



Wyoming Fuel Tax News

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **FTA Update**
- **State of Wyoming Budget Woes**
- **FTA in the Community**
- **Welcome to the Team**
- **We Want To Know More....**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FTA Update	1
State of Wyo Budget Cuts	2
Electronic Signature	3
Welcome to FTA Richard	3
We Want To Know More.....	4
FTA Contact Information	4

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FTA Keeps Moving Forward

It's already time for another edition of the newsletter! Where does the time go?!!

We continue to stay very busy here at Wyoming FTA, but there is light at the end of the tunnel. While we hope that light isn't an oncoming train, we remain prepared to handle whatever comes our way. Our primary focus right now continues to be our goal of becoming "current," and our plan indicates that will be achieved by October 1, 2016. Our team has accomplished a great deal of work in order to get to where we are today, and we are grateful for their efforts. Additionally, we now have a fully staffed team, so we are even more optimistic about our opportunity to get completely back on track.

As we continue to work on "catching-up," we are also continually evaluating our redesigned work processes. In light of that, we recently made some design tweaks that we believe are going to make us more efficient moving forward. The work should flow more consistently and effectively now, and we will continue to identify efficiencies as we move forward.

We have identified some technical concerns related to reporting that we would like to address here. Please remember that altered Bs/L will not be accepted by FTA. For example, a BOL that has handwriting over the printed information is considered altered and thus not acceptable. Another topic concerns purchasing fuel on the net or gross volume. Fuel can be purchased on either the net or gross volume, but fuel taxes must be remitted on the gross volume. Please report accordingly on the Supplier or Distributor, Importer,

Exporter Monthly Fuel Tax Return. For example: if fuel is purchased on the net volume, the Net Volume Column captures the net gallon amount, the Gross Gallon Column captures the gross gallon amount and the Billed Gallon Column captures the net volume amount since the fuel was purchased on the net volume. If the fuel is purchased on the gross volume, the net volume amount is included in the Net Volume Column, the gross volume gallons are included in the Gross Gallon Volume and the Billed Gallon Column would capture the gross gallons since the fuel was purchased on the gross gallons. As far as document requests, we would like to offer the reminder that by Wyoming Statute a customer has 10 days to provide the requested documentation. We definitely appreciate that our customers are busy operating their businesses, and we are working to ensure that we are only requesting documents that are absolutely necessary. We would like to extend our appreciation to our customers that regularly submit the documents timely as that allows us to complete our processes more timely.

FTA will be hitting the road for customer site visits the week of June 6th. These visits span the spectrum of customer training & support, electronic signature research, electronic filing, and compliance. If we're in your neighborhood, we'll stop in to say "Hi" and drop-off a newsletter.

As always, we are interested in hearing from you. Please don't hesitate to contact us to let us know what information you would like to see discussed in the publication.

State of Wyoming Faces Budget Cuts

These are challenging times for the State of Wyoming as Wyoming's revenue picture is dire. Due to declining energy and sales tax revenue, Governor Mead has already started cutting nearly 300 million dollars from the two-year budget that was approved by the legislature in March.

Governor Mead, members of the Wyoming Legislature, and State of Wyoming agencies are working hard to find answers to the deficit problem, and the governor recently asked each state agency to cut an additional 8% from their operating budgets.

The opinions concerning how to best address the state's budget woes range from cutting budgets to new taxes to using resources from the state's rainy day account and even the permanent mineral trust fund.

Here at FTA we are poised to do whatever is necessary to find additional efficiencies with the intention of still providing the services we currently offer. We believe that our proactive measure of redesigning our work processes identified a number of efficiencies that will bear more visible fruit once we are "current" with our work. Electronic filing has also allowed us to

realize some impactful efficiencies and also put us in the position of no longer needing data entry temporary help. While we have stumbled at times during the transition to our new processes (again, we thank you for your patience), the net result is more efficient use of time and talents within the FTA Program.

We will continue to do our part to ensure that we are efficient and effective with the resources we have, that we remove any unnecessary and/or inefficient expenditures of resources, and we hope to continue to be able to offer the same level of services that we do today.



FTA in the Community

The FTA Team is now in a position to get back to one of our strategic objectives which is to make a positive impact on the community in which we live. We identified this objective because we collectively feel an obligation to participate in community projects and activities that help those in need.

Over the years, FTA has taken on small and large community service projects, and we have been able to positively impact groups such as Connections Corner, the Boys & Girls Club of Cheyenne, Habitat For Humanity, and the Friday Food Bag

Foundation to name a few. We have enjoyed every one of these experiences, and we are looking forward to getting back to giving back.

We are planning to get back to performing a community service project each quarter, and this quarter we will be visiting the Veterans Administration.

The local VA maintains a community garden for their clients to either grow vegetables or flowers. They maintain a variety of heights to accommodate those who stand, kneel or are in a wheel chair. The area has been partially fitted with rubber tiles to allow wheelchair access through-

out the area, however, over 1/4 of the area still needs the tiles installed. The VA has all the materials available to complete the job, they just need help with the labor. The Fuel Tax Team will travel to the gardens in June to complete the installation of the rubber tiles so that there is wheelchair access to the entire area. We view this project as a great way to give back to those that have given so much.

As we identify future community service projects, we will share them on these pages.

Community



Service

Electronic Signature Update

The December 2015 issue of *Wyoming Fuel Tax News* included a follow-up article on our electronic signature project. While we have not made a great deal of progress since that time, we do want to offer a status update on the project.

We are continuing to work with both our IT staff and some of our customers to determine the most effective and appropriate process to accept electronic signatures on coversheets. We have had many discussions with our IT team members about what we think we want it to look like and if those options are available. From our perspective, it's rather easy to say what we envision it looking like, but it turns out it's not always that easy to turn that into reality. We have also had numerous discussions with a group of customers that span the spectrum to learn how they would envision electronic signature working and how effective it would work with their current operating system.

That work continues today, and we are currently in the process of gathering system data from customers that use many different operating systems. Additionally, some of the stops during our customer site visits



will include research that we will then provide to the IT Team. This approach is being used so we can effectively design and build an electronic signature process that will work for the customer with a very complex system as well as the customer that has a small operation.

The necessary security measures and the platform to be used are still being identified, and once we arm them with the results of our research, our IT Team will go to work developing the tool.

Electronic signature is an important next step for electronic filing, and we still believe that the implementation of this process will be in the not-too-distant future. The intention still remains that once this process is in place, customers will no longer need to provide any reporting information in paper form.

Again, once we complete the electronic signature process, we will begin exploring the topic of electronically submitting amendments. Currently, amendments cannot be “dropped” into our system like original returns are, but we are hopeful that we can achieve that ability in the future.

More to come as we near fruition for this important initiative.

Welcome To The FTA Team

The FTA Team is happy to welcome Richard Sartain as the newest Fuel Tax Examiner on the team. Richard joined the team on June 1st, and we have already immersed him into the technical and team aspects of the FTA Program.

Richard comes to the team from Pilot Flying J where he spent nearly 4 years as a manager. Prior to his time at Pilot Flying J, he worked Big 5 Sporting Goods and National Farm Workers Service Center. Richard has a B.S. in Business Management from Colorado State University, but we're going to try hard not to hold that against him. His analytical skills will serve him well in his new role, and we plan to take advantage of his innovative ideas as we move forward with

our redesigned processes. Richard will be a member of the FTA Quality Team, and his training will include every aspect of fuel tax administration.

“Richard brings a great mix of experience and knowledge to the team, and we are very happy to have him join the FTA Team,” stated Kimberly Peters, FTA Program Supervisor.

*Welcome to the team, Richard —
We're Happy You're Here!*



We Want To Know More...

Kimberly Peters—FTA Leadership Team

Hidden talent: I can fix a barb-wired fence

Favorite thing: My dogs and plants/flowers

Favorite artist: Bev Doolittle, Prince, George Strait, Blake Shelton

Favorite quote: "Life happens while you are making other plans."

What does the quote mean to you?

To me, this quote means that you should always live each day to the fullest of your ability to do so because you are never promised another day.

Favorite ride:
My Mustang



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Kelli Kolkman—Quality Team

Hidden talent: Endless patience

Favorite thing: Baby and Boots

Favorite ride: Horses

Favorite artist: George Strait/Red Dirt Music

Achievements you are most proud of:

Graduating from UW.

Ever since I was little I wanted to be married and have kids. It is by far the greatest thing in my life.



The Fuel Tax Team

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