

Additional project work includes support for developing and implementing Tribal Source Water Assessment and Protection programs and activities. Support will be provided to tribal water system staff and tribal environmental staff regarding the EPA Region 6 Source Water Assessment and Protection Programs. Where Source Water Assessments have been completed, support will be provided to interested tribes in completing comprehensive Source Water Protection Programs and activities, following the EPA Region 6 Source Water Protection protocol.

Assistance will be provided predominantly in New Mexico, especially for on-site assistance. Assistance will also be provided, when requested, to tribal water systems in Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana, but minimal travel is expected to these locations.

An organization whose IP is selected for Federal assistance must complete an EPA Application for Assistance, including the Federal SF-424 form (Application for Federal Assistance, see 40 CFR 30.12 and 31.10). Organizations who have an existing agreement under this program are eligible to compete for new awards.

Statutory Authority, Applicable Regulations, and Funding Level

Funding is authorized under the provisions of the SDWA section 1442, 42 U.S.C. 300j-1.

The regulations governing the award and administration of Public Water Supply Supervision Cooperative Agreements are in 40 CFR part 30 (for institutions of higher learning, hospitals, and other nonprofit organizations), and 40 CFR part 31 (for States, local governments, and interstate agencies).

Applicants requested to submit a full application will be required to comply with Intergovernmental Review requirements (40 CFR part 29) and the Quality Assurance requirements (40 CFR 30.54 and 31.45) if projects involve environmentally related measurements or data generation.

Total funding available for award by Region 6 is dependent on EPA's appropriation for Fiscal Years 2004, 2005, and 2006. There are estimates of as much as \$750,000 per year for three-year cooperative agreements. Awards may range from \$10,000 to \$500,000. There are no cost share requirements for approved projects.

Proposal Format and Contents

IPs should be no more than three pages with a minimum font size of 10

pitch in Wordperfect/Word or equivalent. Failure to follow the format or to include all requested information could result in the IP not being considered for funding. Full application packages should not be submitted at this time. It is recommended that confidential information not be included in this IP. The following format should be used for all IPs:

Name of Project

Priority Area(s) Addressed (i.e., Operator Certification, Technical Assistance, Source Water Assessment:

Point of Contact: (Individual and Agency/Organization Name, Address, Phone Number, Fax Number, E-mail Address)

Is This a Continuation of a Previously Funded Project (if so, please provide the status of the current grant or cooperative agreement):

Proposed Federal Amount:

Proposed Non-Federal Match (optional, not required):

Proposed Total Award Amount:

Description of General Budget Proposed to Support Project: (Provide budget estimates by task, including travel).

Project Description: (Should not exceed two pages of single-spaced text). Describe organization and relevant experience. Explain organization's interest and goals in entering into a cooperative agreement to perform the project work described in this notice, the availability and training of staff, and available resources to implement the project. Include general description of the proposed project and how it will be organized and implemented. Include a description of how the project will provide continuing education unit (CEU) certifications, and how field work plus classroom training will be delivered. (The majority of the project detail—such as training dates—will be established in participation with EPA in the negotiation of a final workplan, but training events and site visit activity should be generally described.)

Proposed Centers for Implementation/Coordination for Regional/Local Technical Assistance: Home base location of technical assistance providers and project coordination/oversight, such that a regional/local presence and 24-hour/7 days per week emergency assistance can be plausibly implemented.

Expected Accomplishments or Product, with Dates, and Interim Milestones: Define each task and deliverable with a schedule for starting and completing. This section should also include a discussion of a

communication plan for distributing the project results to interested parties.

Describe How the Project Meets the Evaluation Criteria Specified Below:

EPA IP Evaluation Criteria

EPA Region 6 will award PWSS cooperative agreements on a competitive basis and evaluate IPs based on the following criteria:

(1) Applicant's demonstrated organizational commitment to providing tribal communities with technical assistance and access to resources, with the objective of increasing tribes' capacity, implementing tribes' own solutions to problems, and providing services in a culturally appropriate manner.

(2) Applicant's specific commitment and experience in the delivery of training and technical/managerial assistance to tribal communities consistent with Safe Drinking Water Act regulation, policy, and Region 6 Guidance.

(3) Applicant's ability to provide assistance with drinking water regulatory compliance monitoring (sampling and analysis), water system optimization, source water assessment and protection, and operator training and certification.

(4) Applicant's ability to maintain continuity of currently provided services to tribal communities without interruption and to work closely with EPA in day-to-day project operation.

(5) Applicant's ability to provide regional/local presence and full technical assistance services in all coverage areas (predominantly New Mexico, Oklahoma, Eastern and Southern Texas, and Northeastern Louisiana).

(6) Applicant's organizational and subject matter expertise resources for the coordination and provision of workshop and classroom training events in drinking water operations and management. Additionally, applicant's ability to provide such training for CEUs where appropriate.

(7) Applicant's ability to produce training literature, training modules, and informational brochures, using both in-house and outside resources in the areas of drinking water, utility management, source water assessment and protection, and systems operations and maintenance.

(8) Applicant's working familiarity with SDWA regulations, with a focus on key monitoring, reporting and public notice requirements of the Total Coliform Rule.

(9) Relationship of the proposed work to the priorities identified in this notice, and how well the proposed work