

Dated: November 9, 1999.

**William D. Dickerson,**

Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPPTS-00280; FRL-6391-3]

### Notice of Availability of FY 2000 Grant Funds for the Support of a Pollution Prevention Information Network

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** EPA expects to have approximately \$1 million available in fiscal year 2000 to fund grant proposals supporting a nation-wide network of pollution prevention information providers. The Pollution Prevention Act provides funds to States to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of State technical assistance programs in providing source reduction information to businesses. These funds will be targeted for applicants that are willing to work as part of a collective service providing pollution prevention information to State and local governments' technical assistance providers. Grantees will collect, organize and disseminate pollution prevention (P2) information, make their information available electronically, publically report use of their information services, and utilize State representatives to guide and evaluate their information services as part of a nationwide resource. Grants/cooperative agreements will be awarded under the authority of the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990.

**DATES:** Applications must be postmarked by April 10, 2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Beth Anderson, Pollution Prevention Division, (7409) Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St. SW., Washington, DC 20460, telephone number: (202) 260-2602, e-mail address: anderson.beth@epa.gov. Access information about this grant program at <http://www.epa.gov/p2>.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. General Information

###### A. Does this Action Apply to Me?

This action is directed to State governments, State programs or departments, as well as other State institutions, such as universities. If you

have any questions regarding the applicability of this action consult the person listed in the "FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT" section of this notice.

##### B. How Can I Get Additional Information, Including Copies of this Document or Other Related Documents?

*Electronically.* You may obtain electronic copies of this document, and certain other related documents that might be available electronically, from the EPA Internet Home Page at <http://www.epa.gov/>. To access this document, on the Home Page select "Laws and Regulations" and then look up the entry for this document under the "Federal Register -- Environmental Documents." You can also go directly to the **Federal Register** listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>.

##### II. Scope and Purpose of this Grant Program

1. *Scope—The Pollution Prevention Act of 1990.* This solicitation is made under the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990, (the Act) (Public Law 101-508) which established as national policy that pollution should be prevented or reduced at the source whenever feasible. Section 6603 of the Act defines source reduction as any practice that:

(1) Reduces the amount of any hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant entering any waste stream or otherwise released into the environment (including fugitive emissions) prior to recycling, treatment, or disposal.

(2) Reduces the hazards to public health and the environment associated with the release of such substances, pollutants, or contaminants.

EPA further defines pollution prevention (P2) as the use of other practices that reduce or eliminate the creation of pollutants through: increased efficiency in the use of raw materials, energy, water or other resources, protection of natural resources, or protection of natural resources by conservation.

Section 6605 of the Act authorizes EPA to make matching grants to States to promote the use of source reduction techniques by businesses. In evaluating grant applications, the Act directs EPA to consider whether the proposed State program will:

(1) Make technical assistance available to businesses seeking information about source reduction opportunities, including funding for experts to provide on-site technical advice and to assist in the development of source reduction plans.

(2) Target assistance to businesses for whom lack of information is an impediment to source reduction.

(3) Provide training in source reduction techniques.

##### 2. Purpose of national pollution prevention information network.

Currently there are few mechanisms or systems to coordinate the development, review, and dissemination of pollution prevention information among Federal, State, and local agencies, or universities involved in promoting source reduction technologies. Access to P2 information and assistance varies across the United States. In addition, not all programs providing assistance to small businesses have access to pollution prevention information that may be useful and relevant to their clientele. The purpose of this request for proposals is to coordinate work among new and existing grantees in order to minimize duplication of effort in information collection and synthesis, training for the promotion of pollution prevention technologies, and establish information standards that will facilitate information exchange among centers.

The development of a P2 information network of regional centers would allow State P2 information needs to be addressed on a regional basis and allow for improved information exchange among States. Coordination of regional centers could facilitate information exchange and decrease duplicative research that might be conducted in each State by developing systems to: coordinate information needs, determine types of P2 information that need to be developed, coordinate the production of relevant P2 information, disseminate this information among small business assistance providers, and evaluate the effectiveness of the information being disseminated in changing business practices to incorporate pollution prevention.

EPA believes that investing in coordinating and standardizing P2 information collection, synthesis, and dissemination will benefit State P2 technical assistance providers as well as other small business assistance programs, such as the Small Business Development Centers and the National Institutes of Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnerships. Regional P2 information centers could benefit by allowing for specialization in expertise, where this expertise can be shared nationally. Regional centers could be more responsive to the common information needs of the States being served and allow States to focus resources on issues unique to each State. EPA believes that some of the

benefits of a coordinated P2 information network could be:

(1) Improved access to P2 information for all State business assistance programs.

(2) Increased availability of P2 technical assistance to all States, through sharing research, synthesis, and training in current P2 information nationally.

(3) Increased partnerships among State entities serving small businesses by providing a forum for defining and meeting common program objectives.

3. *EPA's prior efforts to promote P2 information sharing.* On August 20 and 21, 1992, EPA sponsored a subcommittee meeting of the "National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology, State and Local Programs Committee." At this meeting, the delivery of P2 technical information to State and local technical assistance programs was discussed in the context of the national data base, Pollution Prevention Information Exchange System and the Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse that EPA was operating. This initial meeting raised issues of information quality, roles for a national clearinghouse, and priority information needs or functions for State P2 technical assistance programs. In 1994 EPA created a website dedicated to users of pollution prevention and cleaner production solutions called *Envirosense*. A current description of the site is at <http://es.epa.gov/describe.html>.

In October 1993, EPA funded a proposal from the National Roundtable of State Pollution Prevention Programs (now called the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable (NPPR)) to "develop a design and management plan for a national network of pollution prevention information providers." In February 1995, NPPR submitted its final report. In this report, based on the results of survey and telephone interviews, the functions of an information network that would best support pollution prevention technical assistance programs were:

- Make information readily accessible and easy to search.
- Collect and update technical information.
- Identify experts or other sources of information.
- Provide technical information in a synthesized format (which might include case studies, process information, bibliography, vendor information, etc.).

In October 1994, EPA funded a 4-year pilot proposal to establish a model program for interstate cooperation on pollution prevention information

sharing. Three organizations agreed to participate in the pilot to coordinate information collection, synthesis, peer review, and dissemination: Northeast Waste Management Officials Association, the Illinois Hazardous Waste Research and Information Center (now called the Illinois Waste Management and Research Center, and the Wisconsin Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center. Under this pilot program, State focus groups were formed to determine pollution prevention information needs. In September 1995, the States in the Northeast approved a 5-year plan to aid in the collection, organization, and distribution of pollution prevention technical information in the Northeast. The Great Lakes States developed a management plan for the Great Lakes Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse and set up a listserve system (P2TECH) to assist pollution prevention technical assistance programs nationwide in finding answers to technical assistance problems. Four pollution prevention technical information packets were written and peer-reviewed to summarize P2 technical solutions for technical assistance providers. These four documents on the printing industry, primary metals industry, metal finishing industry and metal painting and coating operations are posted on the Internet at <http://www.wmrc.uiuc.edu/packets/>. These three organizations also collaborated on three different data bases: vendor, bibliographic, and case study data bases.

4. *Existing Regional P2 Information Centers.* EPA awarded nine grants in response to the first **Federal Register** notice on the establishment of a Pollution Prevention Information Network published on February 5, 1997 (62 FR 5393) (FRL-5582-5). The 9 grantees represented all 10 of the USEPA Regions. These regional P2 information centers are only partially funded by this grant program and represent a variety of organizations. The grantees are all State entities (this includes State environmental departments as well as universities, see Unit IV.1. of this notice-- *Applicants*). In some cases the grantees are also funded by other Federal technical assistance programs, such as the Small Business Administration or the National Institute of Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnership, State and Local governments, or their Regional EPA office. Some grantees subcontract work to non-profits or to other States for specific activities. Grantees vary in the number of States

they serve. There are 2 centers that each serve 4 States and another center that serves 14 States.

The first solicitation for this grant program was intended to establish new regional centers (where needed) or give additional funds to existing centers to: (1) improve communication between centers, (2) minimize duplication of efforts in creating and disseminating P2 information, and (3) promote information standards that would facilitate P2 information dissemination nationwide. Over the past 2 years, grantees have enhanced networking among centers and improved nationwide interaction on P2 information projects through monthly conference calls, biannual meetings, websites, listserves and databases. Frequent communication among grantees has built familiarity with other regional resources and their mode of operation. The grantees have formed a group they call the "Pollution Prevention Resource Exchange" (P2Rx). More information about the P2Rx centers can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.epa.gov/p2/p2rxdir.htm>. Each of these grantees have developed web sites to improve access to regional P2 information. The current nine grantees are now in their third year of funding. Given the variety of resources and approaches in the existing regional centers, this small grant program does not intend to fund all of the regional centers' current activities.

One of the regional centers serves as "P2Rx coordinator." The term of the P2Rx coordinator is 2 years. The P2Rx coordinator/regional center receives additional funding from EPA, separate from the P2 information grant to fund tasks such as: facilitating communication and consensus among regional centers, surveying centers to collect information on specific projects or activities, and cataloguing the services and resources available at each center. This coordinator uses meetings, conference calls, subcommittees, surveys or white papers to help the regional centers to work together in developing activities or guidelines to meet their objectives. Over the past 2 years the Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource center has served as coordinator for EPA and the grantees. For the next 2 years, EPA has funded the Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention Information Center which will serve as coordinator for current grantees and for FY 2001 grantees. New grantees will be included in national meetings and monthly conference calls. Past experience has demonstrated the importance of personal affiliation as well as the usefulness of electronic

communication and web sites to build a national information system. Regional centers and their States, who contribute to the regional information centers, promote the availability of P2 information and provide opportunities for other States to leverage resources. This collaboration allows information to be accessed and shared nationally, particularly through Internet based P2 information projects.

### III. National Program Objectives

1. *Purpose.* EPA is inviting proposals from the existing Pollution Prevention Resource Exchange (P2Rx) centers as well requesting new applicants, who should coordinate their proposed work with the existing P2Rx centers where possible. Proposals should describe how pollution prevention information will be collected and organized so that it can be easily and quickly retrieved nationally. This nationwide system will depend on the participation of individual States as well as regional centers to supply P2 information and expertise. EPA is seeking to provide more efficient support to P2 technical assistance providers by providing for regional centers that have specialized areas of information they collect and disseminate from a number of States. For example, case studies from each State could be submitted to one regional center, key information put into a uniform case study format and then disseminated. Currently, State grant funds may be used to create P2 manuals for businesses in each State without knowledge of similar efforts in other States. Nationwide coordination could allow States to build on existing P2 information and share materials, databases, or training where applicable. National coordination of regional P2 information specialty areas could allow State assistance providers to focus resources on priority industries or needs and use existing P2 information collected in regional centers for other industries.

Over the past 2 years the expansion of information on the Internet has challenged businesses and business assistance providers alike in the search for information that is accurate, useful, and timely. The growth of information available on the Internet provides both an opportunity and a challenge. While the Internet offers a relatively inexpensive delivery platform for P2 information (compared to paying staff to answer phones or compose and print P2 fact sheets), not all P2 information customers will use the Internet. At this point it appears a nationwide P2 information network must use both electronic dissemination as well as

people to act as guides that can efficiently locate P2 information based on their knowledge of regional, State, and electronic resources. As regional centers become more knowledgeable about State resources and P2 initiatives, they will be more effective in providing information to their State customers. A regional P2 information center can more efficiently provide resources to State technical assistance providers if it is based on personal familiarity with the resources available at all of the other regional centers.

EPA is seeking proposals that will contribute to the organization and efficient retrieval of P2 information. Such a system could be based on current web sites, enhancing how information is organized on a web site, links between web sites, or a shared database. There are many ways information could be organized and presented on the Internet: by topic, by format of information (such as case studies, fact sheets, journal articles), by audience the information is written for, by industry or process the information addresses, etc. Presently much P2 information is organized by industry or service sectors, based on the businesses that may need the information. Information is also collected and organized based on the Federal, State or Local government needs for P2 information, such as the Department of Defense/State P2 partnerships. Applicants should be willing to work with other grantees for the common purpose of facilitating access to P2 information on the Internet. Such efforts may include agreements on metadata standards for electronic information on the Internet or agreements on electronic database structure to facilitate information sharing nationally. Applicants may propose tasks supporting their regional P2 information activities such as: supporting a web site which targets State or local government technical assistance providers, creating databases relevant to their regional information needs, or electronically disseminating regionally important P2 information. The regional centers should continue to operate as hubs for State P2 information collection. Applicants may describe other activities which support collecting P2 information from a number of States. Applicants should include letters of support from other States or organizations supporting the proposal. Proposals should be coordinated with existing EPA Regional P2 information centers, where possible.

2. *Required tasks for all proposals—*  
i. *Identification of expertise.* Applicants should identify the areas of expertise they will develop. Proposals should

describe the basis and rationale for the proposed approach to collecting, organizing or developing P2 information that can be accessed nationwide, as well as the need for such information. Organizing information by industry, process, service sector or audience are all approaches that have been used to organize P2 information. Currently, the Agency is invested in a variety of industry and service sector efforts. Examples of current Agency programs addressing key services or industries include: compliance assistance centers, the Sustainable Industries program, and the Design for Environment program.

ii. *Participation in a voluntary network.* Current grantees have formed a voluntary network of regional P2 information providers called the Pollution Prevention Resource Exchange (P2Rx). P2Rx has acted as a forum for the regional centers to exchange information and approaches for various regional services. The face to face meeting has played an important role in allowing regional centers to learn from each other and work collaboratively. EPA will continue to fund a coordinator position that will serve to facilitate communication among new and continuing grantees. EPA wants to promote a forum for coordinating regional P2 information services and projects on a national level. Applicants under this solicitation should include activities related to participation in national meetings, monthly conference calls, and subcommittees. Opportunities to organize P2 information, select appropriate areas of expertise and develop cooperative projects can be discussed in this forum.

iii. *Reporting on P2 information services.* Applicants should provide a draft format for reporting use of their information services twice a year. Applicants should consider posting grant activities and web site usage reports on their website to facilitate communication with EPA and States. All grantees should work together to develop common metrics that will illustrate each grantee's contribution to the P2 information network.

iv. *Customer satisfaction.* Applicants should propose some way of utilizing State representatives to guide, evaluate, and provide feedback on the information services the applicant is proposing. Applicants are encouraged to make use of existing regional organizations to provide feedback over the course of the grant. Monthly conference calls, meetings tied into existing regional meetings, or web site comments could be used as a source of customer feedback. Applicants should

clearly identify the customer base they propose to reach.

#### IV. Eligibility

1. *Applicants.* In accordance with the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990, eligible applicants for purposes of funding under this grant program include the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, any territory or possession of the United States, any agency or instrumentality of a State including State universities and all federally recognized Indian tribes. For convenience, the term "State" in this notice refers to all eligible applicants. Local governments, private universities, private non-profit entities, private businesses, and individuals are not eligible. State applicants are encouraged to establish partnerships with other business and environmental assistance providers in order to more seamlessly deliver pollution prevention technical assistance. In many cases partnerships can make the most efficient use of Federal/State government funding.

2. *Availability of FY 2000 funds.* With this publication, EPA is expecting the availability of \$1 million in cooperative agreement funds for FY 2000. These awards will be made through a competitive process for amounts not to exceed \$150,000.00 per year. Proposals may include up to 2 years in their schedule and budget.

3. *Matching requirements.* Under the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990, the Federal Government will provide up to half of the total allowable costs of the project, and the State will provide the remainder. For example, a project costing \$200,000 could be funded by a grant for up to \$100,000 from the Federal government. The State is responsible for providing the remainder. State contributions may include cash, in-kind goods and services and third party contributions.

4. *Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance.* The number assigned to this program in the Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance is 66.708 (formerly 66.900).

#### V. Applications

Grant guidance can be obtained by contacting Beth Anderson, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Mail Code 7409, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St. SW., Washington, DC 20460, telephone number: (202) 260-2602, e-mail address: anderson.beth@epa.gov. Access information about this grant program at <http://www.epa.gov/p2>. Federal forms for grant applications can be

downloaded from: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/appforms.html>. Note that this Internet site is for the "Great Lakes Funding Program" and not all of these forms or directions apply to this grant program. Federal forms that should be included for this grant program are: Application for Federal assistance OMB form 424; Budget information form 424A; Construction assurances form 424B; Certification regarding debarment, etc form 5700-49; Certification regarding lobbying; and EPA Civil rights form 4700-4. The basic contents of a proposal should include:

(1) A description of the proposed statement of work, including a statement of the problems or issues the proposal addresses.

(2) A description of the tasks that will be carried out, the estimated cost of each task and estimated completion dates.

(3) A description of deliverables that will be produced and estimated completion dates.

(4) A description of the measures or activities that will be reported to reflect the effectiveness of each of the proposed tasks.

(5) A proposed format for biannual reports, including information that will be posted on the web site.

(6) Letters of support from State or local programs which provide technical assistance to small businesses.

#### VI. Process for Evaluation of Proposals

A national panel, comprised of EPA representatives from both Headquarters and the EPA Regions, will evaluate each proposal. Acceptable proposals, meeting the eligibility requirements in Unit IV of this notice, will be reviewed according to the following criteria:

(1) Relevance and justification for the proposed pollution prevention area of expertise.

(2) Adequacy of activities that address participation in a voluntary network of grantees, measures of customer satisfaction, and reporting pollution prevention information services.

(3) Feasibility of the activities being proposed, taking into account the commitments from other States or programs that will be participating in the proposal.

(4) Qualifications and experience of the applicant and the program manager in serving regional pollution prevention information needs and reporting results under previous grants.

(5) Appropriateness of the proposed budget for each task, deliverables and dates of completion for the activities being proposed.

(6) Level of additional support for the applicant from other sources, including State or Federal funds.

#### List of Subjects

Environmental protection.

Dated: November 3, 1999.

**William H. Sanders, III,**

*Director, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency.*

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#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPPTS-51936; FRL-6390-7]

#### Certain New Chemicals; Receipt and Status Information

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Section 5 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) requires any person who intends to manufacture (defined by statute to include import) a new chemical (i.e., a chemical not on the TSCA Inventory) to notify EPA and comply with the statutory provisions pertaining to the manufacture of new chemicals. Under sections 5(d)(2) and 5(d)(3) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), EPA is required to publish a notice of receipt of a premanufacture notice (PMN) or an application for a test marketing exemption (TME), and to publish periodic status reports on the chemicals under review and the receipt of notices of commencement to manufacture those chemicals. This status report, which covers the period from September 27, 1999 to October 8, 1999, consists of the PMNs and TMEs, both pending or expired, and the notices of commencement to manufacture a new chemical that the Agency has received under TSCA section 5 during this time period.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christine M. Augustyniak, Associate Director, Environmental Assistance Division (7408), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone numbers: (202) 554-1404 and TDD: (202) 554-0551; e-mail address: TSCA-Hotline@epa.gov.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### I. Does this Action Apply to Me?

This action is directed to the public in general. As such, the Agency has not attempted to describe the specific