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### **Applications Season Open for LDEQ’s Underground Storage Tank Grant Program**

**BATON ROUGE, LA** –The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) is excited to announce that applications are now being accepted for the second year of the Underground Storage Tank (UST) grant program. With an annual funding allocation of \$3 million, this initiative is dedicated to enhancing environmental safety by supporting the upgrade of single-walled tanks to double-walled systems and piping, significantly reducing the risk of spills and leaks that can harm our air and water quality. This program exemplifies LDEQ’s commitment that we firmly believe that clean air and water can coexist with a thriving economy.

The UST grant program is designed for underground storage tank owners who are looking to improve their infrastructure and contribute to a cleaner environment in Louisiana. Each qualified applicant can receive up to \$150,000 to assist in transitioning to safer, more reliable tank systems. This funding is critical in helping businesses, particularly small business owners, comply with environmental regulations while promoting public health and protecting invaluable natural resources.

“Investing in double-walled underground storage tanks is a proactive step towards safeguarding our environment,” **said LDEQ Secretary Aurelia S. Giacometto.** “By reducing the likelihood of leaks and spills, we can protect our communities and preserve Louisiana’s rich ecosystem for future generations.”



The UST grant program aligns with LDEQ’s mission to support sustainable practices that foster both economic growth and environmental stewardship. By encouraging the upgrade of storage tanks, we are empowering businesses to operate responsibly while ensuring that Louisiana remains a viable place for future economic development.

"The partnership between LDEQ, the Louisiana Oil Marketers and Convenience Store Association (LOMSCA), and UST Owners demonstrates the power of collaboration in addressing critical infrastructure challenges," **said Todd Perry, of PPM Consultants, Inc.** “This grant program provides financial support, helping UST owners—many of whom are small business operators—make upgrades to their UST systems. By working together, we are fostering responsible business practices while maintaining the integrity of Louisiana’s regulatory and environmental landscape.”

Eligible applicants include businesses, government entities, and non-profit organizations that own or operate underground storage tanks. The application process is designed to be straightforward, and LDEQ encourages all interested parties to apply early to secure funding.

In addition to financial assistance, the UST grant program promotes awareness of best practices in tank management and environmental protection. LDEQ is committed to providing resources and guidance to help applicants navigate the process and maximize the benefits of this program.

For more information about the UST grant program and to access the application, please visit the LDEQ website <https://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/ust-grant-program>. Together, we can make significant strides towards a cleaner, healthier Louisiana while fostering economic growth and ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come.

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#### **About the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality**

LDEQ is dedicated to serving the people of Louisiana by providing comprehensive environmental protection to promote and protect health, safety, and welfare.

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