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II. Background

A. What Action is the Agency Taking?

The Office of Pesticide Programs, in coordination with the EPA regions, is soliciting Tribal pesticide projects for FY 2003 funding. The total amount of funding available in FY 2003 to be awarded to Tribal Governments and/or intertribal consortia for pesticide projects is \$445,500.

B. What is the Agency's Authority for Taking this Action?

Section 23(a) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) authorizes EPA to enter into cooperative agreements with States and Indian Tribes to implement pesticide enforcement programs. Pursuant to the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 1999, pesticide program implementation grants under section 23(a)(1) of FIFRA are available for "pesticide program development and implementation, including enforcement and compliance activities."

The award and administration of these grants will be governed by the Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments set forth at 40 CFR part 31. Grants awarded pursuant to this solicitation are program grants subject to the regulations for "Environmental Program Grants for Tribes" set forth at 40 CFR part 35, subpart B.

III. What Should I Consider as I Prepare My Project Proposal for EPA?

1. *Scope and purpose of the OPP Tribal Pesticide and Special Projects Cooperative Agreements.* The purpose of these cooperative agreements is to provide financial assistance to eligible Tribal Governments or intertribal consortia to carry out projects related to human health and the environment that assess or reduce risk from pesticide exposure. Funds can be used for new activities or to further an existing eligible project or program.

2. *Eligible applicants and activities—*
i. *Who may submit a project proposal and may an applicant submit more than one?* Any federally recognized Tribal Government or intertribal consortium (as defined in Unit I.A.) that is eligible to receive federal funds may submit a project proposal. Only one project proposal may be submitted by each Tribal Government or intertribal consortium.

ii. *What types of projects are eligible for funding?* The Agency will consider projects related to human health and the environment that assess or reduce risk from pesticide exposure. Projects may be targeted to any pesticide concern or need facing a Tribe or intertribal consortium, including:

- Water quality.
- Traditional Tribal lifeways/subsistence. Effects of pesticides on cultural activities.
- Assessment of the need for and/or development of a pesticide management policy or plan.
- Consideration of integrated pest management, reduced pesticide use, or alternatives to pesticides.
- Sampling.
- Education about the use of pesticides in Tribal museum curatorship.
- Noxious weed educational materials and/or control alternatives.
- Public outreach/education materials relating to pest management and/or the safe use, storage and disposal of pesticides.

Water quality work products may be focused on monitoring of surface water or ground water (e.g., assessing dietary exposure to pesticides via drinking water, determining those water bodies that may be impaired due to pesticides, predicting potential exposure to endangered and threatened aquatic species, or establishing a baseline of contamination from which to measure progress in the future). Water quality projects may also include information gathering and development such as a vulnerability assessment, determining the pesticides (from either on or off

reservation sources) that are most likely to impact water quality, and/or providing information to pesticide users on ways they can assist in ensuring quality water sources. Finally, water quality work may also focus on the development or implementation of programs aimed at preventing contamination of water sources, mitigating contaminated water sources or implementation of best management practices.

Other projects not related to the water quality activities described above may include the establishment of a Tribal environmental, pesticide, or water quality code, a system for the proper disposal of pesticides, and/or educational outreach to the community. Sampling projects may include soil sampling, residue sampling on culturally significant/medicinal plants, or sampling to determine the effects of pesticides on cultural activities, such as subsistence hunting and fishing.

iii. *How much money may be requested, and are matching funds required?* Maximum funding award will not exceed \$50,000 per project. Indirect cost rates will not increase the \$50,000 maximum funding amount. No matching funds are required.

IV. Project Proposal Application Requirements

A. What is Required as Part of the Application Process?

In order to be considered for funding, applicants must submit the following to the regional Tribal pesticide staff contact indicated in Unit I.C. of this solicitation:

1. *Project proposal (maximum 8 pages¹ of narrative), including:*

- i. Name of project.
- ii. Tribal project contact (including qualifications).
- iii. Project description, including:
 - Purpose and goal(s) of the project.
 - New or continuing project. (If this proposed project is a discrete part of a continuing effort, please provide beginning and expected ending dates for the larger effort, amount of project funding previously awarded, and project activity percent achieved to date.)
 - Environmental or health issues addressed.
 - Approach and methods (how the project will be carried out).
 - Deliverables.
 - Expected/desired outcome.
 - Indicators/measures of success.

¹ Additional information may be included in an appendix to the main project proposal, when it adds significant supporting detail to the main proposal.