

**Environmental Protection Agency
Office of External Affairs and Environmental Education**

**Solicitation Notice
FY 2012 National Network for Environmental Management Studies Fellowship
Program
(CFDA 66.952)**

Overview Information

A. Required Overview Content

1. *Federal Agency Name* – Environmental Protection Agency, Office of External Affairs and Environmental Education
2. *Funding Opportunity Title* – FY 2012 National Network for Environmental Management Studies (NNEMS) Fellowship Program
3. *Announcement Type* – Request for Applications (RFA)
4. *Funding Opportunity Number* – EPA-EED-12-01
5. *Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number* – 66.952: National Network for Environmental Management Studies Fellowship Program
6. *Dates* – Application due date: The deadline for submissions of application packages for the 2012 NNEMS Fellowship Program is January 30, 2012. All submissions must be postmarked by January 30, 2012 to be eligible for consideration.
7. *Funding/Awards* – The total estimated funding for this competitive funding opportunity is approximately \$100,000. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) anticipates awarding up to approximately 10 to 15 fellowships from this announcement, subject to the availability of funds and the quality of applications received.

B. Additional Overview Content

1. *Executive Summary* – In recognition of the growing interest in environmental issues and careers, the EPA established the National Network for Environmental Management Studies (NNEMS) Fellowship Program in 1986 to encourage students to pursue environmental careers. The NNEMS program is a comprehensive fellowship program that provides students an opportunity to participate in a fellowship project that is directly related to their field of study.

The purpose of the NNEMS program is to:

- Provide students with practical research opportunities and experiences in the EPA's program and regional offices and in its laboratories;
- Increase public awareness of and involvement in environmental issues;
- Encourage qualified individuals to pursue environmental careers; and
- Help defray the costs associated with the pursuit of academic programs related to the field of environmental protection, such as pollution control, science, engineering, technology, social science and specialty areas.

Under the NNEMS program, a range of fellowship activities are offered to help students increase their knowledge of environmental issues while refining their professional skills. Typically, the NNEMS program offers 30-40 fellowships developed and sponsored by the EPA's Headquarters office in Washington, D.C. and in the EPA's 10 regional offices and laboratories throughout the United States. However, in fiscal year 2012, the NNEMS program will only offer approximately 10 to 15 projects, a majority of which are sponsored in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. The projects are specifically narrow in scope, allowing students to complete the research project while working full-time at the EPA during the summer or part-time during the school year. Typically, the research is conducted at the EPA office, although other arrangements can be made in certain circumstances.

Detailed descriptions of the fellowships are provided in the annual NNEMS Catalog as well as on the NNEMS website. The catalog is available online at www.epa.gov/education/students.html and project descriptions can be found at www.epa.gov/education/NNEMS/2012projects.html.

The fellowships are organized among four key areas:

- Environmental Policy, Regulation and Law
- Environmental Management and Administration
- Environmental Science
- Public Relations and Communications

I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Background

The EPA established the NNEMS program in 1986 to foster a growing interest among higher education students in environmental careers. The NNEMS program is a comprehensive fellowship program that provides students an opportunity to participate in a fellowship project that is directly related to their field of study. The NNEMS program is sponsored by the EPA Office of External Affairs and Environmental Education.

The purpose of the NNEMS program is to:

- Provide students with practical research opportunities and experiences in the EPA's program and regional offices and in its laboratories;
- Increase public awareness of and involvement in environmental issues;
- Encourage qualified individuals to pursue environmental careers; and
- Help defray the costs associated with the pursuit of academic programs related to the field of environmental protection, such as pollution control, science, engineering, technology, social science and specialty areas.

Students selected for NNEMS fellowships are offered a unique opportunity to gain research and training experience directly linked to their undergraduate or graduate studies. NNEMS fellows conduct research projects to augment their academic studies, which the EPA supports with financial assistance in the form of a grant.

Under the NNEMS program, a range of fellowship activities are offered to help students increase their knowledge of environmental issues while refining their professional skills. Typically, the NNEMS program offers 30-40 fellowships developed and sponsored by the EPA's Headquarters office in Washington, D.C. and in the EPA's 10 regional offices and laboratories throughout the United States. However, in fiscal year 2012, the NNEMS program will only offer approximately 10 to 15 projects, a majority of which are sponsored in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. The projects are specifically narrow in scope, allowing students to complete the fellowship while working full-time at the EPA during the summer or part-time during the school year. Typically, the research is conducted at an EPA office, although other arrangements can be made in certain circumstances.

The fellowships are organized among four categories:

- **Environmental Policy, Regulation and Law**
Fellowships offered in this category provide students an opportunity to review and evaluate existing policies and regulations, as well as conduct research related to the development of new policies. The projects may include a component that focuses on environmental compliance.
- **Environmental Management and Administration**
The topics of fellowships in this category focus on environmental management goals.
- **Environmental Science**
Fellowships in this category typically include direct participation in field studies and laboratory research. Environmental policy and regulation review requiring technical expertise is included in the Environmental Policy, Regulation and Law category described above.
- **Public Relations and Communications**
These types of fellowships include the review and analysis of public response to EPA policies and regulations, as well as general public opinion of environmental issues. The projects may include the development of communication tools; for example, pamphlets and informational materials.

Detailed descriptions of the fellowships offered this year are provided in the EPA's NNEMS Catalog for 2012 as well as on the NNEMS website. The NNEMS Catalog can be found at www.epa.gov/education/students.html and project descriptions can be found at www.epa.gov/education/NNEMS/2012projects.html. The NNEMS Catalog for 2012 can be viewed or downloaded in portable document format (pdf) and portions of the 2012 catalog are available in HTML format for interactive viewing of the fellowships.

B. Authority and Regulations

The authority for this Request for Application (RFA) and resulting awards is contained in the National Environmental Education Act, Section 7; Public Law 101-619.

II. Award Information

The EPA has awarded more than 1,450 fellowships under the NNEMS program since its inception in 1986, and expects to award approximately 10 to 15 fellowships in 2012 for an estimated total amount of \$100,000.

All NNEMS fellowships are awarded directly to the individual students who are selected as fellows. The awards cannot be made to the educational institution at which the student is enrolled, although a student may request that the EPA submit payment of a portion of his or her tuition costs directly to the institution.

Students selected for a fellowship receive a grant award in the form of a stipend. The grant is paid in monthly installments based on the duration of the project. Grant awards reflect an individual student's level of education, as well as the location and duration of the fellowship. Even though students selected to receive NNEMS fellowships are grantees and not federal employees, the formula for the appropriate stipend amount is based on the current General Schedule (GS) grades 4 through 9 federal pay scale, and includes standard government locality rates. Freshmen students, for example, will be paid at the GS-04 rate; advanced graduate students at the GS-09 rate. For example, grants awarded for a 3-month full-time period would range from approximately \$6,000 to \$10,500 per award. The stipend will be increased to compensate for costs associated with travel or training for fellowships that require these activities. Information about the 2011 GS pay scale by localities is available online at www.opm.gov/oca/11tables/indexGS.asp. Please note that rates for 2012 will be adjusted according to the new GS scale.

The anticipated start date for the 2012 fellowships is April 2012.

NNEMS fellowships cannot be extended or renewed.

The EPA reserves the right to reject all applications for NNEMS fellowships and make no awards under this announcement or make fewer awards than anticipated. The EPA also reserves the right to make additional awards under this announcement consistent

with Agency policy, if additional funding becomes available. Any additional selections for awards will be made no later than August 2012.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

A NNEMS fellowship is available to any associate, undergraduate or advanced student who meets the general requirements listed below, as well as those identified for associate, undergraduate and advanced students.

General Requirements

At a minimum, all applicants must be:

- A citizen of the United States, its territories or possessions, or lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residency. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services defines lawful permanent residency as any person not a citizen of the United States who is residing in the United States under legally recognized and lawfully recorded permanent residence as an immigrant, also known as “Permanent Resident Alien,” “Resident Alien Permit Holder” and “Green Card Holder.” A lawful permanent resident must provide his or her Green Card number on his or her application.
- Enrolled for academic credit at a 2- or 4-year college or university, or distance-learning institution accredited by a regional or national accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department of Education or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation¹, and
- Pursuing an educational program directly related to pollution control or environmental protection for the duration of the fellowship.

Associate and Undergraduate Students

Students attending 2- or 4-year institutions or distance-learning institutions must meet the following requirements:

- 3.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA) based on a scale of 4.0 at the time the application is due (a GPA of 2.999 for example, is not sufficient), and
- Completion of at least four undergraduate courses related to the field of environmental studies.

¹ Applicants are not required to be enrolled at the time the application is due, typically in January, but must be enrolled at the time of fellowship award, which is typically in April. For example, an applicant who graduated with an undergraduate degree a few years ago and is not currently enrolled in an academic program may submit an application for a NNEMS fellowship if the applicant has applied to, been accepted at, and is enrolled in a graduate school or doctoral program that will begin in the fall of 2012. Please note that the EPA is prohibited from awarding fellowships to applicants who have been accepted to, but have not enrolled in, an academic program.

Advanced Students

Students enrolled in graduate or doctoral programs must meet the following requirements:

- Currently enrolled in a graduate or Ph.D. program or can provide proof of acceptance and enrollment to a graduate or Ph.D. program at the time of fellowship award, and
- Completion of at least one semester of graduate or Ph.D. work, or at least four undergraduate courses related to the field of environmental studies.

The following students are not eligible for a NNEMS fellowship:

- Federal employees, including those who are on “leave without pay” status.
- Undergraduate and graduate students who will graduate before the NNEMS fellowship is completed (students who complete their undergraduate studies before the end of a fellowship may apply if they are admitted and enrolled in a graduate program).
- Students enrolled in certificate programs.
- High school students.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

There is no matching or cost sharing required of students awarded NNEMS fellowships.

C. Threshold Eligibility Criterion

These are requirements that if not met by the time of application submission will result in elimination of the application from consideration for funding. Only applications from eligible entities (see above) that meet all of these criteria will be evaluated against the ranking factors in Section V of this announcement. Applicants deemed ineligible for funding consideration as a result of the threshold eligibility review will be notified within 15 calendar days of the ineligibility determination.

1. Applications must substantially comply with the application submission instructions and requirements set forth in Section IV of this announcement or they will be rejected.
 - a. In addition, all materials must be postmarked by January 30, 2012 to be eligible for consideration.
 - b. Applications postmarked after the submission deadline will be considered late and returned to the sender without further consideration unless the applicant can clearly demonstrate that it was late due to EPA mishandling.
2. A student who is currently holding a NNEMS fellowship may apply for a new fellowship in 2012. The existing fellowship, however, must be completed and the fellowship ended before a student will be considered eligible to begin a new fellowship.

3. Students may apply for as many fellowships as desired. Complete application packages (one original and two copies) must be submitted for each fellowship project. Although multiple copies of the application materials are required, they may be submitted in the same package. Official transcripts may be photocopied if a student is submitting more than one application package. If more than one project application is submitted, the student must indicate the order of preference of each project on the Application Form.

4. Students may apply for consecutive projects, but the first fellowship must be completed before the second fellowship begins. For example, an applicant may apply for a project that ends in August as well as for a project that begins in September.

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Address to Request Application Package

The NNEMS Catalog for 2012 can be viewed or downloaded in pdf from www.epa.gov/education/students.html. Portions of the 2012 Catalog are also available in HTML format for interactive viewing of the fellowships.

B. Content and Form of Application Submission

Application packages are submitted in hard copy as explained below. All students who are interested in applying for a NNEMS fellowship must submit a complete application package (an original and two copies) that includes:

- A completed NNEMS Application Form
- A completed Standard Form 424 – Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424)
- A résumé
- An official transcript for each 2- or 4-year college or university, or distance-learning institution attended. Official transcripts should be opened and photocopied as one original and two photocopies of the transcript are required for each complete application. If submitting applications for more than one NNEMS project, only one original transcript is required. Applicants should include in the application package the envelope in which the original transcript was provided.
- A completed NNEMS Reference Form. The Reference Form should be prepared by a professor or advisor who knows the applicant well and can specifically discuss the student's aptitude and/or experience for the project. The Reference Form should be included with the application package; however, a reference submitted under separate copy will be accepted if it is postmarked on or before the application deadline. In this case, a note should be included in the application package indicating that the form is being sent separately.
- A completed and signed original NNEMS Disclosure and Waiver Statement.
- Verification of acceptance and/or enrollment in a graduate or Ph.D. program if the applicant is a graduating senior.

Submission

Applicants must submit all of the information identified above. Blank application forms are included in *Appendix A, Application Materials* of the NNEMS Catalog for 2012, and may also be obtained on the NNEMS program website at www.epa.gov/education/students.html. Students must submit a complete application package (an original and two copies) for each project for which they are applying.

All materials must be postmarked by January 30, 2012 to be eligible for consideration. Applications received after the submission deadline will be considered late and returned to the sender without further consideration unless the applicant can clearly demonstrate that it was late due to the EPA's mishandling.

If a student is offered and accepts a fellowship, the NNEMS staff will then send the student a Fellowship Application Packet, instructions for completing the forms in the packet and a copy of the Guidebook for NNEMS 2012 Fellows. The forms must be completed and returned to the NNEMS staff within 2 weeks of receipt in order to begin the processing of the paperwork required of all fellowships. A delay in the submittal of the paperwork will result in a delay in the fellowship start date.

C. Submission Dates and Times

The deadline for submissions of applications for 2012 fellowships is **January 30, 2012**. All materials must be postmarked by January 30, 2012, to be eligible for consideration. Applications postmarked after January 30, 2012 will not be accepted.

Applications received with a postmark on or before January 30, 2012 will receive an email at the email address identified in the "Current Email" and/or "Permanent Email" fields found on page 1 of the NNEMS Application Form. If you do not receive a confirmation of application receipt email within 30 calendar days of the application deadline, please visit the EPA's NNEMS website at: www.epa.gov/education/students.html and click on the link to send an email to the NNEMS Fellowship Program.

D. Intergovernmental Review

Not Applicable.

E. Funding Restrictions

Students selected for a fellowship receive a grant award in the form of a stipend. The grant is paid in monthly installments based on the duration of the project. The EPA will not make payments under a fellowship agreement until the award official receives the signed Fellowship Activation Notice. Unless the fellowship provides another payment process, the student may request the EPA to make the stipend payment as follows:

- A portion paid directly to the educational institution for tuition costs. Tuition costs sent directly to the educational institution attended by the student are tax exempt.
- Payment to the student on a monthly basis or another basis approved by the EPA project officer and as stated in the Fellowship Agreement. Students are required to receive payment electronically and must complete the Fellowship Stipend Payment Enrollment Form that is included in the Guidebook for NNEMS 2012 Fellows. Once the form is completed and returned to the EPA's Financial Management Center, the stipend payment will be made by direct deposit.

The EPA is not responsible for a student's travel expenses to and from the project site or for the student's housing costs. If selected for a NNEMS fellowship that is located away from home or school, students are responsible for making their own arrangements for travel and housing.

If a student is required to participate in official travel during the performance of a project, the EPA will add to the stipend additional funds to cover associated travel costs. Because students will not be reimbursed for any unapproved travel costs, it is very important that students do not incur any travel expenses until the stipend has been increased to cover such costs.

F. Other Submission Requirements

All NNEMS applications must be submitted by mail, courier or express delivery service to:

NNEMS Fellowship Program
Tetra Tech EM Inc.
1881 Campus Commons Drive, Suite 200
Reston, VA 20191

Although multiple copies of the application materials are required, they may be submitted in the same package.

G. Confidential Business Information

In accordance with 40 CFR 2.203, applicants may claim all or a portion of their application/proposal as confidential business information. The EPA will evaluate confidentiality claims in accordance with 40 CFR Part 2. Applicants must clearly mark

applications/proposals or portions of applications/proposals they claim as confidential. If no claim of confidentiality is made, the EPA is not required to make the inquiry to the applicant otherwise required by 40 CFR 2.204(c)(2) prior to disclosure.

H. Application Assistance and Communications

In accordance with the EPA's Assistance Agreement Competition Policy (EPA Order 5700.5A1), EPA staff will not meet with individual applicants to discuss draft proposals, provide informal comments on draft proposals or provide advice to applicants on how to respond to ranking criteria. Applicants are responsible for the contents of their applications/proposals. However, consistent with the provisions in the announcement, the EPA will respond to questions from individual applicants regarding threshold eligibility criteria, administrative issues related to the submission of the proposal, and requests for clarification about the announcement.

V. Application Review Information

Only eligible applicants whose application(s) meet the threshold eligibility criterion in Section III of this announcement will be reviewed according to the evaluation criterion set forth below.

A. Evaluation Criterion

NNEMS fellowships are awarded annually on the basis of the EPA's request for applications and the established evaluation criteria listed below.

- Relevancy of the classroom experience of the student as it relates to the EPA fellowship (maximum score = 15 points).
- Student's understanding of the proposed EPA fellowship subject matter (maximum score = 10 points).
- Relevancy of work experience of the student (whether volunteer activities, internships, or paid jobs) as it relates to the EPA fellowship (maximum score = 10 points).
- Relevancy of the student's academic studies to the EPA fellowship (maximum score = 5 points).
- Leadership skills, written communication skills and demonstrated success at working well in an office, laboratory or field environment, as appropriate to the project (maximum score = 5 points).
- Potential for success, as reflected by academic records, letter(s) of reference and other relevant information (maximum score = 5 points).

Applications that are scored highly based on the evaluation criteria listed above by the panel of reviewers are then sent to the NNEMS staff and EPA project officers for consideration.

B. Review and Selection Process

Every application submitted for a specific fellowship will first be reviewed by external reviewers to determine whether the eligibility requirements have been met. Applications that meet the eligibility requirements will subsequently be reviewed by panels comprised of EPA staff members. The panels review and evaluate each application based on the evaluation criteria listed above.

Students who are not selected for a 2012 fellowship will be notified initially by email within 15 calendar days after a decision of non-selection is made. An official notification letter will be sent to the student's address provided on the NNEMS Application Form.

C. Award Dates

The EPA anticipates announcing awards in April 2012.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

Once the EPA has made a decision about whom to award a fellowship, the EPA project officer will contact the student to offer the fellowship and discuss specific details about the fellowship. Discussions between the project officer and applicant are intended to produce a clear, mutual understanding of the details of the project and the results the student wishes to achieve from the project. The student should expect to discuss with the EPA project officer general information about the project, including:

- Specific location where the project will be conducted,
- Amount of the stipend to be paid to the student,
- Approximate duration of the project,
- Primary point of contact for the student,
- Names of the EPA staff with whom the student will be working,
- Access to telephone, email and the Internet, and
- General sources of information that will be made available to the students (for example, previous research studies, resources, etc.) and any non-monetary assistance that the EPA may be able to provide to the student during the fellowship.

During the notification call, the EPA project officer will also review with the student the procedures he or she must follow to initiate and complete the fellowship as described in detail in the NNEMS Catalog for 2012 under Procedures to Initiate and Complete a NNEMS Fellowship.

The following describes the procedures that students who are selected to receive NNEMS fellowships must follow to initiate their fellowship.

The steps required to process a fellowship and the grant award are lengthy. It is imperative that students follow the instructions provided by the EPA and submit all

materials on time. A student may not begin a fellowship until all of the required documents are submitted.

Step 1: Complete and Submit the Fellowship Application Packet Forms

A student selected for a NNEMS fellowship will receive a grant award in the form of a stipend. Because a NNEMS fellowship is a grant issued by a federal agency, the student must complete additional documentation required by the federal government. In addition to completing a NNEMS application, a student selected for a NNEMS fellowship must submit the forms described below to receive a fellowship grant.

An applicant selected to receive a fellowship will be notified by the EPA project officer. NNEMS staff will then mail the student an official Fellowship Application Packet that includes a Fellowship Application (EPA Form 5770-2), a Fellowship Facilities and Commitment Statement (5770-3), and a Fellowship Stipend Payment Enrollment Form.

The Fellowship Application Packet forms must be completed, signed, and returned to the NNEMS staff within 2 weeks of receipt. A delay in the submittal of the paperwork will result in a delay in the fellowship start date.

Step 2: Processing of the Fellowship Application

Upon receipt of the completed Fellowship Application Packet forms, NNEMS staff will work with the EPA project officer to submit the necessary paperwork to the EPA's Grants and Interagency Agreement Management Division (GIAMD) for approval and award of the grant. All the information that the student provided will be verified by GIAMD and entered into its computer files. The student's grant will be assigned a number and a grants specialist will process the student's forms and mail the acceptance documents to the student's permanent mailing address (as indicated on the Fellowship Application) for the student's signature. The processing of the grant may take up to 6 weeks to complete. The official notification of an award will be made by GIAMD. A Congressional notification period of 5 days must be observed before the acceptance documents are mailed to the student.

Step 3: Complete and Submit the Acceptance Documents

Approximately 6 weeks after the Fellowship Application Packet forms have been submitted to the EPA, the student will receive his or her grant award documents, which include a Fellowship Agreement (EPA Form 5770-8), Fellowship Activation Notice (EPA Form 5770-7) and the EPA Completion of Studies Notice (EPA Form 5770-9). The student may not start work with the EPA until he or she has signed and returned the Fellowship Agreement. In addition, the student must have his or her EPA project officer sign the Fellowship Activation Notice on the student's first day with the EPA and return it to GIAMD.

- **Fellowship Agreement** (EPA Form 5770-8). The Fellowship Agreement is the written agreement (including any amendments) between the EPA and the student awarded a fellowship. The amount of the fellowship award and the terms and conditions of the fellowship are provided in the Fellowship Agreement. The student must sign the form and return it to GIAMD at the address provided on the form within 3 weeks of receipt or within a timeframe approved by GIAMD. If the student does not return the Fellowship Agreement or request an extension of the acceptance time limit within 3 weeks, the proposed start date of his or her fellowship will be delayed. The EPA will not be responsible for any costs incurred under a voided agreement.
- **Fellowship Activation Notice** (EPA Form 5770-7). The Fellowship Activation Notice should be signed by the EPA project officer on the student's first day of work. The EPA project officer then should return the signed form to GIAMD. Once the signed Fellowship Activation Notice is received, GIAMD is responsible for sending the notice to the EPA's Financial Management Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, to authorize payments to the student. If the Fellowship Activation Notice is not submitted to GIAMD within 90 days of the start of the fellowship, the EPA will initiate action to terminate the fellowship agreement.
- **EPA Completion of Studies Notice** (EPA Form 5770-9). The EPA Completion of Studies Notice should be kept by the student until the end of his or her work with the EPA. At that point, the EPA Completion of Studies Notice should be completed by the student, signed by the EPA project officer and submitted by the student to the EPA's Financial Management Center in Las Vegas, Nevada on the last day of the fellowship.

Step 4: Begin the Fellowship

The student should begin the fellowship on the date and at the location arranged with the EPA project officer and specified in the Fellowship Agreement.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

If selected to receive a NNEMS fellowship, the student must agree to the following fellowship conditions:

- The fellow agrees that this fellowship may not be amended to extend the duration period beyond the number of months indicated in the Fellowship Agreement. The duration period of this fellowship will begin on the date indicated by the fellow in the upper right corner of the Fellowship Activation Notice in the block, “Date Fellow Will Enter on Duty”.
- The fellow agrees to submit the following items at the conclusion of the fellowship program:
 1. The EPA Completion of Studies Notice (EPA Form 5770-9). This form shall be submitted by the student to the following address at the end of the project period indicated on page 1 of the agreement:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Las Vegas Finance Center
P.O. Box 98515
Las Vegas, Nevada 89193-8515
 2. A final project report.

If the fellow withdraws from the program prior to the scheduled completion date, the fellow shall complete the EPA Completion of Studies Notice and send it to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Las Vegas Finance Center
P.O. Box 98515
Las Vegas, Nevada 89193-8515

Any stipend received after withdrawal from the program must be returned to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Financial Management Center
P.O. Box 979087
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

C. Reporting

At the completion of a NNEMS fellowship, all NNEMS fellows are required to:

Submit a Final Report of the Project

A copy of the final report must be provided to the EPA project officer on the last day of the fellowship. Unless directed otherwise by the EPA project officer, the report should summarize the specific project undertaken by the student and the project results.

Submit the EPA Completion of Studies Notice (EPA Form 5770-9)

The EPA Completion of Studies Notice (EPA Form 5770-9) must be completed by the student, signed by the EPA project officer and submitted by the student to the EPA's Financial Management Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, on the last day of the fellowship. The final payment for the balance of the fellowship award, if any, is typically mailed to the student within 2 weeks after the fellowship has officially ended.

In addition, students may be contacted via phone or email and asked to complete a program evaluation survey approximately one year from the completion of the fellowship.

D. Resolution of Disputes

Assistance agreement competition-related disputes will be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures published in 70 FR (Federal Register) 3629, 3630, (January 26, 2005) located on the web at: <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/competition/resolution.htm>. Copies of these procedures may also be obtained by contacting the individual listed in Section VII of this announcement.

VII. Agency Contact(s)

For additional information, please contact:

Ms. Ginger Potter
NNEMS Program
Office of External Affairs and Environmental Education (1703A)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
Telephone: 202-564-0443

Or visit the EPA's NNEMS website at:
www.epa.gov/education/students.html.

Students who would like additional information or clarification of a specific project should complete and submit the "Project-specific Questions" form that is available online at www.epa.gov/education/NNEMS/2012projects.html.

VIII. Other Information

A fingerprint check or a fingerprint check and a background investigation for security purposes may be required of fellowship recipients, and personal information about the recipient will be required to complete these investigations. The EPA reserves the right to terminate the fellowship agreement with a recipient if his or her background investigation reveals adverse information.