



# Removing/Assessing Abandoned USTs

Utah's Experience

# What Causes A UST Property To Become Abandoned

- \* Sites that closed due to the 1998 upgrade
- \* Old sites that have become unprofitable as new stations open near them
- \* Bankruptcy
- \* Lapsed Certificate of Compliance/Red Tag
- \* Releases

# Possible Funding Sources

- \* LUST Trust Grant
- \* Petroleum Brownfields Assessment Grant
- \* State Cleanup Fund (similar to LUST Trust)
- \* State Petroleum Storage Tank Fund (state FR Fund)

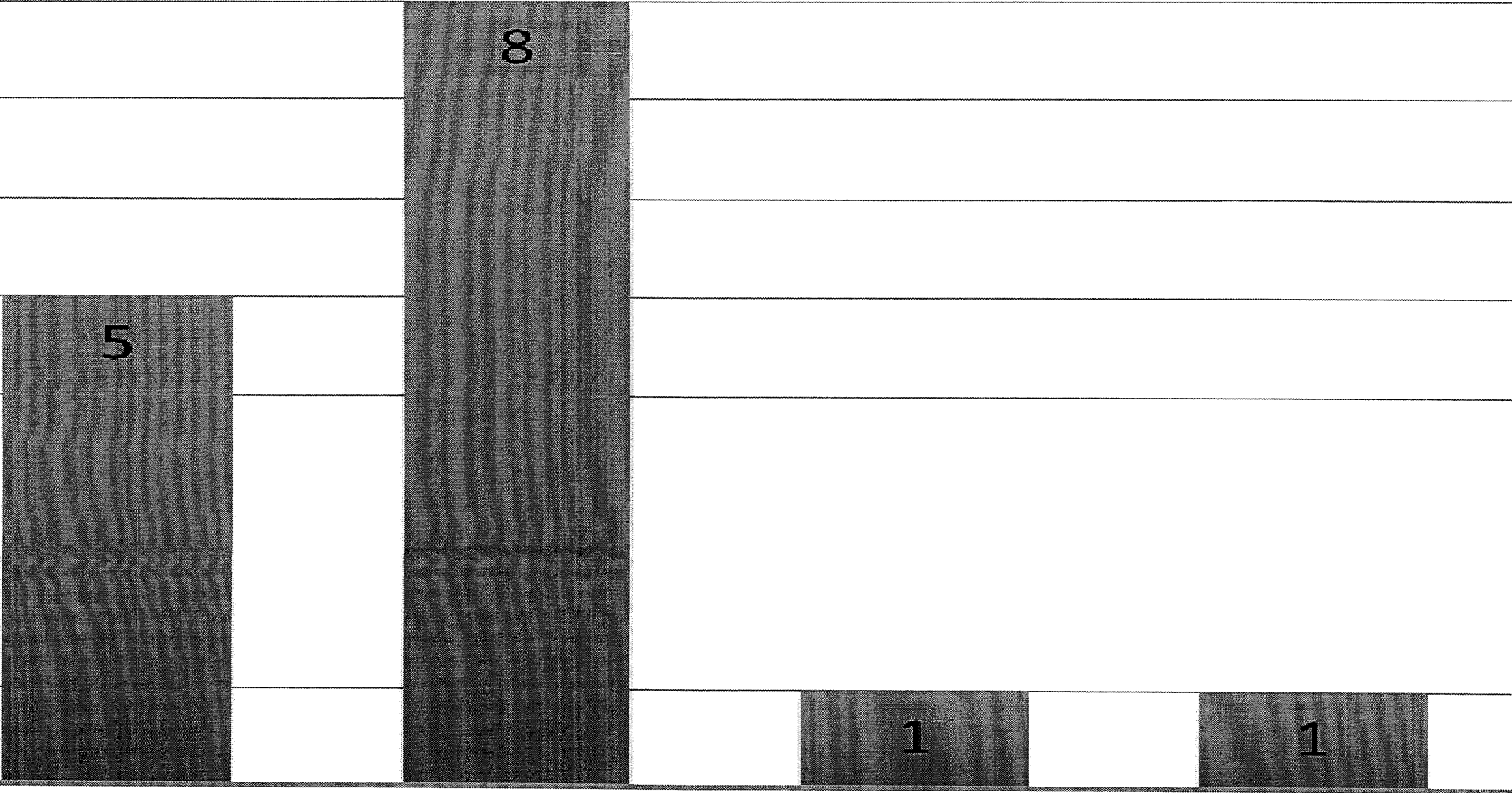
# The Process

- \* Title Search
- \* Notice of Violation to “Owner” Requiring Tank Removal and Site Assessment
- \* Issue Suspected Release Letter
- \* Grant of Access Letter
- \* Procurement of Contract to Perform Site Assessment/UST Removal
- \* Completion of the Site Assessment
- \* Cost Recovery

# All Properties Are Not As Abandoned As They May Seem

- \* Title Searches Often Turned Up a Potentially Viable Owner and/or Responsible Party
- \* When Issued an Order and Suspected Release Letter and Faced with Possible Cost Recovery, the Majority of the Owners Stepped Up and Did the Work Themselves.

# Results for 15 Sites



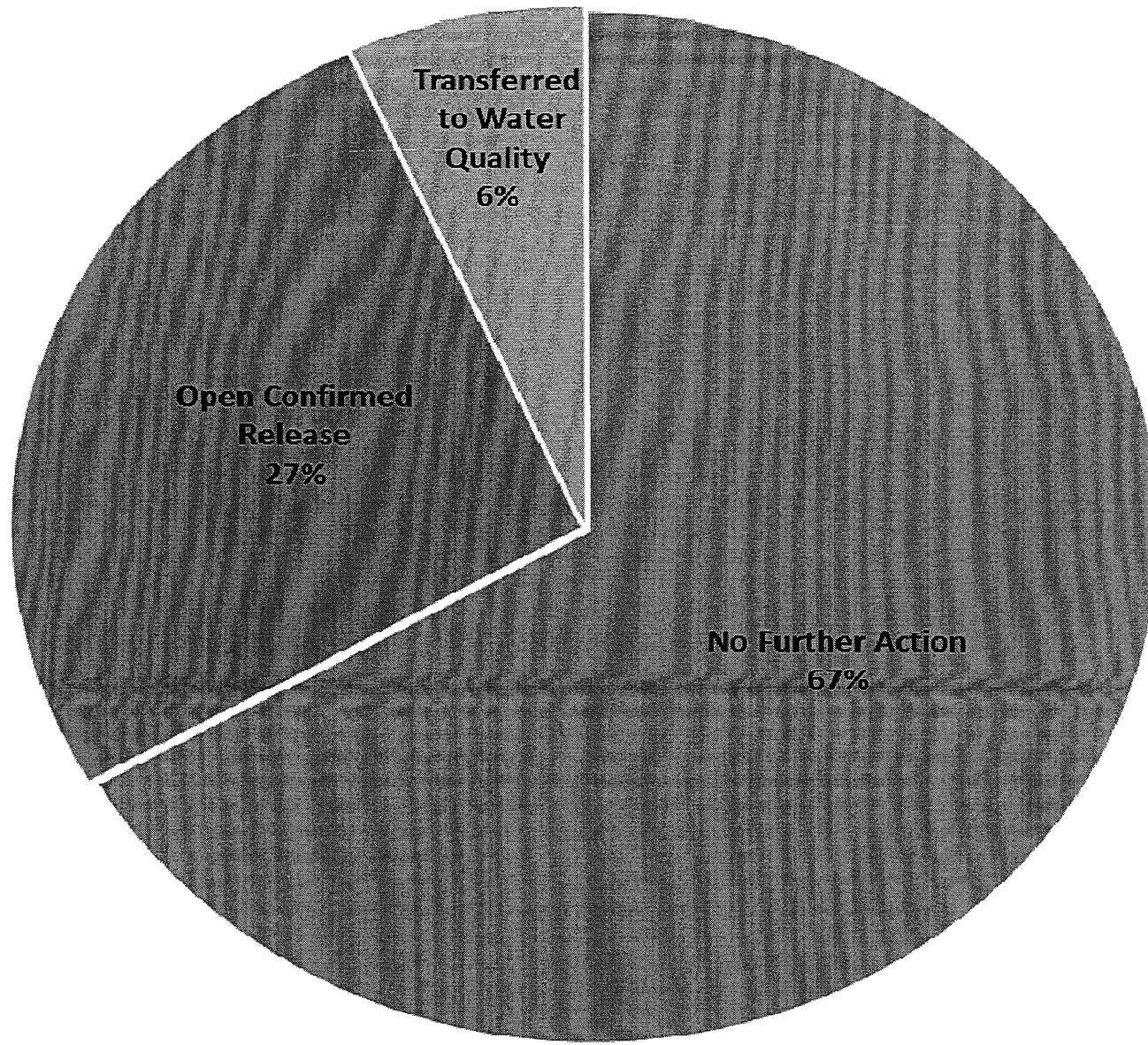
Investigated by  
DERR

Investigated by  
Owner

Brownfields Site

AST Release

# Current Status for 15 Sites



# Former Moab Stars

- \* One of Five “Abandoned” Sites Owned by an Out of State Company
- \* Enforcement Options Exhausted
- \* Most Properties had Minimal Value Except the Moab Property
- \* Referred to State Office of Debt Collections and They Placed a Huge Lien on the Property
- \* Provided Leverage to Resolve All Five Sites and Recover Monies Spent Plus a Large Penalty Settlement



# Green River Tri-Mart

- \* Remnant of a Large Bankruptcy, No One Would Take Possession Due to Known Release
- \* Release Covered by the PST Fund
- \* Tank Removal is not an Eligible Fund Expense
- \* Site Languished for Over Ten Years
- \* Acquired for Past Due Taxes
  - \* New Owner Removed Tanks
  - \* PST Fund Paying for Site Cleanup



Contact Information:

Therron Blatter

Utah DEQ

[tblatter@utah.gov](mailto:tblatter@utah.gov)

801-536-4141