

Access Agreements

**What is an Access Agreement and what does it mean for you and your property?
Understanding this document and granting access is an important step in successfully
identifying the range and impact of a petroleum leak.
Protect Yourself and the Environment**

An Access Agreement is an executed document between the Director of the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) and you, the landowner.

It gives EPD temporary permission to access your property to investigate if your property may have been impacted from a leaking underground storage tank containing petroleum product (gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, etc.), and to remediate that contamination.

Why is granting access important to me?

- The Underground Storage Tank Management Program is responsible for overseeing proper cleanup of petroleum (gasoline) releases. To properly determine the extent of contamination, groundwater and soil must be tested over a distance to identify the boundaries.
 - Samples may need to be taken over property lines. Contamination does not stop because property lines are crossed. Your cooperation will allow proper “delineation” to occur. Delineation identifies the boundaries or borders of contamination.
- If a petroleum release has been identified on the property next door and you have a water well on your property, it is very important for the water to be tested for impact.
 - Testing is free to you. If your drinking water well has been impacted, clean water will be provided to you until the cleanup has been completed and the quality of the well returned. It is also important for wells used for gardening or outside use be tested.
- The work is completed by a professional environmental contractor that is hired and paid for by the State. The contractor is required to start and complete work within a specified timeframe, so access to your property is only temporary.
 - Cleanup is to be completed in approximately 2-years. Timeframe depends on level of contamination and could be completed in less time.
 - The contractor will work with you to avoid any interruptions of personal or business activities.
 - A USTMP Project Officer will provide oversight of the project and is available to you for questions or concerns.
- Cleanup of the petroleum (gasoline) release will have a positive impact on your property.
 - Once the project is completed, your property will be restored as close to its original state as possible.
 - A completed project results in a “No Further Action Required” status, issued by the Environmental Protection Division, USTMP. You will receive a copy for your records. This document will be beneficial if you decide to sell your property.
 - The environment will be restored to safe standards.

**We are here for you. If you have questions or concerns, Please call 404.362.2687
or email Ask.UST@dnr.ga.gov**