

Department of Ecology

Agency 461

Audit Report	Finding Number	Finding and Corrective Action Status	
1033302	2022-001	<p>Finding:</p> <p>Corrective Action:</p> <p>Completion Date:</p> <p>Agency Contact:</p>	<p>The Department of Ecology did not have adequate internal controls over and did not comply with requirements to conduct underground storage tank compliance inspections every three years.</p> <p>The Department agrees with the finding.</p> <p>Inspector vacancies across the state and a substantial backlog due to the COVID-19 pandemic hindered the Department’s ability to meet the three-year inspection deadline for underground storage tanks (UST).</p> <p>There are approximately 3,400 UST sites throughout the state, and 14 FTEs work on those sites. The enacted 2022 supplemental budget provided ongoing funding for one FTE for UST inspections in the central regional office (as well as additional FTEs for the leaking underground storage tank program). The Department is working diligently to complete all of the required UST inspections.</p> <p>To address the auditor’s recommendations, the Department will implement the procedures below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a plan to complete outstanding inspections by shifting and reallocating regional resources as necessary to ensure statewide compliance with state and federal requirements.</li> <li>• Conduct quarterly reviews to monitor our progress and make adjustments as needed.</li> </ul> <p>Corrective action is expected to be complete by October 2026</p> <p>Kristopher Grinnell                      Policy Section Manager                      PO Box 47600                      Olympia, WA 98504-7600                      (360) 870-8459  <a href="mailto:Kristopher.grinnell@ecy.wa.gov">Kristopher.grinnell@ecy.wa.gov</a></p>