

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. General Information***A. Does this Action Apply to Me?*

This action is directed to the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, any territory of or possession of the United States, any agency or instrumentality of a State including State universities, and Indian tribes and intertribal consortia. If you have any questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

B. How Can I Get Additional Information, Including Copies of this Document or Other Related Documents?

1. *Docket.* EPA has established an official public docket for this action under docket identification (ID) number OPPT-2002-0071. The official public docket consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action. The official public docket is the collection of materials that is available for public viewing at the EPA Docket Center, Rm. B102-Reading Room, EPA West, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. The EPA Docket Center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The EPA Docket Center Reading Room telephone number is (202) 566-1744 and the telephone number for the OPPT Docket, which is located in EPA Docket Center, is (202) 566-0280.

2. *Electronic access.* You may access this **Federal Register** document electronically through the EPA Internet under the "**Federal Register**" listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>. This document will also be available at the EPA P2 web site <http://www.epa.gov/p2>.

An electronic version of the public docket is available through EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, EPA Dockets. You may use EPA Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket/> to submit or view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the official public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically. Although not all docket materials may be available electronically, you may still access any of the publicly available docket materials through the docket facility identified in Unit I.B.1. Once in the system, select "search," then key in the appropriate docket ID number.

C. How and To Whom Do I Submit a Proposal?

You may submit a proposal by mail, electronically or by courier.

1. *Electronically.* By e-mail to: Anderson.Beth@epa.gov. If you submit an electronic proposal, include your name, mailing address, an e-mail address and telephone number. Also include this contact information on the outside of any disk or CD ROM you submit, and in any cover letter accompanying the disk or CD ROM. This ensures that you can be identified as the submitter of the proposal and allows EPA to contact you in case EPA cannot read your proposal due to technical difficulties or needs further information.

2. *By mail.* Send your proposal to: Beth Anderson, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Mail Code 7409M, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460-0001.

3. *By hand delivery or courier.* Deliver your proposal to: Beth Anderson, Environmental Protection Agency-East, Room 5213, 1201 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20004.

II. Description of the Pollution Prevention Information Network Grant Program

1. *Purpose.* Prior to this EPA grant program, there were few mechanisms to coordinate development, review, and dissemination of pollution prevention (P2) information among Federal, State, and local agencies involved in promoting source reduction technologies. Access to P2 information and assistance varied across the United States. Even now, not all programs providing assistance to small businesses have access to P2 information that may be useful and relevant to their clientele. EPA believes that investing in coordinating and standardizing P2 information collection and synthesis will benefit State P2 technical assistance providers, EPA supported compliance assistance centers (more information at <http://www.assistancecenters.net>), and other Federal programs such as: Small Business Development Centers and the National Institute of Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnerships. EPA is seeking to provide more efficient support to P2 technical assistance providers by supporting regional centers that have specialized areas of information they collect and disseminate. Regional centers can be more responsive to the information needs of their States and allow States to focus resources on their unique issues. EPA believes that some of the benefits

of a coordinated P2 information network are:

- i. Improved access to P2 information for all State and Federal business assistance programs.
- ii. Improved coordination in the creation of P2 outreach materials allows States to use or revise existing P2 information.
- iii. Increased number of partnerships among P2 clients and the regional P2 information center, increased information sharing and P2 services.

2. *Program history.* EPA awarded nine grants in response to the first **Federal Register** Notice on the establishment of a Pollution Prevention Information Network published on February 5, 1997 (62 FR 5393) (FRL-5582-5). The 9 grantees represented all 10 of the EPA Regions. These regional P2 information centers were usually only partially funded by this grant program and represent a variety of organizations. Some of the grantees were also funded by other Federal technical assistance programs, such as the Small Business Administration, the National Institute of Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnership, State and local governments, or their Regional EPA office. The first solicitation for this grant program was intended to establish new regional centers (where needed) or give additional funds to existing centers to:

- i. Improve communication among centers.
- ii. Minimize duplication of efforts in creating and disseminating P2 information.
- iii. Promote information standards that would facilitate P2 information dissemination nationwide.

Over the first 2 years of the grant program (1998 and 1999), grantees enhanced networking among centers and improved nationwide interaction on P2 information projects through monthly conference calls, biannual meetings, websites, listserves and data bases. Frequent communication built familiarity with other regional resources and their mode of operation. The grantees formed a group called the "Pollution Prevention Resource Exchange" (P2Rx). More information about the P2Rx centers can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.p2rx.org>. For more detail on the projects the group is working on, go to this link <http://www.p2rx.org/AdminInfo/toc.cfm> and click on "Action Plans-By Project" in the left hand column.

After the second **Federal Register** Notice was published on November 12, 1999 (64 FR 61637) (FRL-6391-3), announcing the availability of funds for regional center proposals, eight regional