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PROPER LICENSING FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING AND GEOLOGY SERVICES

Background:

The Business and Professions Code and regulatory agencies require licensed professionals to sign reports and workplans. A licensed professional must be in responsible charge of all corrective action activities, and must direct the design and implementation of any corrective action.

The UST Cleanup Fund will only reimburse for the activities of firms that are properly licensed and maintain necessary licenses for legal operations in the State of California.

Acceptable Professional Licenses:

The activities of professional engineers and geologists are subject to the provisions of the Business and Professions Code.

Firms whose primary activity consists of geologic services must have a professional geologist as a partner or officer of the firm. A professional engineer must be an "owner, part owner, or officer in charge of the engineering practice" of an engineering business.

Acceptable professional licenses include:

- Professional Civil Engineer (PE)
- Professional Geologist (PG)
- Certified Engineering Geologist (CEG)
- Certified Hydrogeologist (CHG)
- Professional Petroleum Engineer (PE)

Unacceptable Registrations and Certifications:

The UST Cleanup Fund and most regulatory officials do not accept registrations and certifications from private associations and other states for the purposes of being in responsible charge of UST corrective action activities in California.

For the purposes of being in responsible charge of UST corrective action activities, unacceptable registrations include:

- Registered Environmental Assessor (REA)
- Registered Environmental Manager (REM)
- Registered Environmental Professional (REP)
- Certified Environmental Investigator (CEI)
- Certified Environmental Specialist (CES)

For example, REAs, in some circumstances, may assist in the review of operations and practices to ensure compliance with environmental regulations. REAs can specialize in different fields, including air and water quality, emergency preparedness, hazard communications, and occupational safety and health. (See Chapter 6.98 of the Health and Safety Code.) An REA designation does not, however, qualify a person to be in responsible charge of corrective action activities.

Please note that it is the claimant's responsibility to hire qualified consultants and to follow applicable state laws in hiring licensed professional services.

Additional Information:

- State Board for Geologists and Geophysicists
<http://www.geology.ca.gov>
- State Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors
<http://www.dca.ca.gov/pels/>