

(2137), 401 M Street, SW,
Washington, DC 20460;

and
Office of Information and Regulatory
Affairs, Office of Management and
Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for
EPA, 725 17th Street, NW,
Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: October 26, 1999.

Richard T. Westlund,

*Acting Director, Regulatory Information
Division.*

[FR Doc. 99-28504 Filed 10-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[AZNV017-FOI; FRL-6467-9]

Inadequacy Status of Submitted State Implementation Plans for Transportation Conformity Purposes

AGENCY: Environmental Protection
Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of inadequacy
determination.

SUMMARY: In this document, Region IX is augmenting the national list of adequacy determinations for State Implementation Plans (SIP) submittals for transportation conformity purposes as identified in 64 FR 31217-31219 (June 10, 1999). This notice describes a finding of inadequacy for the PM₁₀ attainment submittals with respect to emissions budget criteria for Clark County, Nevada and Yuma County, Arizona.

DATES: These budgets are effective November 16, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karina O'Connor, U.S. EPA, Region IX, Air Division AIR-2, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105; (415) 744-1247 or occonnor.karina@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Transportation conformity is required by section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act. EPA's conformity rule, 40 CFR Part 93, requires that transportation plans, programs, and projects conform to state air quality implementation plans and establishes the criteria and procedures for determining whether or not they do.

Conformity to a SIP means that transportation activities will not produce new air quality violations, worsen existing violations, or delay timely attainment of the national ambient air quality standards. The criteria by which we determine whether a SIP's motor vehicle emission budgets

are adequate for conformity purposes are outlined in 40 CFR 93.118(e)(4).

On March 2, 1999, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that submitted SIPs cannot be used for conformity determinations unless EPA has affirmatively found the conformity budget adequate through a process providing for public notice and comment. Where EPA finds a budget inadequate, it cannot be used for conformity determinations.

The new process for determining the adequacy of submitted SIP budgets is contained in a May 14, 1999, memo titled "Conformity Guidance on Implementation of March 2, 1999 Conformity Court Decision." EPA will be revising the conformity rule to codify this guidance. You can obtain this guidance at <http://www.epa.gov/oms/traq> from this website, click on the conformity button and look for "Adequacy Review of SIP Submissions for Conformity."

Status of Submitted Budgets

In Las Vegas, Nevada, the serious PM₁₀ attainment plan did not establish any PM₁₀ emission budgets for the annual or 24 hour PM₁₀ standard. Thus the plan does not contain emission budgets that are adequate for use in conformity determinations. In a letter dated July 12, 1999, from EPA to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Region IX determined that the area's budgets are inadequate and we are publishing that finding in this notice.

In Yuma, AZ, the only submitted budgets for transportation conformity purposes pertain to the area's moderate attainment demonstration for the pollutant PM₁₀. In a letter dated July 12, 1999, from EPA to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Region IX determined that the area's budgets are inadequate and we are publishing that finding in this notice.

As stated in the May 14, 1999, guidance, EPA's adequacy review is not to be used to prejudge EPA's ultimate approval or disapproval of the submitted SIPs. Approvability of the two SIPs mentioned in this notice will be addressed in a future rulemaking.

Because both areas have performed certain other emissions analyses, their transportation programs may continue despite this finding of inadequacy regarding submitted budgets. Furthermore, the areas can continue to use these alternative emission analyses for future conformity determinations.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*

Dated: October 21, 1999.

Laura Yoshii,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region IX.

[FR Doc. 99-28499 Filed 10-29-99; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6467-2]

State and Tribal Environmental Justice Grants Program; Request for Applications Guidance—FY 2000

Purpose of Notice

The purpose of this notice is to solicit applications from eligible candidates under the State and Tribal Environmental Justice (STEJ) Grants Program, sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Justice.

For FY 1998 and FY 1999, EPA awarded five STEJ grants each fiscal year totaling \$500,000 to (4) states and (1) tribe. Thus, there have been ten grants awarded totaling \$1,000,000. A list of the recipients and their project descriptions are provided in Appendix E.

For FY 2000, EPA expects to once again award a total of \$500,000 to states and tribes to demonstrate how to effectively address environmental justice issues. A maximum of \$100,000 will be awarded to each recipient, contingent upon the availability of funds. A total of five grants are expected to be awarded. The standard project and budget periods are for one year. The grantee can request that the project and budget periods be extended up to three years, with the total budget of \$100,000 provided during the first year. This guidance outlines the purpose, authorities, eligibility, and general procedures for application and award of the FY 2000 STEJ Grants.

The application must be postmarked no later than Friday, January 28, 2000.

Grants Program Overview

The STEJ Grants Program was created to provide financial assistance to state and tribal environmental departments that are working to address environmental justice issues, and to support efforts to establish environmental justice programs.

A. Program Goals

The STEJ Grants Program is intended to assist states and tribes in ultimately achieving the following environmental justice goals and objectives:

- Reduce or prevent disproportionately high and adverse

human health or environmental effects on low-income communities and/or minority communities.

- Integrate environmental justice goals into a state's or tribe's policies, programs, operations and activities.
- Provide financial and technical resources to help build the capacity to address environmental justice issues at the state/local community level and tribal/tribal community level.
- Set up model programs to address enforcement and compliance issues in affected communities.
- Integrate measurable environmental justice goals within the annual Performance Partnership Agreement (PPAs) and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between a state and EPA, or within the Tribal Environmental Agreement (TEAs) between EPA and a tribe.
- Improve public participation in the decision-making processes (e.g. permitting processes, development of regulations and policies).

B. Background on Environmental Justice

EPA considers environmental justice to be the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, culture, or income with respect to the development, implementation, enforcement and compliance of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no groups of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups, should bear a disproportionate share of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local and tribal programs and policies.

On February 11, 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order (EO) 12898, "Federal Actions To Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations" (Appendix A). Environmental justice focuses attention on the need to ensure equal environmental protection, and the equal enforcement of protective environmental laws, rules, regulations, and policies for all.

Eligible Applicants and Activities

C. Who May Submit an Application?

Any state or tribal agency may submit an application if it manages, or is eligible to manage, an EPA program and expressed interest in working with community-based grassroots organizations and other environmental justice stakeholders to address environmental justice concerns in

communities. EPA requests that only one application be submitted from each state or tribe interested in receiving assistance. The project can be a partnership involving more than one state department, or if from a tribe, more than one tribal department. The project may also involve a consortium of state or tribal governments. The degree of support provided by top government officials from either the state or tribe will be an important factor in the selection process.

D. May an Individual or Organization Apply?

No. Only a state or federally-recognized tribal government may apply. However, the applying states or tribes should work with community-based grassroots organizations when developing their proposals. Preference will be given to the states or tribes who involve community-based grassroots organizations in the development of their proposals.

E. What Types of Projects Are Eligible for Funding?

Funds are to be used for activities authorized by the appropriate statutory provisions listed in paragraph F below, to accomplish the following: The development of a model state or tribal environmental justice executive order, strategic plan, and/or conduct studies, analyses, and training in the development of a state or tribal environmental justice program.

Preferences

Preference will be given to the states or tribes which have not received a STEJ grant in the past and which include the following in their application:

- (1) A description of how environmental justice/community-based grassroots organizations were involved in the development of the proposal, and
- (2) Identification of the matching or cost sharing funds to be provided by the state or tribe for the project.

F. What Activities Are Authorized To Be Conducted by Grant Recipients?

The State and Tribal Environmental Justice Grants are for multimedia environmental justice activities. For this reason, each project must include activities which are authorized by two or more of the following environmental statutes.

- Clean Water Act*, Section 104(b)(3): Conduct and promote the coordination of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstration, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution.

- Safe Drinking Water Act*, Sections 1442(b)(3): develop, expand, or carry out a program (that may combine training, education, and employment) for occupations relating to the public health aspects of providing safe drinking water.

- Solid Waste Disposal Act*, Section 8001(a): Conduct and promote the coordination of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, public education programs, and studies relating to solid waste management and hazardous waste management.

- Clean Air Act*, Section 103(b)(3): conduct and promote the coordination and acceleration of research, investigations, experiments, demonstrations, surveys, and studies related to the causes, effects (including health and welfare effects), extent, prevention, and control of air pollution.

- Toxic Substances Control Act*, Section 10(a): conduct research, development, and monitoring activities on toxic substances.

- Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act*, Section 20(a): conduct research on pesticides.

- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act*, Section 311(c): conduct research related to the detection, assessment, and evaluation of the effects on, and risks to, human health from hazardous substances.

- Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act*, Section 203: conduct research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the minimizing or ending of ocean dumping of hazardous materials and the development of alternatives to ocean dumping.

G. What Regulations Apply to These Grants?

The STEJ Grants will be governed by 40 CFR Part 31, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State, Local, and Tribal Governments, and OMB Circular A-87. Note, in particular, that there are restrictions on the use of grant funds for lobbying and that grant funds may not be used for intervention in federal regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings.

Funding

H. Are Matching Funds Required?

Matching funds are not required, but are strongly encouraged. EPA may give preference to those states or tribes which provide matching funds, since this would demonstrate a greater commitment.

Application Requirements

I. What Is Required for Applications?

In order to be considered for funding under this program, proposals must have the following: (Note—the points identified after the specific criteria will be used to quantitatively evaluate the proposal, with a maximum of 100 points)

1. Completed Federal Standard Forms (5 Points)

a. Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424) the official form required for all federal grants that requests basic information about the grantee and the proposed project. The applicant must submit the original application, and one additional copy, signed by a person duly authorized.

b. Federal Standard Form (SF 424A) and budget detail, which reflects the total budget for the entire duration of the project. Budget figures/projections should support your work plan/narrative. The EPA portion of these grants will not exceed \$100,000, therefore your budget should reflect this upper limit on federal funds.

c. Signed "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters" form, and "Certification Regarding Lobbying" form.

2. Clear and Concise Narrative/Work Plan

The Narrative/Work Plan must:

a. effectively describe the project and how it addresses the Eligible Projects, as defined in Section E, (35 points)

b. discuss how the proposed project will meet the Program Goals, as described in Section A, (10 Points)

c. describe how the project addresses issues related to at least two of the environmental statutes listed in Section F, and (10 Points)

d. discuss how the project will be evaluated, what will be the measures of success, and describe how the project/program will be sustained. (25 Points)

The pages of the Work Plan must be letter size (8½" x 11"), with normal type size (12 cpi), and at least 1" margins. The narrative/work plan should be no more than five pages.

3. A letter of commitment from the department head or government head (e.g. governor, president, chairperson, commissioner). (10 Points)

4. State and Tribal applicants should establish working relationships with local community-based organizations in developing their proposals. (*) A list of the organizations who participated in the development of the grant proposal, along with contact names and numbers, is required. (5 Points)

(*) Many community-based organizations across the nation have already begun implementing environmental justice programs at the local level, which states and tribes may want to use as examples to help build their environmental justice programs. By asking those who are most impacted by environmental injustices to participate in building the state's or tribe's environmental justice program, the states and tribes will be more likely to obtain broad support for the concept and the partnership it reflects.

J. When and Where Must Applications Be Submitted?

The applicant must submit one signed original application with the required attachments and one additional copy to the primary contact of the appropriate EPA regional office (see page 8 and Appendix D). The application must be postmarked no later than Friday, January 28, 2000.

Process for Awarding Grants

Proposals are to be developed by states or tribes (EPA encourages the involvement of community-based/grassroots organizations) and submitted to their respective EPA Regional Offices. The initial review will be conducted by each Region through a Regional panel, which will select the top proposals for submission to EPA Headquarters, for final review and selection. The grants will be processed for award and managed by the Regions. The plan is to fund the five best State and/or Tribal environmental justice project proposals. *Note:* Among the proposals receiving the highest rating, EPA may take into account the geographic location and diversity of the proposed projects when making final selections.

STEJ Grant Program Schedule

Nov. 1–January 28 States and Tribes Develop Proposals and Submit to EPA Regions

February 2–March 3 EPA Regions Review Proposals and Provide Recommendations to Headquarters
March 10–April 14 OEJ Headquarters Convenes Review Panel and Receives Recommendations

April 14–May 12 Headquarters Completes Selections and Submits Final Selections to EPA Regional Offices

June 12–July 14 EPA Regional Grants Management Offices Process Applications and Award Grants

August 1 National and Regional Announcements of Awards

Reporting

State and Tribal agencies that are awarded the State and Tribal Environmental Justice (STEJ) grants will be required to submit semi-annual reports, in accordance with 40 CFR sections 31.40 and 31.41, to the appropriate Regional Environmental Justice Coordinator and Project Officer. Reports will include, but not be limited to, information on:

- Funds expended
- Tasks accomplished
- Issues/problems encountered and method of resolution
- Results achieved

A final summary report is required by 40 CFR section 31.40(b) at the end of the project period. This final report should include a discussion on the continuation and institutionalization of the state's and/or tribe's efforts to provide for environmental justice.

If you have any questions regarding the interpretation of this guidance, please call your regional contact listed below, or Daniel Gogal, STEJ Grants Manager, Office of Environmental Justice, at (202) 564-2576 or 1-800-962-6215.

EPA Regional STEJ Contact Names and Addresses

Region I—Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

Primary Contact: Ronnie Harrington
(617) 918-1703, USEPA Region 1,
One Congress Street, Suite 1100
(SAA), Boston, MA 02114
Secondary Contact: Ngozi Oleru (617)
918-1120; Pat O'Leary (617) 918-1978

Region II—New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands

Primary Contact: Melva Hayden (212)
637-5027 USEPA Region II, 290
Broadway, 26th Floor, New York, NY
10007
Secondary Contact: Doug Roberts (212)
637-3408

Region III—Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia

Primary Contact: Reginald Harris (215)
814-2988, USEPA Region III—
(3EC00), 1650 Arch Street,
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029
Secondary Contact: Kathy Duran (215)
814-5441

Region IV—Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee

Primary Contact: Gloria Love (404) 562-
9672, USEPA Region IV 61 Forsyth
Street, Atlanta, GA 30303

Secondary Contact: Connie Raines (404) 562-9671

Region V—Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin

Primary Contact: Ethel Crisp (312) 353-1442, USEPA Region V, 77 West Jackson Boulevard (DM-7J), Chicago, IL 60604-3507

Secondary Contact: Karla Johnson (312) 886-5993

Region VI—Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas

Primary Contact: Shirley Augurson (214) 665-7401, USEPA Region VI (6E-N), 1445 Ross Avenue, 12th Floor, Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Secondary Contact: Teresa Cooks (214) 665-8145

Region VII—Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska

Primary Contact: Althea Moses (913) 551-7649 or 1-800-223-0425, USEPA Region VII, 726 Minnesota Avenue, Kansas City, KS 66101

Secondary Contact: Kim Olson (913) 551-7539

Region VIII—Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

Primary Contact: Marcella Devargas (303) 312-6161, USEPA Region VIII (8ENF-EJ), 999 18th Street, Suite 500, Denver, CO 80202-2466

Secondary Contact: Deldi Reyes (303) 312-6055

Region IX—Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa, Guam

Primary Contact: Diane Uribe (415) 744-1597, USEPA Region IX (CMD-6), 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105

Secondary Contact: Romel Pascual (415) 744-1212

Region X—Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington

Primary Contact: Mike Letourneau (206) 553-1687, USEPA Region X (CEJ-163), 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101

Secondary Contact: Victoria Plata (206) 553-8580

Note: To obtain copies of the appendices referenced in this document, please contact the individuals identified above for a complete application.

Dated: October 25, 1999.

Barry E. Hill,

Director, Office of Environmental Justice.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6467-8]

Science Advisory Board Executive Committee; Notification of Public Advisory Committee Meetings

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given that the Science Advisory Board's (SAB) Executive Committee (EC) will conduct two meetings as described below. Both meetings will be held in Conference Room 6013 in the Ariel Rios North Building at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) located at 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004 (the building entrance is adjacent to the Federal Triangle Metro Stop on 12th Street). For directions and further information concerning the meetings, please contact the individuals given below. The meetings are open to the public; however, seating is limited and available on a first-come basis.

1. Executive Committee Teleconference

The Executive Committee (EC) will hold a public teleconference meeting on Monday, November 22, 1999, between the hours of 11 am–1 pm (Eastern Standard Time). The meeting will be coordinated through a conference call connection located in Room 6013 of the Ariel Rios Building (see above for address). The public is welcome to attend the meeting physically or through telephonic link. Additional instructions about how to participate in the conference call can be obtained by calling Ms. Priscilla Tillery-Gadson at (202) 564-4533, or via e-mail at: <tillery.priscilla@epa.gov> by November 18, 1999.

At this meeting, the Executive Committee tentatively plans to review reports from at least two of its Committees/Subcommittee: (a) EC Subcommittee's Review of the "EPA's Per Capita Water Ingestion Estimates for the United States" and (b) Research Strategies Advisory Committee's Review of the Agency's Peer Review Process.

2. Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee (EC) will conduct a public meeting on Monday and Tuesday, November 29–30, 1999. The meeting will convene each day at 8:30 am and will adjourn no later than 5:30 pm (Eastern Standard Time). At this meeting, the EC will receive updates from its Committees and Subcommittees concerning their recent and planned activities. As part of these updates, some Committees will present draft reports for EC review and

approval. Tentatively anticipated drafts include, but are not limited to the following:

(a) Executive Subcommittee: Review of the Treatment of Children in EPA's Cancer Risk Assessment Guidelines.

(b) Ecological Processes and Effects Committee: (1) Review of Methodology for Assessing Metals in Sediments; and (2) Review of Biotic Ligand Model for Metals in Water Column.

Other items on the agenda tentatively include, but are not limited to the following:

(c) Discussions with the Deputy Administrator, Assistant Administrator for Research and Development, and Director of the Office of Science and Policy Coordination.

(d) Discussion with Dr. Mark Powell of Resources for the Future regarding his recent publication: "Science at EPA."

(e) Procedural matters, including conflict-of-interest regulations, production of timely reports, interaction with non-Panel members during reviews, and iterative approach to providing advice.

(f) Planning considerations, including further reviews of peer review process, increased involvement of social sciences in SAB activities, and possible participation in multi-agency conference on the impact of the environment on human health.

(g) An extended discussion with Agency leaders about the role of science in the agency's new approaches to environmental protection; e.g., stakeholder processes, place-based projects, Common Sense Initiative, etc.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION—Any member of the public wishing further information concerning either meeting or who wishes to submit comments should contact Dr. Donald G. Barnes, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Executive Committee, Science Advisory Board (1400A), U.S. EPA, 401 M Street, SW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone (202) 564-4533; FAX (202) 501-0323; or via e-mail at: <barnes.don@epa.gov>. Copies of the draft meeting agendas and the draft reports will be available on the SAB Website (<http://www.epa.gov/sab>) at least one week prior to the meetings.

Providing Oral or Written Comments at SAB Meetings

The Science Advisory Board expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted oral or written statements. In general, each individual or group making an oral presentation will be limited to a total time of ten minutes (three minutes each and a total time of 15 minutes for teleconferences). Written comments (at least 35 copies)