



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality
Eastern Region - Bend
475 NE Bellevue Drive, Suite 110
Bend, OR 97701
541-388-6146
TTY 711

April 22, 2026

Rob Rembelski
Farmer Mutual Telephone Co
319 SW 3rd St.
Fruitland, ID 83619

RE: Environmental Cleanup Needed for Petroleum Leak

615 Bower Ave.
Nyssa, OR 97913
Malheur County
DEQ File No.:23-26-0185
UST ID No. :88119

Dear Mr. Rembelski:

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality was notified on April 22, 2026, of a petroleum leak from an underground storage tank system at 615 Bower Ave., Nyssa, Oregon. 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 tank system 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 see the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Manual and other guidance documents found at the following web sites:

<http://www.oregon.gov/deq/tanks/Pages/Cleanup-Guidance.aspx>
<http://www.oregon.gov/deq/tanks/Pages/Leaking-Undergr-Tanks.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.

Register for a responsible official account in [Your DEQ Online](#) and complete the [LUST/Leaking HOT Cost Recovery Agreement](#) submittal. 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. If you have a pending property transaction or would like to expedite assignment of a DEQ project manager to your site, please notify us.

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. If you have any questions or need to submit documents call (503) 954-8350 or email info.LUST@deq.oregon.gov.

Sincerely,

Ann M. Farris

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

Enclosures