



September 19, 2025

## Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earl Sears to Address Membership at Annual Meeting on September 29

We have been notified that Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earl Sears, the Republican candidate for governor, has accepted our invitation to address the membership and will be with us Monday morning, September 29 at the Williamsburg Lodge. We had also extended an invitation to the Democratic candidate, former Congressman Abigail Spanberger, but were notified earlier in the week that she has scheduling conflicts on both the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

If you have not yet made plans to attend, you can register below. The reservation deadline for the Association's rate at the Williamsburg lodge was September 4, but you may still be able to reserve a room (possibly at a higher rate) by contacting Stephanie Chelsen at the Lodge - P: (757) 220-7620 | [schelsen@cwf.org](mailto:schelsen@cwf.org).

Annual Meeting Promo

VPCMA Registration

## Virginia DEQ Announces Changes to UST Program

*Compliance Webinar September 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am*

We have been informed by DEQ that they will be changing the compliance process to "be more reflective of the compliance status of inspected facilities." This appears to be a significant policy shift by the agency. According to the agency, "increasing numbers of tank owners and operators are failing to maintain compliant UST facilities and instead are waiting for DEQ inspectors to identify problems at their facilities during inspections." Further, the department states that "these changes will result in shorter timelines to correct issues before cases are elevated to more formal enforcement actions such as fines or delivery prohibition."

Typically during my tenure here, state agencies contemplating regulatory changes such as this one consult with impacted industries and solicit input. It is highly unusual to send a notice 10 days before a major policy change and a compliance session four business days before the new rules take effect. I am going to be addressing those issues with agency staff.

**We highly recommend** that if your company is regulated by the DEQ's UST program that you make sure your employees involved with compliance participate in a webinar on UST program changes that will be held next Thursday, September 25 at 10:00am to learn about these proposed changes. A link to register for that and to read more info from DEQ can be found below.

### Flyer for Tank Owners

Sincerely,

**Mike O'Connor**  
President, VPCMA



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