

VI. Pre-Application Requirements, Procedures, and Schedule

Applicants must submit a proposal for the pre-application procedure. The pre-application, as described in this unit, consists of two parts—a work plan and a budget.

The Agency will use the applicant's work plan and budget to select projects to be funded under this grant program. After EPA conducts a review of all pre-applications, it may, at its discretion, conduct interviews, either telephonically or in person, with applicants. The results of the interview, along with written material accompanying the proposal submission, will be used to determine the successful applicant. The successful applicant will be contacted and requested to submit other documents (such as the "Application for Federal Assistance" form, a "Budget Information: Non-Construction Programs" form, and other required forms) to complete the application process.

All applicants must submit one original and three copies of the pre-application (double-sided copies). Pre-applications must be reproducible (for example, stapled in the upper left-hand corner, on white paper, and with page numbers). The deadline for EPA's receipt of pre-applications is December 15, 2000.

The pre-application consists of the following two parts.

1. *Work plan.* The work plan must describe the proposed project. The work plan must be no more than 15-typed pages in length (excluding resumes). One page is one side of a single-spaced typed page. The pages must be letter size (10 or 12 characters per inch (cpi) and must have margins that are at least 1 inch.

Resumes of key personnel shall be included in an appendix to the proposal and should include references (names, phone numbers or other contact information) for previous or current grants or contracts within the last 5 years. The appendix must be no more than 10 pages total and follows the same paging and spacing description as provided above.)

2. *Budget.* The budget should include the following categories of costs:

- A. Personnel
- B. Fringe benefits
- C. Travel
- D. Equipment
- E. Supplies
- F. Contractual
- G. Other

H. Total direct charges (sum of personnel, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, contractual, and other)

I. Indirect charges and total (sum of total direct charges and indirect charges)

VII. Evaluation Criteria

EPA will review all applications. Applications will be reviewed for quality, strength, and completeness against the following criteria:

1. *Management plan and technical approach.* This will include, among other things, the plan for making use of available resources to stock the center, plan for becoming financially self-sufficient, strategy for determining the order of priority for introducing IPM into various states and school districts, etc. Applicant must include reasonable and attainable goals and an approach that is clearly detailed. The plan should include expected outcomes and procedures that will be used to evaluate progress toward achievement of these outcomes. Applicant should provide information on projects of similar scope and magnitude that he/she has managed.

2. *Technical expertise.* This includes qualifications, education, training and field experience of all staff assigned to the project. The applicant should describe positions of staff, roles and responsibilities, and their qualifications. Applicant should include documentation of qualified expert staff who may be used as a reference but may not be directly compensated.

3. *Budget and schedule.* This budget and schedule will be evaluated to ensure they are reasonable, clear, and consistent with the intended use of the funds. Applicants should assume that this project will be funded for 18 months to 2 years only. The availability of funds for additional time periods is not known at this point in time. EPA's role is to provide start-up funding for the center. It is anticipated that the center will ultimately become self-sustaining.

VIII. Submission to Congress and the Comptroller General

Under the Agency's current interpretation of the definition of a "rule," grant solicitations such as this which are competitively awarded on the basis of selection criteria, are considered rules for the purpose of the Congressional Review Act (CRA). The CRA, 5 U.S.C. 801 et seq., as added by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (SBREFA), generally provides that before a rule may take effect, the agency promulgating the rule must submit a rule report, which includes a copy of the rule, to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States. EPA will submit a report

containing this rule and other required information to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States prior to publication of the rule in the **Federal Register**. This rule is not a "major rule" as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, children's health, pesticides.

Dated: November 8, 2000.

Janet L. Andersen,

Director, Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6903-6]

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 2001 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 areas within the solicitations and are listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Center for Environmental Research (8703R), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington DC 20460, telephone (800) 490-9194. The complete announcements 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) Environmental Monitoring for Public Access and Community Tracking (EMPACT); (2) Children's Vulnerability to Toxic Substances in the Environment; (3) Research Program on Statistical Survey Design and Analysis for Aquatic

Resources (joint with NASA); (4) Aggregate Exposure Assessment for Pesticides: Longitudinal Case Studies; (5) Ecological Indicators for Gulf of Mexico Estuaries; and (6) Environmental Statistics Center. Applications must be received as follows: February 21, 2001, for topic (1); February 28, 2001, for topic (2); March 1, 2001, for topic (3); March 7, 2001, for topic (4); March 8, 2001, for topic (5); and March 21, 2001, for topic (6).

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

Contact persons for the EMPACT RFA are Barbara Karn (karn.barbara@epa.gov), telephone 202-564-6820, and Charlotte Cottrill (cottrill.charlotte@epa.gov), telephone 202-564-6771. Contact person for the Children's Vulnerability RFA, the Aggregate Exposure Assessment for Pesticides RFA, and the Environmental Statistics Center RFA is Chris Saint (saint.chris@epa.gov), telephone 202-564-6909. Contact persons for the Ecological Indicators for Gulf of Mexico Estuaries RFA are Barbara Levinson (levinson.barbara@epa.gov), telephone 202-564-6911, and Eric Lindstrom (elindstr@hq.nasa.gov), telephone 202-358-4540. Contact person for the Statistical Survey Design and Analysis RFA is Barbara Levinson (levinson.barbara@epa.gov), telephone 202-564-6911.

Dated: November 1, 2000.

Approved for publication

Norine E. Noonan,

Assistant Administrator for Research and Development.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6903-1]

Science Advisory Board; Notification of Public Advisory Committee Meeting

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given that the Environmental Engineering Committee of the US EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB), will meet December 5-7, 2000 in conference room 6530, USEPA, Ariel Rios Building North, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004. The meeting will begin by 8:30 a.m. on December 5 and adjourn no later than 4:00 p.m. on December 7. All times noted are Eastern Standard Time. The

meeting is open to the public, however, seating is limited and available on a first come basis. *Important Notice:*

Documents that are the subject of SAB reviews are normally available from the originating EPA office and are not available from the SAB Office—information concerning availability of documents from the relevant Program Office is included below.

Purpose of the meeting: At this meeting, the Committee will consider for approval the report of the Natural Attenuation Research Subcommittee. The Subcommittee reviewed the present and proposed natural attenuation research program of EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) so that ORD can refine its plans and programs on this topic. This activity began with a conference call meeting on January 26th conference call meeting, included a face-to-face meeting August 14-15, 2000; the most recent meeting was October 25, 2000. Background, including the availability of review materials, will be found in previous notices. (The most important of these is 65 FR 1866-1867, January 12, 2000).

The Committee will also consider potential FY2001 activities. The Agency has requested a review of the Surface Impoundments Study for the Office of Solid Waste and a consultation on sustainability research for the Office of Research and Development. The Committee will consider whether to use the draft report of the Science Advisory Board's Risk Reduction Options Subcommittee as an input to a potential initiative on risk reduction.

The Committee has also requested briefings on various Agency topics. The exact briefings depend upon the availability of the speakers, but may include: contaminated sediments, the environmental impacts of natural hazards, industrial ecology, and the information needs of risk managers.

Availability of materials: A copy of the Natural Attenuation draft and a draft meeting agenda will be available on the SAB website (www.epa.gov/sab) approximately two weeks prior to the meeting.

For further information: Any member of the public wishing further information concerning this meeting or wishing to submit brief oral comments (10 minutes or less) must contact Kathleen White Conway, Designated Federal Officer, Science Advisory Board (1400A), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460; telephone (202) 564-4559; FAX (202) 501-0582; or via e-mail at conway.kathleen@epa.gov. Requests for oral comments must be *in writing* (e-mail, fax or mail) and

received by Kathleen White Conway no later than noon Eastern Standard Time on November 28.

Providing Oral or Written Comments at SAB Meetings

It is the policy of the Science Advisory Board to accept written public comments of any length, and to accommodate oral public comments whenever possible. The Science Advisory Board expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted oral or written statements.

Oral Comments: In general, each individual or group requesting an oral presentation at a face-to-face meeting will be limited to a total time of ten minutes. For teleconference meetings, opportunities for oral comment will usually be limited to no more than three minutes per speaker and no more than fifteen minutes total. Deadlines for getting on the public speaker list for a meeting are given above. Speakers should bring at least 35 copies of their comments and presentation slides for distribution to the reviewers and public at the meeting. *Written Comments:*

Although the SAB accepts written comments until the date of the meeting (unless otherwise stated), written comments should be received in the SAB Staff Office at least one week prior to the meeting date so that the comments may be made available to the committee for their consideration. Comments should be supplied to the appropriate DFO at the address/contact information noted above in the following formats: one hard copy with original signature, and one electronic copy via e-mail (acceptable file format: WordPerfect, Word, or Rich Text files (in IBM-PC/Windows 95/98 format). Those providing written comments and who attend the meeting are also asked to bring 25 copies of their comments for public distribution.

General information: Additional information concerning the Science Advisory Board, its structure, function, and composition, may be found on the SAB Website (<http://www.epa.gov/sab>) and in The FY1999 Annual Report of the Staff Director which is available from the SAB Publications Staff at (202) 564-4533 or via fax at (202) 501-0256. Committee rosters, draft Agendas and meeting calendars are also located on our website.

Meeting access: Individuals requiring special accommodation at this meeting, including wheelchair access to the conference room, should contact Ms. Conway at least five business days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.