

LSC Greenbook

Analysis of the Enacted Budget

Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation Board

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

OVERVIEW 1

Agency Overview 1

Appropriation Overview 1

 Financial Assurance Fund 2

 Tank Revenue Versus Claim Expenses 2

Staffing Level 3

ANALYSIS OF ENACTED BUDGET 4

ATTACHMENT:

Budget Spreadsheet By Line Item

Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation Board

- Non-GRF entity
- Budget funded by tank fee collections
- Financial Assurance Fund covers just over 21,000 USTs

OVERVIEW

Agency Overview

The Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation Board (UST) was created in 1989 to comply with federally mandated requirements concerning underground storage tank owners' financial responsibility requirements established in Subtitle I of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The Board serves Ohio's underground storage tank owners and operators by overseeing the Financial Assurance Fund, which provides a mechanism for all underground storage tank owners and operators to meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) regulations requiring them to demonstrate financial capability to pay for potential damage caused by releases from their underground storage tanks (USTs).

Appropriation Overview

For the FY 2014-FY 2015 biennium, as noted in Table 1 below, the budget appropriates for the Board's use of non-GRF funding totaling \$1,233,249 in FY 2014 and \$1,252,202 in FY 2015. All of the appropriated funding will be allocated solely for payroll expenses.

**Table 1. Agency Appropriations by Fund Group, FY 2014-FY 2015
(Am. Sub. H.B. 59)**

Fund Group	FY 2013*	FY 2014	% change, FY 2013-FY 2014	FY 2015	% change, FY 2014-FY 2015
State Special Revenue	\$1,123,265	\$1,233,249	9.8%	\$1,252,202	1.5%
TOTAL	\$1,123,265	\$1,233,249	9.8%	\$1,252,202	1.5%

*FY 2013 figures represent actual expenditures.

Financial Assurance Fund

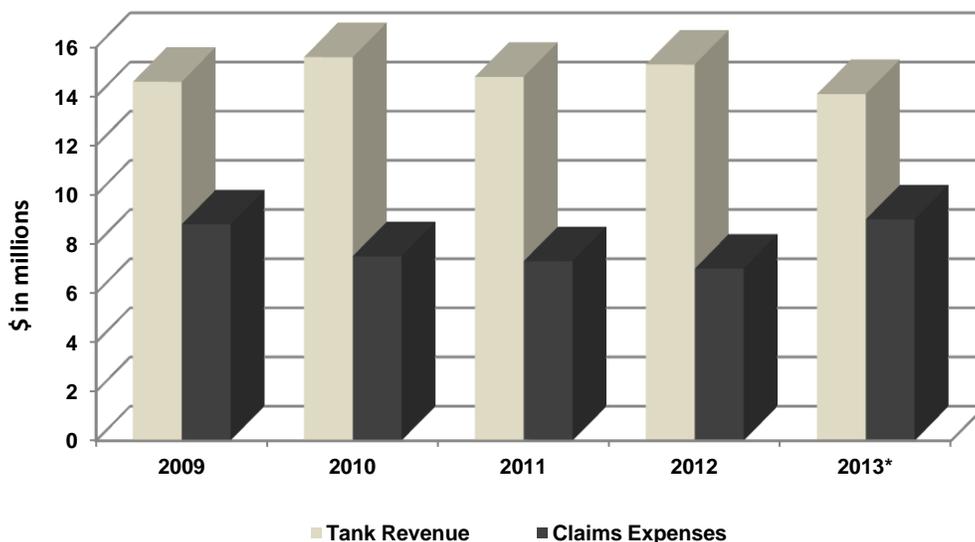
The Financial Assurance Fund assures underground storage tank owners reimbursement of up to \$1 million, less the deductible. Fees are currently set at \$600 annually for a single tank with a standard deductible of \$55,000 for necessary corrective actions. Owners of six or fewer USTs may pay an additional \$200 fee per tank to receive a reduced deductible of \$11,000. These fees have not increased since 2007 and more than 21,000 USTs across over 7,600 locations are covered by the fund. In addition to the fees and charges collected from underground storage tank owners, the fund also consists of the proceeds from the sale of revenue bonds and interest earnings.

Tank Revenue Versus Claim Expenses

The number of USTs covered by the Financial Assurance Fund has decreased as owners and operators have come into compliance with USEPA mandates to upgrade, remove, or replace tanks by December 1998. The number continues to decline, although at a slower rate than in the years predating 1998. In 1989, there were 50,000 USTs covered by the fund. There are now just over 21,000. As no further action is determined for the pre-1998 releases, the Board anticipates a decline in the number of claims being submitted in future years.

The Board calculates its fees by projecting the number of tanks to be covered in the upcoming fiscal year, the expected amount to be paid in claim reimbursements, and its operating costs. The last fee increase was in FY 2007. Chart 1 below shows the Financial Assurance Fund's annual revenues and claims expenses from FY 2009 projected through FY 2013. Over that five-year period, annual revenue ranges between \$14.1 million and \$15.6 million, an average of \$14.9 million. Annual claims expenses range between \$7.0 million and \$9.0 million, an average of \$7.9 million.

Chart 1: Tank Revenue Versus Claims Expenses, by Fiscal Year



*FY 2013 figures are estimates.

Staffing Level

The Board consists of nine members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Treasurer of State and the directors of the Department of Commerce and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency serve as ex officio members. Appointed members of the Board are compensated on a per diem for each day of actual attendance at meetings of the Board. Members also receive their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as members of the Board.

Day-to-day operations are handled by an executive director and 15 staff responsible for administering two distinct programs.

1. Reporting and Compliance, which involves the assessment, collection, and application of an annual per tank fee, and the issuance of a Certificate of Coverage for all USTs covered by the Financial Assurance Fund.
2. Eligibility and Determination, which involves an eligibility review to determine if Financial Assurance Fund coverage may be extended for a release, and a claims review conducted to determine if particular costs associated with the release are reimbursable.

ANALYSIS OF ENACTED BUDGET

Table 2 below shows the Board's lone line item that is subject to the biennial budgeting process, as well as the appropriation for each of FY 2014 and FY 2015. It is then followed by a narrative describing how the appropriated amounts will be used, and the implications of the funding levels. These appropriations will be supported by cash transferred from the Financial Assurance Fund, an account in the custody of the Treasurer of State that is not part of the state treasury. All of the Board's other expenses, including, but not limited to, the debt service on bonds and the payment of claims, are paid directly from the Financial Assurance Fund.

Table 2. Compensation Board's Budget Line Item Appropriations				
Fund	ALI and Name		FY 2014	FY 2015
State Special Revenue (SSR) Fund Group				
6910	810632	PUSTRCB Staff	\$1,233,249	\$1,252,202

This SSR line item is used solely for the payroll expenses (wages and salaries, fringe benefits, and other personnel charges) generated by nine appointed Board members and 16 full-time staff. The amounts are sufficient to cover the anticipated payroll expenses in each of FY 2014 and FY 2015.

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FY 2014 - FY 2015 Final Appropriation Amounts

All Fund Groups

Line Item Detail by Agency

			FY 2012	FY 2013	Appropriation FY 2014	FY 2013 to FY 2014 % Change	Appropriation FY 2015	FY 2014 to FY 2015 % Change
Report For Main Operating Appropriations Bill			Version: Enacted					
UST Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation Board								
6910	810632	PUSTRCB Staff	\$ 1,166,326	\$ 1,123,265	\$ 1,233,249	9.79%	\$ 1,252,202	1.54%
State Special Revenue Fund Group Total			\$ 1,166,326	\$ 1,123,265	\$ 1,233,249	9.79%	\$ 1,252,202	1.54%
Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation Board Total			\$ 1,166,326	\$ 1,123,265	\$ 1,233,249	9.79%	\$ 1,252,202	1.54%