

**Unified Program Newsletter  
May 2015**

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- CalEPA**    **CERS 3.0 Subcommittee Proposes Suggested Enhancements to the Data Steering Committee**  
**REMINDER: Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement (CME) Data must be entered into CERS**  
**CERS Tips and Tricks**
- DTSC**        **None**
- SWRCB**    **Settlement Reached with University of California**  
**Rescinded Secondary Containment Testing Document**  
**March 2015 CERS UST Status Report**
- Cal OES**    **None**
- CAL- FIRE**   **Farms and the Federal Water Resources Reform and Development Act**  
**OSFM**
- 

**CalEPA**

**CERS 3.0 Subcommittee Proposes Suggested Enhancements to the Data Steering Committee**

Beginning January 2015, efforts to gather and evaluate suggestions which would improve and enhance the functionality and usability of the Unified Program California Environmental Reporting System (CERS) have been underway, via the CERS 3.0 Subcommittee. The CERS 3.0 Subcommittee consists of representatives from the California Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Toxic Substances Control, the California Office of Emergency Services, the State Water Resources Control Board, Cal-Fire Office of the State Fire Marshal, Certified Unified Program Agencies and the CERS Business Users Group. Collaborative efforts of various CERS 3.0 Subcommittee workgroups have addressed every submitted enhancement suggestion, developed a justification for the enhancement when needed, and proposed resolutions for each supported enhancement when applicable.

On April 30, 2015, the Data Steering Committee (DSC) began reviewing the CERS 3.0 enhancement suggestions to determine whether or not proposed recommendations will be further supported for development and implementation. Additionally, the DSC will establish prioritization for each supported CERS 3.0 enhancement. Upon completion of review, the DSC will propose the recommended CERS 3.0 enhancement suggestions to CalEPA for final review and approval.

**REMINDER: Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement (CME) Data must be entered into CERS**

Starting fiscal year 2014/2015, CME data must be submitted electronically within 30 days of each completed quarter [CCR Title 27, Division 1, Subdivision 4, Section 15290(b)]. Submittal deadlines are listed below:

Fiscal Year Quarterly CME Action Occurs (including updates)	Deadline for Electronic Submittal Of Quarterly CME Data
July 1 – September 30	October 30
<b>October 1 – December 31</b>	<b>January 30</b>
<b>January 1 – March 31</b>	<b>April 30</b>
April 1 – June 30	July 30

Beginning August 1, 2014, CUPAs will be evaluated on quarterly CME electronic reporting requirements for inspection and enforcement activities occurring on or after July 1, 2013.

All CME data must include the complete detail record fields identified in the CERS Regulator Portal (<http://cers.calepa.ca.gov/>) and defined in the Unified Program Data Dictionary ([www.calepa.ca.gov/LawsRegs/Regulations/T27/DataDict.pdf](http://www.calepa.ca.gov/LawsRegs/Regulations/T27/DataDict.pdf)).

For more information, please refer to Unified Program Guidance Letter 14-02 (<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/CUPA/Bulletins/2014/Jan17.pdf>).

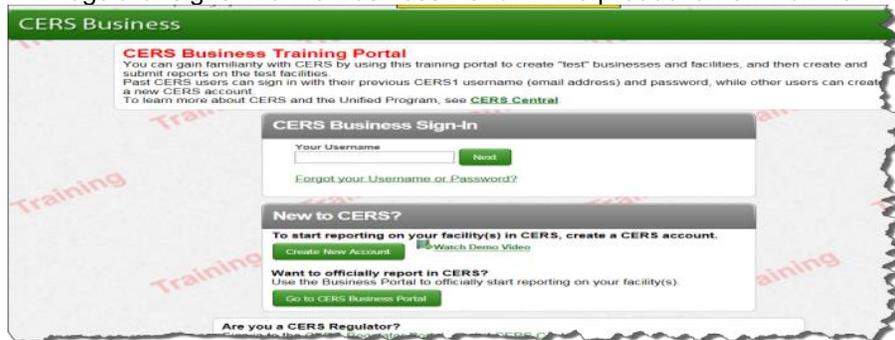
**CERS Tips and Tricks**

CERS Tips and Tricks are helpful explanations and resolutions regarding current issues recently received by the CERS Technical Support Team. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the CERS Technical Support Team at [cers@calepa.ca.gov](mailto:cers@calepa.ca.gov).

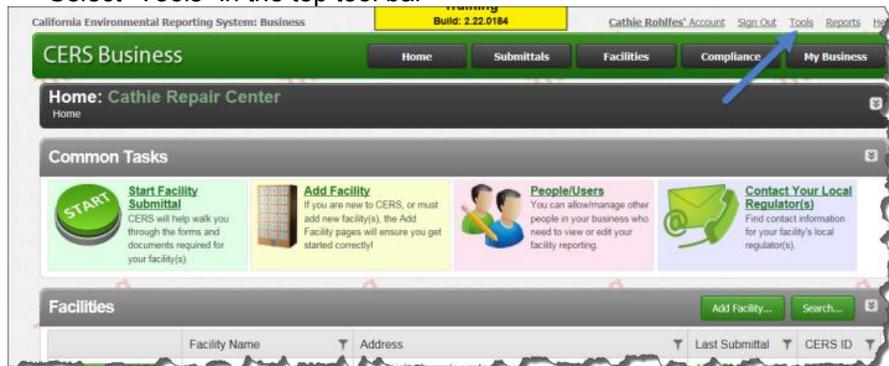
QUESTION:	<b>Can a regulator create an organization for a business?</b>
ANSWER:	<b>Yes, by signing into the Business Portal.</b>

**Here's How.**

- Regulator signs into the Business Portal in the production environment.



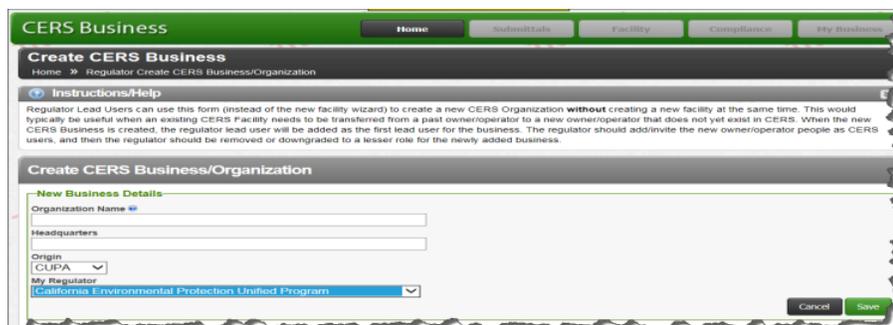
- Select "Tools" in the top tool bar



- Select “Create CERS Business/Organization (no facility added)”



- Complete the following fields: “Organization Name,” “Headquarters,” “Origin,” “My Regulator.” Select “Save.”



Once the organization is created, the business can transfer their facilities into the organization.

Look for other “CERS” Tips and Tricks” in next month’s Unified Program Newsletter.

## **State Water Resources Control Board**

### **Settlement Reached with University of California**

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s (CDFW) Office of Spill Prevention and Response have collaborated in reaching a \$449,000 settlement with the Regents of the University of California regarding the improper storage of hazardous substances in underground storage tanks (USTs) and natural resource damage violations.

On December 10, 2011, an underground storage tank that supplied a backup generator located at Stanley Hall on the University’s campus in Berkeley spilled 1,650 gallons of diesel fuel. About 850 gallons of the spilled diesel entered a storm drain and was then discharged into Strawberry Creek – an urban stream that runs directly into the San Francisco Bay.

In 2013, the State Water Board reviewed the University’s overall management of USTs and discovered numerous additional violations including: failure to monitor for leaks, failure to maintain adequate spill containment, failure to provide adequate corrosion protection, and other UST violations.

The press release and judgment can be found at the website below.

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/enforcement/orders\\_actions.shtml#a2015](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/enforcement/orders_actions.shtml#a2015)

### **Rescinded Secondary Containment Testing Document**

The guidance document adopted by the CalCUPA Forum Southern California Region UST Technical Advisory Committee, "Standard for Secondary Containment Testing of Underground Storage Tank Systems", was developed in 2002 and was located on the CalCUPA website for reference. This guidance document describes policy that is not consistent with current statutes and regulations. Therefore, this guidance document has been formally rescinded and may no longer be used as a document for enforcement purposes.

Local guidance documents developed for secondary containment testing, or any equipment testing purposes, must follow manufacturer's specifications for testing or must follow industry standards, such as from the Petroleum Equipment Institute (PEI).

For questions regarding this update, contact Cory Hootman at [Cory.Hootman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Cory.Hootman@waterboards.ca.gov) or (916) 341-5668.

### **March 2015 CERS UST Status Report**

The State Water Board has recently published the latest quarterly status reports intended for tracking progress towards entering all UST related business and compliance, monitoring and enforcement (CME) data into the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS). The "March 2015 CERS UST Status Report" can be found at the website below.  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ust/adm\\_notices/qtrly\\_cersrpt\\_2015mar.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/adm_notices/qtrly_cersrpt_2015mar.pdf)

The report shows 93% of UST sites are now in CERS. Since the first report in May 2014, there has been an increase from 33% to 51% of UST facilities that now have an accepted UST submittal and an increase from 9% to 59% that now have CME data. The report includes a breakdown by Unified Program Agency (UPA). The next quarterly status report will be in June 2015.

### **CAL FIRE - Office of State Fire Marshal**

#### **Farms and the Federal Water Resources Reform and Development Act**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has published a fact sheet explaining the impacts of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) on the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) rule and farms. WRRDA was signed into law by the President on June 10, 2014 and changes certain applicability provisions of the SPCC rule for farms as well as modifying the criteria under which a farmer may self-certify an SPCC Plan.

WRRDA also requires that U.S. EPA conduct a study, in conjunction with the United States Department of Agriculture, to determine the appropriate applicability threshold for farms based on the risk of discharge. The study is scheduled to be completed by June 2015, after which U.S. EPA will anticipate future amendments to the SPCC requirements with regard to the findings of the study. The fact sheet can be found on U.S. EPA's website at [http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/docs/oil/spcc/spcc\\_wrrda.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/docs/oil/spcc/spcc_wrrda.pdf).

Please note that WRRDA does not change the Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act (APSA). Questions or comments regarding the WRRDA fact sheet should be referred to the "For More Information" section of the fact sheet.