MUST news.

The Tank Stakeholder Workgroup was created in March of 2019 to increase government transparency and consistency and to increase education, outreach, and communication among the Underground Storage Tank Section, the Petroleum Tank Cleanup Section (In DEQ) and the Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Board (PTRCB). Historically, this group has consisted of stakeholder representatives. At the next meeting, the three groups will give updates followed by a discussion and question period. We will be combining the November and December meetings due to the Holidays and holding the meeting December 7th. Monthly stakeholder workgroup meetings will resume in January. We will post updates from the tank stakeholder workgroup meetings to our website and invites to the meetings will be sent to all the tank list serves. We will have a remote and in person option.