

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations are listed in 40 CFR part 9 and 48 CFR Chapter 15. The **Federal Register** document required under 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on March 27, 2001, (66 FR16671); no comments were received.

The EPA would like to solicit comments to:

(i) evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(ii) evaluate the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(iii) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(iv) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

**Burden Statement:** The annual public reporting and record keeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 80 hours per response. The estimated number of respondents is 50 State SBAPs, and 3 Territory SBAPs. The frequency of response is on an annual basis. The estimated total hours of burden is 4,240 hours. There is no annualized capital O&M cost associated with this activity.

Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; adjust the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; train personnel to be able to respond to a collection of information; search data sources; complete and review the collection of information; and transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

Dated: October 28, 2003.

**Karen V. Brown,**

*Director, Small Business Division, Small Business Ombudsman, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, National Center for Environmental Innovation, Office of Business and Community Innovation.*

[FR Doc. 03-28423 Filed 11-12-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6560-50-P**

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7586-1]

### Notice of Request for Initial Proposals (IP) for Projects To Be Funded From the Public Water Supply Supervision Program (CFDA 66.424—Surveys, Studies, Demonstrations and Special Purpose Grants—Section 1442 of the Safe Drinking Water Act)

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** EPA Region 6 is soliciting Initial Proposals (IP) from tribes, universities, non-profits, and other entities as defined by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) interested in applying for Federal assistance for Native American water system operation and management training, and technical assistance (circuit rider) projects to develop, expand, or carry out a program for training persons for methods and occupations involving the public health aspects of providing Safe Drinking Water as authorized by the Safe Drinking Water Act section 1442, 42 U.S.C. 300j-1 on Indian Lands in Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. Region 6 EPA estimates an incremental funding process with as much as \$750,000 available per year for three-year cooperative agreements. Multiple awards may be made for various purposes (i.e., regulatory compliance support, operator training and certification, source water assessment and protection), based on specific applicant qualifications. Awards may range from \$10,000 to \$500,000 based on complexity of project. Awards are expected to be incrementally funded at a similar level each year for the duration of the project period, pending availability of monies allocated to Region 6 for Tribal Direct Implementation of the SDWA including funds from the Underground Injection Control Program, Tribal Drinking Water Operator Training and Certification, and Tribal Public Water System Capacity Development. EPA Region 6 estimates that a total amount of EPA funds for the three-year project period to be as much

as \$2,250,000, with approximately \$350,000 of those funds going toward Tribal Source Water Assessment and Protection, \$350,000 going toward Tribal Drinking Water Operator Training and Certification, and the remainder going toward compliance assistance and capacity development activities.

**DATES:** EPA will consider all proposals received on or before 12 p.m. midnight Central Standard Time December 29, 2003. IPs received after the due date will not be considered for funding.

**ADDRESSES:** IPs should be mailed to: Yulonda Davis (6WQ-AT), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6, Water Quality Protection Division, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733. Overnight Delivery may be sent to the same address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Yulonda Davis, Project Officer, by telephone at 214-665-7154 or by e-mail at [davis.yulonda@epa.gov](mailto:davis.yulonda@epa.gov) or Blake Atkins, Tribal Drinking Water Program Coordinator, by telephone at 214-665-2297 or by e-mail at [atkins.blake@epa.gov](mailto:atkins.blake@epa.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Purpose of This Request for Initial Proposals

EPA Region 6's Water Quality Protection Division is requesting proposals from tribes, universities, non-profits, and other entities as defined by the SDWA for administration of Public Water Supply Supervision (PWSS) program for Tribal Direct Implementation.

#### EPA Region 6 Has Identified the Following High Priority Areas for Consideration

The purpose of the Native American water system operation, and management training and technical assistance projects are to provide hands-on technical assistance in the operational and managerial aspects of managing drinking water facilities. Project work occurs mainly in the field, using a "circuit rider" approach for assisting tribes with drinking water compliance issues and technical issues which may impact drinking water quality.

Other project work includes providing/coordinating local classroom training for tribal operators, tribal utility directors, and other tribal environmental staff, and tribal officials, that range in subject matter through such topics as operator certification exam preparation, disinfection procedures, regulatory requirements, optimization and performance based training.