



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

Eastern Region Bend Office

475 NE Bellevue Drive, Suite 110

Bend, OR 97701

(541) 388-6146

FAX (541-388-8283

TTY 711

October 28, 2024

David E. Richardson

PO Box 127

Chemult, OR 97731

**RE: Environmental Cleanup Needed for Petroleum Leak:**

R&D Market

109656 Hwy 97

Chemult, OR 97731

DEQ File No.: 18-24-0730

UST ID No. 8897

Dear Mr. Richardson:

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality was notified on October 18, 2024 of a petroleum leak from a former underground storage tank system at 109656 Hwy 97 in Chemult, OR. Leaks or spills from the tank system may have contaminated soil and could contaminate groundwater, a valuable Oregon resource. As a current or past owner or operator of the tanks on this property, you are responsible under Oregon law for investigation and cleanup of petroleum leaks. If you believe that you are not a responsible party for this petroleum leak, please contact us immediately.

DEQ recommends that you hire and rely upon a qualified consultant to accomplish the required environmental work, which could include soil and groundwater sampling, laboratory analysis, technical report writing, and environmental cleanup. To become familiar with Oregon's tank cleanup requirements, please request a copy of the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Manual and other guidance documents by calling our toll free number at 1-800-742-7878 or by visiting the following web sites:

<http://www.oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/USTCleanupManual.pdf>

<http://www.oregon.gov/DEQ/tanks/Pages/Cleanup-Guidance.aspx>

You will need DEQ oversight of the environmental work to confirm that it meets minimum standards and reliably documents that the petroleum release no longer threatens human health and the environment. Oregon law requires DEQ to invoice responsible parties for staff time spent on oversight of cleanup projects. DEQ tracks and bills for this time monthly, beginning when the leak is reported and continuing through formal site closure. Staff time may include reviewing reports, preparing correspondence, answering questions, meeting with you or your contractor, site inspections, and enforcement actions.

We are committed to helping you achieve a cost-effective evaluation and cleanup of the reported contamination. When the work meets Oregon standards and the site is protective of human health and the environment, DEQ will be able to close the file by issuing a “No Further Action” letter to you.

If you have a pending property transaction or would like to expedite assignment of a DEQ project manager to your site, please notify us. Please complete, sign, and return the enclosed Cost Recovery Agreement. Even if you do not sign the agreement, you will still be responsible for evaluating and cleaning up the contamination, as well as paying for DEQ oversight costs. Please note that DEQ staff workloads are heavy and there may be a delay in assigning your cleanup project to a project manager.

Please complete or have your contractor complete and return the enclosed 20-Day Report within twenty (20) days from the date the leak was reported. You also have additional reporting obligations to DEQ, as listed in the attachment, including due dates for various documents that are needed to demonstrate that the investigation and/or cleanup is progressing.

Thank you for moving forward to clean up and protect Oregon’s environment. We are pleased to assist you with any questions you may have. Please reference the DEQ file number and site name listed above in all inquiries and reports.

Sincerely,

*Ann M. Farris*

Ann Farris, Manager  
Cleanup, Emergency Response and  
Groundwater Programs, Eastern Region

Enclosures

cc: file