

## **Data Quality Record for Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Cleanups Long-Term Performance Goal**

**Long-Term Performance Goal Text:** By September 30, 2026, conduct an additional 35,000 cleanups at Leaking Underground Storage Tank facilities.

**Corresponding Annual Performance Goal:** Number of LUST cleanups completed that meet risk-based standards for human exposure and groundwater migration.

**Goal Number/Objective:** Goal 6/Objective 6.1

**NPM Lead:** Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM)

### **1a. Purpose of Long-Term Performance Goal:**

The reporting of this long-term performance goal (LTPG) provides a means to determine how effectively the states, Tribes, and EPA are cleaning up petroleum contaminated sites. Meeting this goal over time will mean that EPA's Underground Storage Tank (UST) program has found an effective and streamlined approach to address some of the most challenging LUST sites.

### **1b. Performance Measure Term Definitions:**

LUST Cleanups Completed: Definition as found on EPA's Underground Storage Tank webpage at [https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-05/revised-ust-lust-perf-meas-defs\\_02-25-22.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-05/revised-ust-lust-perf-meas-defs_02-25-22.pdf).

The cumulative number of confirmed releases where cleanup has been initiated and where the state has determined that no further actions are currently necessary to protect human health and the environment. This number includes sites with post-closure monitoring - as long as site-specific (e.g., risk-based) cleanup goals have been met. Site characterization, monitoring plans, and site-specific cleanup goals must be established, and cleanup goals must be attained for sites being remediated by natural attenuation to be counted in this category.

*Clarification:* "Cleanups Completed" is a cumulative category-sites should never be deleted from this category. It is no longer necessary to report separately cleanups completed that are state lead with state money and cleanups completed that are responsible party lead. It is, however, still necessary to report the number of cleanups completed that are state lead with Trust Fund money. A "no further action" determination made by the state that satisfies the "cleanups initiated" measure above, also satisfies this "cleanups completed" measure. This determination will allow a confirmed release that does not require further action to meet the definition of both an initiated and completed cleanup.

### **1c. Unit of Measure:**

An UST confirmed release that has reached cleanup completion as defined by the state.

### **2a. Data Source:**

The data source is the LUST4 database. This database is the master database of all national UST program-related data. States and EPA regional offices report data into LUST4. Performance is reported semi-annually.

**2b. Data needed for interpretation of (calculated) Performance Result:**

As of the end of FY 2021, the baseline for this LTPG included a cumulative 502,768 LUST cleanups completed since the beginning of the program in FY 1988. Performance is reported semi-annually. The performance results include the number of confirmed releases that reach cleanup completion within a given fiscal year. The UST program oversees active UST facilities and additional releases are found every year, increasing the number of confirmed releases which make up the universe of sites that need to be cleaned up. Based on FY 2021 data, this universe included 564,767 cumulative confirmed releases.

**3. Calculation Methodology:**

The states and EPA regional offices report the number of cleanups completed within the reporting period (every 6 months based on the fiscal year). The state totals and EPA regional totals of cleanups completed in Indian country are added together to determine the national number of cleanups completed for the reporting period and the fiscal year.

**4. Quality Assurance/Quality Controls:**

EPA's regional grants project officers and regional program managers provide first-level data quality reviews and oversight of their recipients' program performance results. Office of Underground Storage Tanks (OUST) uses a combination of automated validation along with manual QA/QC review, providing a second-level data quality reviews of state data and a primary data quality review of Indian country records. States and regions are required to provide comments on any significant trend changes or corrections. OUST oversees the use of the QA/QC checklist, which is incorporated into the LUST4 Oracle web-based system. Regions complete the QA/QC checklist, sign it electronically and submit it to OUST for review, comment, and approval of each record. This QA/QC checklist was last updated in 2019 and is accessed through the user interface of LUST4.

LUST4 operates under OLEM's Quality Management Plan (QMP), including the security policy specified in that QMP. LUST4 does not have any stand-alone certifications related to the EPA security policy or the Systems Life Cycle Management policy. The LUST4 system is built upon Oracle Business Intelligence tools provided by the EPA Business Intelligence Analytics Center, which ensures that a stand-alone security certification is not necessary.

**5. Data Limitations/Qualifications:**

The LUST4 system houses state and EPA regional aggregate data for each performance measure. It does not include site specific information. The definition is designed to allow states flexibility in determining when cleanup completion is reached based on each state definition. There is variation across state programs regarding cleanup levels and use of risk-based decision making for closure. Data quality depends on the accuracy and completeness of state records. In addition, the universe totals will change over time as releases are found and cleanups are completed, and as corrections are made to the cumulative totals for confirmed releases and cleanups completed due to state database review efforts and reporting lagging activities.

**6. Technical Contact:**

Susan Burnell (OLEM), 202-564-0766

**7. Certification Statement/Signature:**

I certify the information in this DQR is complete and accurate.

**PDAA Signature** Original signed by Barry N. Breen    **Date** 5/19/2022