

water), and (3) data clean-up/data migration efforts.

(B) *Air Facility System (AFS) Universal Interface (UI)*: Grant funding would support State/tribal efforts to procure technical assistance to incorporate the AFS UI software with their current systems resulting in improved system interfaces, data linkages and data clean-up; and to support State/tribal efforts to build system capability to implement the air compliance monitoring strategy (CMS) data reporting requirements. To support the CMA, grant funding would assist States/tribes to streamline the capture and transmission of nationally required air compliance and enforcement data with special emphasis on reporting of the following data: (a) Stack tests and results; (b) compliance certification due, received, and reviewed dates; and (c) information on compliance certification deviations and certification review results.

Pre-proposal Criteria: All support pre-proposals will be evaluated and ranked based on the criteria outlined below. The following three criteria and associated points will be used by EPA to evaluate the pre-proposals:

(a) (20 points) The pre-proposal must describe briefly the existing State/tribal data system;

(b) (30 points) The pre-proposal must describe briefly the technical aspects of methods for currently exchanging nationally required NPDES and AFS data with EPA; and,

(c) (50 points) Pre-proposal must clearly identify and describe the States/tribes development efforts to support the modernized system formats (*i.e.*, revised IDEF/XML format, revised flat file or batch card format, or AFS UI interface software), to incorporate new data requirements for NPDES programs (*i.e.*, biosolids, CAFO, SSO/CSO, storm water) or the CMS data reporting requirements, and support for data clean-up, linkage, and migration efforts.

Past Performance

In addition to the above criteria, EPA will also be looking at past performance of a grantee under this grant program (*e.g.*, timely and complete quarterly/semi-annual reports, results/outcomes are apparent during the project, final reports are timely and complete). Where there are two pre-proposals that have been ranked equally, the one with a better track record will win based on their past performance. If a grantee should have no record under this program, they will not be unfairly penalized.

Funding

The grants/cooperative agreements should be in the range of \$50,000 to \$200,000, although proposals below or above that range will be considered. The total number and amount of the awards will depend on the amount of funds made available. The U.S. EPA reserves the right to make no awards under this solicitation.

State and tribal matching funds are not required. However, preference will be given to pre-proposals which also make a commitment of State or tribal resources towards the total project cost. This can be State or tribal personnel salary dedicated to the project, cash contribution to the project budget or other "in kind" contributions. The value of donated or "in-kind" services in the performance of a project should be considered in accordance with OMB Circular A-87, "Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments." Lastly, Federal funds cannot generally be used to provide a match or cost-share for other Federal projects.

EPA can not predict that additional funds for these focus areas will be available in future years. Therefore, States and tribes should assume that these funds will be available on a one-time only basis and should not propose projects requiring annual funding.

Process and Schedule

Electronic pre-proposals must be received by EPA by May 2, 2003, and should follow the format below. Pre-proposals should be submitted simultaneously to the appropriate Regional Enforcement Coordinator, and to David Piantanida, OECA, (*see* Contact Information below.) Funding decisions will be made by late June 2003 based on the pre-proposals. Applicants selected to receive funds will be required to submit final proposals electronically by August 29, 2003. Regions will provide application materials to selected applicants.

FOIA, CBI, and Enforcement Screening: Applicants should be aware that pre-proposals submitted under this or any other EPA grant program are subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). This means that anyone can request and receive copies of all the information submitted in your grant proposal. If your application contains any Confidential Business Information (CBI), be sure to highlight it so the confidentiality can be protected in the event of a FOIA request.

Proposed Milestones for 2003 OECA Multi Media Assistance Agreements

May 5—Electronic Pre-Proposals due simultaneously to the appropriate EPA Regional Enforcement Coordinator, and David Piantanida, OECA. (*See* Contact Information below.)

Late June—EPA notifies all applicants via e-mail of funding decisions.

July 31—Selected recipients receive final application materials from EPA Regional office and name and contact information of Regional Project Officer and Regional Grants Contact.

September 15—Final Proposals/Work Plans due to Regional Project Officers and Regional Grants Contact, and David Piantanida, OECA.

September—Grants awarded.

Format for Pre-Proposals

Pre-proposals should not exceed 5 pages and follow the format below:

I. Project Information

State/Tribe and Department:

Title of Project:

Focus Area: (From Notice of Availability)

Total Funds Requested from EPA:

Total Project Cost: (*Including state/tribe cash and in-kind contributions*)

Contact Person: (Name, title, address, phone, fax, & email)

Preferred Assistance Agreement: (Grants or cooperative agreements)

II. Summary

- Summary of the problem being addressed;
- Summary of project goal(s);
- Summary of project components;
- Summary of how the project components will address the problem & attain the goals.

III. Summary Work Plan

- Proposed activities—List and describe activities and how they relate to the evaluation elements listed under Desired Projects above;
- Measures—How will the success of the project be measured? (*E.g.*, training—return on investment and number trained.) Include both output and outcome measures.
- Sharing results—How will the results of the project be shared across States/tribes? (*E.g.*, training—how will the archived materials be disseminated to other States/tribes?)

IV. Project Milestones

- List project milestones with estimated dates, including estimated duration of project.

V. Project Costs

- Include an itemized budget for all project costs—distinguish the funds