



FY 05 Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Multi-Media Grant Program Solicitation Notice January 25, 2005

OVERVIEW INFORMATION

Agency Name and Office: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA), Office of Compliance (OC)

Funding Opportunity Title: Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 Multi-media State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) Program.

Announcement Type: Initial Announcement; Subject to Availability of Funding Solicitation Notice

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 66.709

Dates:

- January 7, 2005 - Deadline for submitting questions about this notice to EPA.
- January 19 and 26, 2005 - Question-and-answer teleconference sessions for applicants. (see Appendix A for more information)
- February 18, 2005 - Deadline for submitting applications (proposal and partial grant application) to EPA.
- April, 2005 - Notifications sent to applicants regarding funding recommendations.
- May 31, 2005 - Completed grant applications, certifications are due to EPA Regional Office.
- August/September - Issuance of FY 2005 STAG Program awards.

I. Funding Opportunity Description: The Office of Compliance (OC), within EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA), is soliciting proposals and partial grant applications for states and tribes to strengthen their ability to address environmental and public health threats, while furthering the art and science of environmental compliance. This year there are four focus areas: (1) Permit Compliance System (PCS) Modernization; (2) State-based Statistically Valid Compliance Rates; (3) Tribal Compliance Assurance; and (4) Air Facility System (AFS) Data Projects. Grants will be in the range of \$50,000 - \$200,000. The total number and award amounts will depend on available funds.

II. Award Information: The funds available are from OECA's Multi-Media State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) appropriation. The grants or cooperative agreements should be in the range of \$50,000 to \$200,000, although proposals below or above that range will be considered. U.S. EPA anticipates that most of the available funding will be directed toward the PCS

Modernization funding area. The U.S. EPA reserves the right to make no awards under this solicitation. State and tribal matching funds are not required. EPA cannot predict that additional funds for these focus areas will be available in future years. Therefore, states and tribes should assume that these funds will be available on a one-time only basis and should not propose projects requiring annual funding.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Piantanida at (202) 564-8318.

III. Eligibility Information:

Eligible applicants include states, tribes, inter-tribal consortia, territories, local governments, and multi-jurisdictional state organizations. Where a lead state environmental agency exists, applicants should work with, and coordinate through, the lead state environmental agency.

EPA expects to award these grants under the following grant authorities: Clean Water Act, Section 104; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, Section 20; Clean Air Act, Section 103; Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001; Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442 (c); Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10; Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act, Section 203; National Environmental Policy Act, Section 102(2)(F) for international awards; and Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Act. The applicable grant regulations for this grant program are in 40 CFR part 31 for state and local governments and Indian tribes.

Authority to enter into assistance agreements for the purposes described in this Notice are delegated to OECA in EPA Delegation 1-47, Assistance Agreements for Economic, Social Science, Statistical, and Other Research, Development, Studies, Surveys, Demonstrations, Investigations, Public Education Programs, Training, and Fellowships. Funding priorities must be allowable under 66.709 (Capacity Building Grants and Cooperative Agreements for States and Tribes) of the CFDA.

IV. Application and Submission Information:

Electronic proposals and grant applications must be received by February 18, 2005. If an applicant does not have access to the Internet, they should contact David Piantanida (202) 564-8318 to make other arrangements. Funding decisions will be made by late April based on the proposals. Applicants selected to receive funds will be required to submit final grant materials (e.g., grant application, certifications, and assurances) to the appropriate EPA Region by May 31, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Copies of proposals and partial grant applications should be sent to David Piantanida, email: piantanida.david@epa.gov, Tel: (202) 564-8318; and simultaneously to the appropriate Regional contact. The list of regional contacts is located in Appendix A of this notice. This notice will be posted on the EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance web site at <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/planning/state/grants/stag/index.html> and on www.fedgrants.gov.

V. Application Review Information: [Refer to Appendix A for Evaluation Criterion]

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Confidential Business Information (CBI), and Enforcement Screening: Applicants should be aware that proposals submitted under this or any other EPA grant program are subject to FOIA. This means that anyone can request and receive copies of all the information submitted in your grant proposal. If your application contains any CBI, be sure to highlight it so that confidentiality can be protected in the event of a FOIA request.

VI. Award Administration Information:

EPA plans to notify applicants about its funding decisions in April 2005 and issue the awards in August or September 2005. After issuance, the awards will be monitored by EPA Regional Project Officers. Grantees must comply with all administrative and programmatic grant conditions outlined in the grant agreements. Awarded recipients will be required to submit semi-annual and final progress reports to their project officer and to David Piantanida at the address below. A template reporting form will be e-mailed to all recipients. Recipients will also be required to complete annual financial status reports. All reports must be prepared in either Word or WordPerfect formats and delivered electronically to the appropriate project officer.

VII. Other Reporting Information:

While not required, applicants are encouraged to make a commitment of state or tribal resources towards the total project cost. This can be state or tribal personnel salary dedicated to the project, cash contribution to the project budget, or other “in-kind” contributions. The value of donated or “in-kind” services in the performance of a project should be considered in accordance with OMB Circular A-87, “Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments.”¹ Lastly, federal funds cannot generally be used to provide a match or cost-share for other federal projects.

In addition, EPA will also consider past performance of a grantee under this grant program (e.g., timely and complete quarterly or semi-annual reports, results and outcomes reflect project’s stated goals, final reports are timely and complete). Where there are two proposals that have been ranked equally, the applicant with better past performance will be selected. If a grantee has no record under this program, they will not be unfairly penalized.

VIII. Agency Contacts:

For more information regarding this process, please contact David Piantanida at (202) 564-8318 or via e-mail at piantanida.david@epa.gov.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION (Desired Projects)

EPA will only consider funding projects for the following four focus areas described below and for projects which can be completed in three years or less. Please note, an applicant must not attempt to address more than one focus area in its proposal. Each focus area is separate and proposals from each focus area category will be evaluated independently.

A. Focus Area - Permit Compliance System Modernization (PCS):

In FY2005, OECA will continue its effort in the phased implementation of the Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS). ICIS will be the single source for consolidated enforcement, compliance and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). This new information management system will reduce burden and duplication by providing a single source of data entry, will improve public access to data, support the development of risk reduction strategies, and will provide states and regions with a modernized system to meet their program management needs.

The second phase of ICIS is centered on the modernization of legacy PCS which supports the implementation of the Clean Water Act (CWA) NPDES program. PCS has little or no data for major new NPDES requirements, such as Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), Storm Water, and Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO). PCS is being modernized to address these serious data gaps, to provide for easy use of, and access to, the system, to utilize current information technology, to support the Agency's initiative for data integration, and to promote the exchange of data via the National Environmental Information Exchange Network and the Agency's Central Data Exchange (CDX) with our state partners. The availability of more comprehensive data in a modernized PCS will enhance the Agency's and the states' ability to more effectively manage the NPDES program.

The new modernized PCS system is being rolled-out in three releases. The first release of the new system, in December 2005, will include the implementation of fourteen direct entry-user states. The second release, in June 2006, will include the implementation of the remaining direct entry-user states. In June 2007, the third and final release of the modernized system will include the implementation of the remaining non direct entry user states (XML batch submissions via the CDX-portal and the National Environmental Information Exchange Network).

FY2005 grant funding will support state and tribal efforts to obtain technical assistance and technical expertise to ensure the continued flow of data from states and tribes to OECA's modernized systems. Examples of state and tribal technical assistance and expertise activities to be covered include:

- Technical assistance to support migration and conversion of state and tribal data from legacy PCS to the new modernized ICIS-NPDES;

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The functionality and the structure of the modernized system will be significantly different from that of the current legacy PCS system. Therefore, the migration and conversion of the PCS legacy data to the modernized system, ICIS-NPDES, will require a substantial amount of work to ensure that data migration is accurate, complete and in the right structure. Migration activities will include preparing the data for migration to ICIS-NPDES, building specialized PCS data retrievals, and reviewing data error logs from the migration process. For example, the structure and data for handling general permits in legacy PCS is not the same as ICIS-NPDES. The general permit data in legacy PCS will have to be converted to correspond with the new general permit data requirements of ICIS-NPDES and then migrated to the structure of the modernized system. More details on the ICIS-NPDES data migration process and activities can be found in the document "ICIS-NPDES Data Migration Plan", dated September 8, 2004. You may request an electronic copy of this document by contacting Lucy Reed at (reed.lucy@epa.gov).

- Technical assistance for data clean-up to support the state and tribal conversion and migration of data from the legacy PCS system to the new ICIS-NPDES;

A critical part of the conversion and migration of data from legacy PCS to ICIS-NPDES is the data clean-up. This includes preparing for migration, the identification of data errors generated in the data migration process, and the correction of data in ICIS-NPDES after the data migration is completed. The clean-up effort will involve some analysis of the data errors identified (including missing data), a determination of how to best correct the errors, and the actual correction of the data in legacy PCS and ICIS-NPDES. More detailed information on ICIS-NPDES data migration clean-up activities can be found in the document "PCS Data Clean-up List". You may request an electronic copy of this document by Lucy Reed at (reed.lucy@epa.gov).

- Technical assistance to support states and tribal activities in their move to the full use of ICIS-NPDES (e.g., feasibility study/requirement analyses);

ICIS-NPDES will support state and EPA requirements for effective management of the NPDES program. The modernized system will contain more comprehensive data for existing (e.g., pretreatment) and new (i.e., CAFOs, SSOs, CSOs, and Storm Water) NPDES program areas and, therefore, support the ability to more effectively identify and target areas with the most significant environmental and human health risk. As a result of using new technology, a desk-top, web-based approach, all users of the system will have easy access to the system, thus allowing much improved retrieval and analysis of data. States and tribes may decide to use ICIS-NPDES as the primary system for managing their day-to-day NPDES program activities. To determine if the modernized system would meet most or all of their needs, an analysis of ICIS-NPDES functionality and data requirements would need to be conducted.

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- Technical assistance to support the completion of required data entry into ICIS-NPDES for minor state or tribal facilities;

Currently in legacy PCS, only a limited amount of data is required for minor facilities. With the modernization of PCS, more data will be required for reporting on minor facilities. For example, Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) data will be required for minor facilities. Before this DMR data can be entered into the system, other required data (i.e., facility information, outfall data, and limit data) will also need to be entered into PCS. States and tribes can begin entering the minor data in legacy PCS now in preparation for migration into ICIS-NPDES. Alternatively, states or tribes may determine the more efficient process is to do the initial data entry (i.e., facility information, outfall data, and limit data) directly into ICIS-NPDES after December 2005. The availability of more comprehensive NPDES data in the modernized system will enhance the ability to more effectively manage the NPDES program.

- Activities to support the development of a state or tribal requirements analysis for complete entry of minor facility NPDES data into ICIS-NPDES;

ICIS-NPDES data entry requirements for minor facilities for some states or tribes will be resource intensive. A requirements analysis for entering the full amount of minor facility data for a state or tribe can be performed to determine the best approach for collecting (if not in a state system) the data. A requirements analysis would also evaluate the steps necessary for data quality assurance checks, reconciliation of legacy PCS and state data, and data entry.

Evaluation and Ranking Criteria: All PCS proposals will be evaluated and ranked based on the criteria outlined below. The following four criteria and associated points will be used by EPA to evaluate the proposals:

(a) [20 points] Existing Use of PCS. The proposal must clearly describe the existing use of the PCS system (e.g., support management of the NPDES program); how data is currently entered into PCS; and the existing process used for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of data entry requirements (e.g., Water Enforcement National Database);

(b) [30 points] Data Clean Up and Migration. The proposal must clearly describe the plan and approach for the data clean-up in PCS, especially how data on minor facilities will be improved. The proposal must clearly describe any quality assurance checks planned for development to ensure the improvement of the quality of the minor data entered into PCS and/or ICIS-NPDES. The proposal should clearly describe data migration and conversion activities planned to be performed to ensure that the data migrated from legacy PCS to ICIS-NPDES is accurate, complete, and in the correct format. The proposal must clearly describe activities related to the coordination needed between EPA and the states or tribes to ensure the data migration effort is

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completed. The proposal must clearly describe the plans for tracking and determining the status of the data migration and data clean-up efforts. The proposal should explain how this work would enhance the state or tribal ability to manage the NPDES program including, assessing environmental conditions and results.

(c) [30 points] Use of ICIS-NPDES. Proposals must clearly identify the state or tribal activities to be performed that will ensure continued data entry and/or data flow of NPDES information to the new ICIS-NPDES and meet EPA's modernized system data requirements. The proposal should clearly describe the activities and process for ensuring new data requirements for ICIS-NPDES are adequately addressed. The proposal must clearly describe the analyses or studies to be conducted to support the state's full use of the modernized system.

(d) [20 points] Applicants will be evaluated on the extent to which they have received prior funding and increased consideration will be given to those that have not received prior funding for PCS Modernization efforts.

B. Focus Area - Statistically Valid Compliance Rates (SVCR):

OECA is seeking ways to improve and build capacity among state and tribes in the development of statistically-valid compliance rates. Statistically-valid compliance rates are those that are directed at a sample of the regulated universe in order to develop valid compliance rate generalizations for the overall population. Inspections have historically been conducted at targeted facilities where problems are expected to exist. However, using data strictly from targeted inspections produces biased results. Such results provide only the estimated compliance at the targeted portion of the population, and may not necessarily represent a significant portion of the population. In view of these constraints, the only practical method available is to inspect a sample of facilities during a given time period and use the results of the inspections to infer the actual compliance rate of the entire population. Fortunately, statistical theory provides us with a method of estimating the compliance rate for the entire population of facilities from a moderate-sized sample.

In FY05 grant funding will support projects with states and tribes or organizations who are interested in developing a statistically-valid compliance rate for a key regulated population.

Developing compliance rates will provide states or tribes with:

- feedback on the effectiveness of their compliance assurance programs;
- data on the root causes of compliance shortcomings;
- information to identify compliance assistance and other needs of the regulated sector.

Evaluation and Ranking Criteria: All SVCR proposals will be evaluated and ranked based on the criteria outlined below. The following five criteria and associated points will be used by

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EPA to evaluate the proposals:

(a) [15 points] Clearly identify the component of the regulated community that will be assessed and why the population was selected. EPA will favor proposals that will support OECA's national priorities. OECA's national priorities are storm water, CAFOs, SSOs, CSOs, mineral processing facilities, NSR/PSD, air toxics, and tribes.

(b) [35 points] Explicitly state and describe how you will develop a systematic observation plan that will include a detailed explanation of how you will develop the sample inspection list, the inspection checklist, inspector training requirements, QA and QC procedures, timeline, and methods for implementing the plan. A detailed description of the methodology that you will be using to provide a statistically valid rate should be included. States are encouraged to consult and utilize EPA's "Guide for Measuring Compliance Assistance Outcomes." This document is available at <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/policies/planning/results/comeasuring.pdf> If you do not have access to the internet, you may request a hard copy by contacting David Piantanida, (202) 564-8318.

(c) [20 points] Evidence of adequate inspection staff or ability to quickly hire new staff. Adequacy is demonstrated through data on past history of site visits or inspections at selected regulated populations.

(d) [20 points] Clearly explain how the state plans to use the results for improving program performance or targeting as well as sharing with other states. How will this grant impact the future of the state's performance measurement program and strategic planning process?

(e) [10 points] Identify output and outcome measures. Demonstrated through clear explanations how activities will be measured.

C. Focus Area - Tribal Compliance Assurance

The primary goal of EPA's National Tribal Compliance Assurance Priority (Tribal Priority) is to significantly improve human health and the environment in Indian country and other tribal areas by working with tribes on compliance assistance, compliance monitoring and enforcement activities. Although many tribes are building environmental program capacity, few tribes have yet to obtain program approval for implementing federal programs. EPA is generally the primary implementer of compliance assurance and enforcement programs in Indian country unless and until a tribe has obtained program approval.

In FY05 grant funding will support projects that improve compliance through enhanced: (1) tribal access to on-site compliance assistance and compliance monitoring services; or (2) enhanced tribal compliance monitoring and tribal enforcement capability.

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This can be achieved by a “circuit rider” type program or comparable services directly related to tribal schools, tribal public water systems, and tribal solid waste disposal or areas of higher concern from a tribal perspective. The circuit rider employed by tribes, intertribal consortia, and other eligible recipients could offer the following services: provide information on ensuring compliance with tribal and federal environmental laws, technical assistance and training for environmental code drafting, conducting facility audits (school inspections, solid waste assessments, or sanitary surveys at tribal public water systems, or similar activities for areas of higher concern from a tribal perspective), developing integrated solid waste management programs, facility identification, and establishing drinking water peer review programs.

Evaluation and Ranking Criteria: All tribal proposals will be evaluated and ranked based on the criteria outlined below. The following six criteria and associated points will be used by EPA to evaluate the proposals:

(a) [25 points] Clear understanding of compliance and enforcement issues related to tribal schools, drinking water systems, and/or solid and hazardous waste facilities or (the compliance assurance area of higher concern from a tribal perspective). Understanding can be demonstrated by plans to identifying how to address and resolve compliance issues through existing or proposed tribal activities.

(b) [25 points] Clear plan to improve compliance and enforcement at tribal schools, in drinking water systems, and/or at solid and hazardous waste facilities. Demonstrated through a plan containing specific steps that will improve compliance in the selected focus area(s). Demonstrate through linking the specific steps to improving compliance with the method of providing information and/or expertise to tribes and the effected facilities.

(c) [20 points] Evidence of adequate environmental staff or ability to quickly hire new staff with clear expertise in compliance assurance and enforcement issues. Adequacy demonstrated by existing or planned environmental knowledge about the proposed activity (*e.g.*, expertise in regulatory and non-regulatory issues associated with solid waste, drinking water, and/or potential environmental problems in schools; trained compliance monitoring inspectors; or environmental attorneys) and the ability to conduct the proposed activity. Demonstrate ability to provide services directly to tribes through on-site visits, meetings, and trainings.

(d) [15 points] Ability to measure activity outputs and outcomes. Demonstrate through a plan to measuring activities, including how information will be collected and analyzed. The plan should clearly identify how the activities will measure improvements in tribal compliance assurance capacities.

(e) [10 points] Sharing results, including the distribution of the plan demonstrated by a clear explanation of how the results will be shared with other tribes and intertribal consortia.

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(f) [5 points] Demonstration that the funded activity does not significantly duplicate existing EPA-funded projects by the recipient or other tribes or tribal consortia.

D. Focus Area - Air Facility System (AFS) Data Migration and Improvement Projects

In FY2005, OECA will continue its efforts to assist state, local, and tribal agencies in reporting air compliance and enforcement minimum data requirements (MDRs) in a more efficient and less burdensome manner. Over the past 5 years, OECA has provided over \$1.7 million dollars in assistance to states to facilitate data reporting to AFS using the Universal Interface (UI), a software tool provided to state, local, and tribal agencies which is developed and maintained by EPA. Projects approved in the past included tasks to accommodate many of the new data flows identified in the recent Information Collection Request (ICR) for AFS [Docket ID Number OECA-2004-0024, FRL-7668-8].

FY2005 grant funding will continue to support state, local, and tribal efforts to obtain technical assistance and technical expertise to ensure the continued flow of data to AFS in these three areas:

Facilitation of Reporting to AFS via the Universal Interface (UI): The UI is a software conversion program to report all MDRs (and optional, discretionary data) from a state agency system to AFS. Its successful use has significantly reduced reporting burden (13 state agencies are currently using the software, with 5 state agencies in the near future) and has saved these agencies the cost of maintaining conversion software. The facilitation of reporting new data not currently reported to AFS can be completed via the use of the UI. Tasks included in this project include some or all of the following:

- □ Reviewing the capabilities of the UI and evaluating the feasibility of its use for streamlining reporting to AFS. Existing users of the UI, if using a previous version of the product, can evaluate the added benefit of updating to the most recent version;
- □ Evaluation of the UI and state or tribal databases for improvement of specific data flows such as High Priority Violator (HPV) pathway information, reporting air program subpart identification, stack test pollutants or permit program data elements (PPDEs) regardless of the mechanism used to currently report data to AFS;
- □ Training and technical assistance on software upgrades to customize reporting from the agency to AFS.

Reporting Data to AFS via an Agency System: Many states currently maintain a comprehensive data system for management of their air compliance and enforcement program. When the utility of the UI program is not a viable option, and MDR and new ICR requested data is not currently processed through existing conversion programs, assistance can be provided for

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transference of specific state data to AFS. Regardless of source, extracts from state systems can be manipulated to produce transactions that AFS can accept. Tasks included in this project could include:

- □ Identification and extraction of agency information for specific data elements (*e.g.*, subpart information, HPV violation type codes, stack test pollutants, PPDEs);
- □ Development of a convertor program (*e.g.*, database or spreadsheet applications) which provide a uniform and documented process to manipulate data into AFS batch formats;
- □ Improvement to state's current system through technical assistance and training to facilitate reporting of specific data elements;
- □ Establishing and documenting the process for continued uploads to AFS.

Development of an Air Compliance/Enforcement "XML" schema and Upgrade Capability to the Universal Interface (UI):

Many states have developed or are currently developing capabilities to transfer their environmental data to EPA and the public through the Exchange Network in "XML" formats (*e.g.*, National Emission Inventories, ambient air data). Several states have asked for an XML capable UI. This project will enable a state, local, or tribal agency to take a major first step toward "XML" flow of compliance and enforcement data through the research and development of their UI to receive and interpret XML formatted data from their air information management system. The purpose and benefits of this capability would be: (1) state system will only need to maintain one type of extraction and query output format; (2) improved data flow efficiencies and further burden reduction; and (3) customized the product for internal state process. This project will formulate a schema using EPA standards for data, and upgrade the state UI to accept data from the state's system in XML format.

Evaluation and Ranking Criteria: All AFS data proposals will be evaluated and ranked based on the criteria outlined below. The following four criteria and associated points will be used by EPA to evaluate the proposals:

(a) [20 points] The proposal must describe the existing state, local, or tribal use of the AFS system (*e.g.*, support management of the Clean Air Act (CAA) Compliance and Enforcement Program and how data is currently being entered into AFS).

(b) [20 points] The proposal must describe the plan and approach for the AFS Data Migration and Improvement Project by indicating which project is to be used. If providing a proposal for the creation of an XML schema, the proposal should identify any submissions made for the Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant Program. The proposal must describe an implementation plan for the project and indicate the resources used for each project phase, federal interaction required and an estimated time the software will be used.

(c) [25 points] The proposal must describe estimated burden reductions and cost savings to the

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state through development and use of the proposed project.

(d) [35 points] The proposal must explain how completion of the proposed project is expected to improve the quality (*e.g.*, timeliness, accuracy, completeness) of the data, the expected benefits to the management of the air enforcement and compliance program from better data, and how these improvements and benefits will be measured.

E. Other EPA Funding Opportunity - Office of Environmental Information - The Exchange Network. The Exchange Network is a different grant program and applicants interested in applying under this program should read the information below. That notice was published on October 27 and closes on January 15, 2005.

Applicants may also be interested in related efforts by EPA and its state, tribal, and territorial partners to develop the Environmental Information Exchange Network. The Exchange Network is an Internet-and standards-based, secure information network that facilitates the electronic reporting, sharing, integration, analysis, and use of environmental data from many different sources. The Exchange Network will make it easier for EPA and its partners to obtain the timely, accurate information they need when making decisions concerning human health and the natural environment. The Exchange Network Grant Program provides funding to states, territories, tribes, and tribal consortia to help them develop the information management and technology capabilities they need to participate in the Exchange Network. This grant program supports the acquisition and development of computer hardware and software needed to connect to the Exchange Network; the development of common data standards, formats, and trading partner agreements for sharing data over the Exchange Network; and the planning, development, and implementation of collaborative, innovative uses of the Exchange Network.

This grant program may include the standardization, exchange, and integration of geospatial information to address environmental and related human health issues. Provided funding is available in FY 2005, EPA plans to provide support for the development of a variety of Exchange Network data flows, including ICIS-NPDES and electronic Discharge Monitoring Reports (e-DMRs), among others. The deadline for submitting applications for the FY 2005 Exchange Network Grant Program is January 15, 2005. For a copy of the FY 2005 Exchange Network Grant Program Solicitation Notice, please go to <http://www.epa.gov/Networkg>. (Please note that this Web site address is case-sensitive.) For more information about the Exchange Network Grant Program, please contact Rebecca Moser, the Exchange Network Grant Program Manager, at (202) 566-1679.

F. Proposed Milestones for 2005 OECA Multi Media STAG Program

December through February 18	Electronic proposals and partial grant applications are due simultaneously to the appropriate EPA Regional Enforcement Coordinator, and David Piantanida, (OECA) (See contact information below).
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Late April	EPA notifies all applicants (selected and non-selected) via e-mail of funding recommendations.
May 1	Selected recipients receive final application materials from EPA regional office. Regional project officers and regional grants contacts are identified.
May 31	Final proposals and grant applications are due to regional project officer, Regional grant contact, and David Piantanida, (OECA).
Late September	Grants are awarded

G. Format for Proposals:

Proposals must not exceed 12 pages, Word or WordPerfect and follow the format below: (12 point font, on 8 ½ by 11 inch paper)

1. Project Information:

- State or Tribe and Department:
- Title of Project:
- Focus Area: (*from Solicitation Notice*)
- Total Funds Requested from EPA:
- Total Project Cost (including state/tribe cash and in-kind contributions):
- Contact Person: (*name, title, address, phone, fax, & email*)
- Preferred Assistance Agreement: (*Grant or cooperative agreement*)

2. Summary:

- Summary of the problem being addressed;
- Summary of project goal(s);
- Summary of project components;
- Summary of how the project components will address the problem and attain the goals.

3. Summary Work Plan:

- Proposed activities - list and describe activities and how they relate to the proposal criteria;
- Measures - how will the success of the project be measured? Include both output and environmental outcome measures;
- Sharing results - how will the results of the project be shared across states or tribes?

4. Project Milestones: [OECA will only consider funding projects that can be completed in 3 years or less]

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- List project milestones with estimated dates, including estimated duration of project.

5. Project Costs:

- Include a detailed itemized budget for all project costs and complete the 424A (budget information) -- distinguish the funds requested from any state or tribe contributions (in-kind or other).

H. Other Submission Requirements

Question-and-Answer Teleconference:

OECA has tentatively scheduled two question-and-answer sessions for interested applicants. The dates are January 19 (Tribal and SVCR focus areas) and January 26 (PCS and AFS focus areas) from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Eastern time. The teleconference number for both calls is 1-866-299-3188, when prompted, enter the conference code (5648318) followed by #. Applicants are not required to participate in this call, but they may wish to do so if they have questions about the FY 2005 grant program or the application procedures. Applicants should submit any questions they have to David Piantanida via e-mail (piantanida.david@epa.gov) by January 7, 2005, so OECA can develop responses to the questions before the teleconference. The responses will be available on OECA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/planning/state/grants/stag/index.html>.

OECA Handling of Late or Ineligible Applications:

OECA will not review or fund any applications that are electronically received after February 18, 2005 (close of business), or that are received from ineligible applicants.

I. Cost Sharing or Matching

No cost-sharing or matching of funds is required by grant applicants.

J. Agency Contacts: Information about the OECA multimedia STAG Program is available on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/planning/state/grants/stag/index.html>. Questions about this solicitation notice or the grant program in general may be addressed to David Piantanida, the STAG Program Director, at Piantanida.david@epa.gov or (202) 564-8318. The EPA regional contacts are listed below.

EPA Regional Contacts

EPA Region I

Enforcement Coordinator: Ken Moraff - moraff.ken@epa.gov
Enforcement Division Director: Stephen Perkins - perkins.stephen@epa.gov
Mgr., Assistance and Pollution Prev: Thomas D'Avanzo - davanza.thomas@epa.gov

EPA Region II

Enforcement Coordinator: Barbara McGarry - mcgarry.barbara@epa.gov
Enforcement Division Director: Dore LaPosta - laposta.Dore@epa.gov

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EPA Region III

Enforcement Coordinator: Samantha Fairchild - fairchild.samantha@epa.gov

EPA Region IV

Enforcement Coordinator: Bruce Miller - miller.bruce@epa.gov

Enforcement Division Director: Mary Kay Lynch - lynch.mary-kay@epa.gov

EPA Region V

Compliance Assistance Coordinator: Linda Mangrum - mangrum.linda@epa.gov

EPA Region VI

Enforcement Coordinator: Connie Overbay - overbay.connie@epa.gov

EPA Region VII

Enforcement Coordinator: Mark Hague - hague.mark@epa.gov

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Dated: 12/14/04

Michael M. Stahl, Director /S/
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