

or approach will support the program goals.

- *Part VI--Impact assessment.* Please state how you will evaluate the success of the program in terms of measurable environmental results. How and with what measures will humans or ecosystems be better protected as a result of the program.

- 8. *Proposal appendices.* These appendices must be included in the grant proposal. Additional appendices are not permitted.

- *Literature cited.* List cited key literature references alphabetically by author.

- *Timetable.* A timetable that includes what will be accomplished under each of the objectives during the project and when completion of each objective is anticipated.

- *Major participants.* This appendix should list all farmers, farm organizations, researchers, educators, and conservationists and others having a major role in the proposal. Provide name, organizational affiliation or occupation (such as farmer) and a description of the role each will play in the project. A brief resume (not to exceed two pages) should be submitted for each major researcher or other educator.

- 9. *Electronic copy.* The electronic copy should be e-mailed to butler.john@epa.gov or submitted on a 3.5 disk, IBM compatible, readable in Word Perfect WP6/7/8 for Windows. The electronic copy should be consolidated into a single file. Original copy and disk should be sent to: John Butler, Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, Waste & Chemicals Management Division, 1650 Arch Street, Mail Code (3WC32), Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029. Disks will be checked for computer viruses. Proposals that are submitted with viruses will be disqualified. To be considered, both the paper and electronic copy must be received by the due date.

VI. Preliminary Eligibility Screening Requirements

To be eligible for consideration, applicants must meet all of the following criteria. Failure to meet the following criteria will result in the automatic disqualification of the proposal for funding consideration:

1. Be a applicant who is eligible to receive funding under this announcement.

2. The proposal must address one of more of the High Priority Areas for Consideration.

3. The proposal must meet all format and content requirements contained in this notice.

4. The proposal must comply with the directions for submittal contained in this notice.

VII. Proposed Evaluation Criteria

All proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria and weights (Total: 100 points) :

1. Qualification and experience of the applicant relative to the proposed project activity. (Weighting: 30 points)

2. Project proposal is consistent with the goals of the FQPA Strategic Agricultural Initiative. (Weighting: 30 points)

3. Provisions for a quantitative or qualitative evaluation of the project success at achieving stated goals. (Weighting: 20 points)

4. Likelihood that the project can be replicated in other areas by other organizations to their benefit. (Weighting: 20 points)

VIII. Processes

A. Evaluation Process

Applicants will be screened to ensure that they meet all eligibility criteria and will be disqualified if they do not meet the criteria. All proposals will be reviewed, evaluated, and ranked by a selected panel of EPA reviewers based on the evaluation criteria listed in Unit VII.

B. Selection Process

The funding decision will be made from the group of top rated proposals based on the following additional factors:

- Region III's environmental priorities which include preventing pollution from one media to another and to strive towards the reduction or elimination of environmental contamination.

- The extent of anticipated environmental impact of the project in Region III.

1. *Selection official.* The final selection of initial proposals will be made by the Region III, Director, Waste & Chemicals Management Division.

2. *Notification.* The Region III EPA Office will mail acknowledgments to applicants upon receipt of the proposal. Once proposals have been reviewed, evaluated, and ranked, applicants will be notified regarding the outcome of the competition. A listing of the successful proposals will be posted on the Region III website address at the conclusion of the competition. This website may also contain additional information about this announcement including information concerning deadline extensions or other modifications.

C. Dispute Resolution Process

The procedures for dispute resolution at 40 CFR 30.63 and 40 CFR 31.70 apply.

IX. Confidential Business Information

Applicants should clearly mark information contained in their proposal which they consider confidential business information. EPA reserves the right to make final confidentially decisions in accordance with Agency regulations at 40 CFR part 2, subpart B. If no such claim accompanies the proposal when it is received by EPA, it may be made available to the public by EPA without further notice to the applicant.

X. Congressional Review Act

Under the Agency's current interpretation of the definition of a "rule," grant solicitations such as this which are competitively awarded on the basis of selection criteria, are considered rules for the purpose of the Congressional Review Act (CRA). The CRA, 5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*, as added by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (SBREFA), generally provides that before a rule may take effect, the agency promulgating the rules must submit a rule report, which includes a copy of the rule, to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States. EPA will submit a report containing this rule and other required information to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States prior to publication of the rule in the **Federal Register**. This rule is not a "major rule" as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Agricultural commodities, Pesticides and pests, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: June 6, 2003.

Thomas C. Voltaggio,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region III.

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