

**Madison Brame**

From: ROBERT PARKS <rfparks@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 12:07 AM
To: Sheaffer, Kimberly; Rudy, Deborah
Subject: [External] Proposed Rulemaking underground storage tank indemnification

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Kimberly: I am writing with my thoughts on proposed rule changes with UST indemnity fund. Some background, in 2018 I purchased a business that had gas pumps and 2 UST. shortly after I decided to have the tanks removed before they became a problem. I thought I was doing the right thing by preventing future problems.

DEP has required the property go through site characterization. Because of that requirement I applied for help from the indemnity fund. The fund required me to prove the gas put in the tanks paid into the fund . For clarity I never put gas in the tanks. The prior owners did not provide any records verifying any gas purchases. I also contacted a former supplier who provided an affidavit testifying he sold gas to the former owner and that gas had all appropriate fees paid.

To make a long story short the fund refused my request basically saying I did not prove the gas that went through the tanks was subject to fees.

As a result I have had to pay approximately \$40,000 of my own funds for site characterization. My funds are exhausted and if I have to come up with additional funds I will not be able to do so. Unless I can get some help I will most likely have to close my doors and walk away from the property.

As I read the proposal I think I would qualify for coverage by the indemnity fund.

Please support the proposal.

Sincerely,

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