

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7511b(e).

March 29, 1999.

Robert Perciasepe,

Assistant Administrator, OAR.

[FR Doc. 99-8255 Filed 4-2-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6318-6]

Investigator-Initiated Grants: Request for Applications in the "Supersites" Program

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of request for Applications.

SUMMARY: This notice provides information on the availability of a fiscal year 1999 investigator-initiated grants solicitation for a Particulate Matter (PM) "Supersites" monitoring program. The areas of research interest, eligibility and submission requirements, evaluation criteria, and implementation schedules are set forth in the announcement. Cooperative agreement grants will be competitively awarded following peer review. This competition is jointly announced by the Office of Air and Radiation and the Office of Research and Development. A discussion of the program will take place on June 7, 1999, in Durham, NC. **DATES:** The receipt date for applications is Wednesday, August 4, 1999, by 4:00 p.m. EDT.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Center for Environmental Research and Quality Assurance (8703R), 401 M Street SW, Washington DC 20460, telephone (800) 490-9194. The complete announcement can be accessed on the Internet from the EPA home page: <http://www.epa.gov/ncerqa> under "announcements."

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In this Request for Applications (RFA) the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Air and Radiation and Office of Research and Development, invites research cooperative agreement applications to support development of a "Particulate Matter Supersites" monitoring program that will provide information of value to the atmospheric sciences, human health, and human exposure research communities. The PM Supersites Program will be implemented through individual projects in as many as five study areas of the United States. Each of these individual projects will be an ambient atmospheric measurement study which

is designed to address and integrate objectives of the atmospheric sciences, health, and exposure research communities. Applications must be received by 4:00 p.m. EDT, Wednesday, August 4, 1999. The RFA provides relevant background information, summarizes EPA's interest in the topic areas, and describes the application and review process.

To foster interaction among potential applicants across a spectrum of scientific disciplines, EPA has organized a discussion session on the evening of June 7, 1999, at the Durham Marriott at the Civic Center, in Durham, NC. Further information about this meeting is posted on the EPA web site: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/amtic/supsites.html>.

Contact person for technical questions related to the program is Richard D. Scheffe (scheffe.richard@epa.gov), telephone 919-541-4650, and administrative questions is Robert E. Menzer (menzer.robert@epa.gov), telephone 202-564-6849.

Dated: March 16, 1999.

Approved for publication:

Henry L. Longest II,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Research and Development.

[FR Doc. 99-8256 Filed 4-2-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6318-7]

Investigator-Initiated Grants: Request for Applications

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of request for applications.

SUMMARY: This notice provides information on the availability of fiscal year 1999 investigator-initiated grants program announcements, in which the areas of research interest, eligibility and submission requirements, evaluation criteria, and implementation schedules are set forth. Grants will be competitively awarded following peer review.

DATES: Receipt dates vary depending on the specific research area within the solicitation and are listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Center for Environmental Research and Quality Assurance (8703R), 401 M Street SW, Washington DC 20460, telephone (800) 490-9194. The complete announcement can be accessed on the Internet from the EPA

home page: <http://www.epa.gov/ncerqa> under "announcements."

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In its Requests for Applications (RFA) the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites research grant applications in the following areas of special interest to its mission: (1) Airborne Particulate Matter Health Effects; (2) Drinking Water; (3) Combustion Emissions; (4) Computing Technology for Ecosystem Modeling; and (5) Exploratory Physical Science and Engineering Research. Applications must be received as follows: June 2, 1999, for topic (1); May 19, 1999, for topics (2) and (3); May 12, 1999, for topic (4); and June 9, 1999, for topic (5).

The RFAs provide relevant background information, summarize EPA's interest in the topic areas, and describe the application and review process.

Contact person for the Airborne Particulate Matter Health Effects RFA is Deran Pashayan (pashayan.deran@epamail.epa.gov), telephone 202-564-6913. Contact person for the Drinking Water RFA is William Stelz (stelz.william@epamail.epa.gov), telephone 202-564-6834. Contact person for the Combustion Emissions RFA is Thomas Veirs (veirs.thomas@epamail.epa.gov), telephone 202-564-6831. Contact person for the Computing Technology for Ecosystem Modeling RFA is Chris Saint (saint.chris@epamail.epa.gov), telephone 202-564-6909. Contact person for the Exploratory Physical Science and Engineering RFA is Bala Krishnan (krishnan.bala@epamail.epa.gov), telephone 202-564-6832.

Dated: March 16, 1999.

Approved for publication:

Henry L. Longest II,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Research and Development.

[FR Doc. 99-8257 Filed 4-2-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6319-9]

Effluent Guidelines Task Force Open Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Effluent Guidelines Task Force, an EPA advisory committee, will

hold a meeting to discuss the Agency's Effluent Guidelines Program. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 4, 1999 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Wednesday, May 5, 1999 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at the Radisson Barcelo Hotel, 2121 P Street, NW, Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Randolph, Office of Water (4303), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20460; telephone (202) 260-5373; fax (202) 260-7185.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), the Environmental Protection Agency gives notice of a meeting of the Effluent Guidelines Task Force (EGTF). The EGTF is a subcommittee of the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT), the external policy advisory board to the Administrator of EPA.

The EGTF was established in July of 1992 to advise EPA on the Effluent Guidelines Program, which develops regulations for dischargers of industrial wastewater pursuant to Title III of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*). The Task Force consists of members appointed by EPA from industry, citizen groups, state and local government, the academic and scientific communities, and EPA regional offices. The Task Force was created to offer advice to the Administrator on the long-term strategy for the effluent guidelines program, and particularly to provide recommendations on a process for expediting the promulgation of effluent guidelines. The Task Force generally does not discuss specific effluent guideline regulations currently under development.

The meeting is open to the public, and limited seating for the public is available on a first-come, first-served basis. The public may submit written comments to the Task Force regarding improvements to the Effluent Guidelines program. Comments should be sent to Beverly Randolph at the above address. Comments submitted by April 23, 1999 will be considered by the Task Force at or subsequent to the meeting.

Dated: March 26, 1999.

Tudor T. Davies,

Director, Office of Science and Technology.
[FR Doc. 99-8336 Filed 4-2-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5650-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6320-2]

Notice of Process Improvements Under Project XL

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice; clarification and streamlining of the process used for developing XL projects.

SUMMARY:

What is Project XL?

Project XL, which stands for eXcellence and Leadership, is a national initiative that tests innovative ways of achieving better and more cost-effective public health and environmental protection. XL pilot projects must meet certain criteria (see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this Notice), but are built around three key elements: (1) Stronger environmental performance; (2) meaningful stakeholder involvement; and (3) flexibility in EPA regulations, policies, or procedures. Project XL challenges the regulated community—facilities, business sectors, government agencies, and communities—to find cleaner, cheaper and smarter ways of protecting the environment. As of February 1999, ten projects are being implemented and over 20 more are in development. Project sponsors have already achieved a number of significant benefits by participating in Project XL, including increased environmental protection, substantial cost savings, improved operational flexibility, and better stakeholder relations.

What Is the Purpose of This Notice?

EPA is announcing new operating guidance for XL's project development process. Project XL is an evolving program where EPA applies "lessons learned" in a timely way. Comments are always welcome. This guidance will not be "finalized" through additional notices, but will be revised, when necessary, based on comments and input. This Notice provides a very brief description of the new guidance and announces the availability of three specific documents that describe the key changes in greater detail. These documents are available on Project XL's website: www.epa.gov/ProjectXL as well as from XL's information line at 202-260-5754.

Why Is This New XL Guidance Needed?

When Project XL was launched in 1995, there were no models to draw upon for such an innovative effort. Since that time, EPA has learned a great

deal about how to carry out cross-media, cross-Agency experiments and can now be more specific on what a quality proposal should contain, how decisions should be made, and what a stakeholder process should entail. Building on that practical experience, EPA has worked hard with representatives from industry, environmental organizations, states, and other interested groups over the last several months to improve how XL pilot projects are developed and implemented. These improvements have already led to reductions in the "transaction costs" of all participants in projects where they have been utilized.

How Has the New Process Produced Better Results?

After a step-by-step evaluation of the old process, the "re-engineering" work group created a new process that is faster and clearer, and spells out the roles and responsibilities not only for EPA, but also project sponsors and stakeholders. Improvements have been seen in several XL projects currently under development where these changes have been utilized. For example, in one recent project several of the new techniques were applied resulting in a quality proposal that will have an agreement signed nine months after initial discussions began.

What Changes Have Been Made?

- The old process needed—
 - Greater clarity in determining what makes a good proposal and how to involve and assist stakeholders more effectively;
 - Better management of proposal development activities and decision-making in EPA, the states, and other regulators outside of EPA; and
 - More commitment to an expeditious process by all parties at all levels.

The new process is now—

- clearer, more predictable, and faster and is described in detail in the following documents:

(1) A Best Practices Guide for Proposal Development

This guide is designed to help project sponsors submit Project XL proposals that will go through the review process as quickly and smoothly as possible. The guide is intended to: (a) let project sponsors know in clear terms what information to put into a proposal; (b) help sponsors understand why EPA needs this information from project sponsors; and (c) give sponsors some initial sense of whether their idea is a likely candidate for Project XL.