

EPA RFP
Questions and Answers

Last Updated: 01/28/10

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1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
2	What is a HUC code?	0 - General	Application	A code assigned by the United States Geological Survey to identify drainage water basins for facilities by their geographic location. To find the HUC for your watershed, see http://water.usgs.gov/wsc/findwatershed.html	Complete
3	The fillable RFP Submission form includes the information required for page 1 of the proposal. Does this form count for page 1 or do we still include a page 1 in our attached proposal?	0 - General	Application	Do still include this information on page 1 of the proposal.	Complete
4	The proposal's CONTACT PERSON is the institutional official who typically signs off on a grant? Not the proposal's Principal Investigator, right?	0 - General	Application	For Contact Person, please identify the person EPA should contact for information about the proposal - typically the Principal Investigator.	Complete
5	What is a "DUNS" number. Where can I find ours?	0 - General	Application	The RFP requests an applicant's DUNS number. See page 23 of the Request for Proposals.	Complete
6	On page 24, item 7, a project location is required. Our project will involve multiple locations that may not be identified by the time the proposal is submitted. Please advise as to how to fill in this field.	0 - General	Application	Include applicable watersheds and locations to the extent known. Include a statement about locations that have not .	Complete
7	Are there page limits for these proposals?	0 - General	Application	There is a 15 page limit. See page 23.	Complete
8	Is a QA/QC section required?	0 - General	Application	A separate QA/QC section is not required.	Complete

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9	Will proposals need to be submitted on 'grants.gov' using 424 documents for proposal submission?	0 - General	Application	Proposals may not be submitted on grants.gov and the form 424 documents are not requested at this time. Per the RFP, eligible applicants may submit proposals through a link from: http://epa.gov/greatlakes/fund/2010rfp01 . Further submittal information is described in Section IV of the RFP. Applicants will be asked to submit their full application packages through grants.gov if that stage is reached.	Complete
10	If I submit a project that includes multiple monitoring elements, do I need to develop a separate QAPP for each project or could be submit one that covered all of them?	0 - General	Application	If you write one QAPP for one area that has applications to others you can cite the methodology from the original and supplement it with a QAPP amendment or supplement. The sampling areas and sample numbers would change in different areas but you do not have to repeat the common pieces.	Complete
11	I assume that you have considered the load on your system when everyone submits on Jan 29. Can you reassure the applicants that the system won't crash on that day? I realize that the best solution is to apply before the last day, but reality is different.	0 - General	Application	We encourage applicants to submit proposals prior to the due date. We are working with a contractor to avoid problems.	Complete
12	How critical are letters of support? They are included as a type of attachment, but we do not see how they impact scoring. It would seem that letters of collaboration would be more meaningful, and would have more bearing on a project.	0 - General	Application	While the heading for item 14 references letters of support, the narrative clarifies the item, describing it as "any relevant letters from collaborators". Evaluators will evaluate collaboration per Section V.G.	Complete
13	Do references count towards the 15 page limit?	0 - General	Application	You may include references as an attachment pursuant to item 14 of Section IV.B and they will not count toward the 15 page limit.	Complete
14	Where can I put my reference list? Attachments section?	0 - General	Application	You may include references as an attachment pursuant to item 14 of Section IV.B and they will not count toward the 15 page limit.	Complete

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15	Will successful applicants be allowed to claim administrative costs through this program, and if so, how much?	0 - General	Application	Administrative costs should be included as a budget item and will be considered as a part of the proposal evaluation. Assuming that your administrative costs are included in your negotiated indirect cost rate with your cognizant federal agency, you may not exceed that rate.	Complete
16	As the “authorizing official” for the University my office signs off on all proposals to external funding agencies. Normally on line systems are designed to allow for this. With the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative system it appears that the individual principal investigator does the actual on line submission of the proposal. Can you confirm this? How are the approvals for the authorizing office captured with this system?	0 - General	Application	We rely on applicants to follow the rules of their institutions for submissions of proposals. Each institution can establish its own procedures. If a project is selected for funding, then at that time only the authorized official will be able to submit the final application package. We have not imposed that limitation on this part of the proposal process.	Complete
17	Executive Order 12372 requires Intergovernmental Review for any project or action requesting Federal Financial Assistance. Usually this is done at the application time and requires about 60 days for review and comments. My original thinking was the RFP was a proposal of a future application and then the clearinghouse letters would be necessary but I wanted to get clarification from EPA before I went on that assumption. Am I correct in thinking for the January deadline Clearinghouse letters aren't due?	0 - General	Application	Since these are proposals, not applications, you are correct in your assumption that Clearinghouse letters are not due for the January deadline.	Complete

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18	Do I need resolution from my board in order to submit a proposal and if so, when should that step occur?	0 - General	Application	Each applicant must determine what procedures it needs to follow to submit a proposal. If your proposal is selected, we expect that you will also have formal procedures you must follow for an authorized official to submit a full application package.	Complete
19	Do/can Canadian applicants obtain a DUNS number following the instructions in the RFP?	0 - General	Application	Yes	Complete
20	We have not been able to locate sponsor forms such as biosketches and budget forms. We have been on the proposal submission website as well. Can you please let know if there are standard forms that we need to use and where they are housed?	0 - General	Application	These are not forms which apply to this Request for Proposals. Following proposal selection, a budget narrative will be required as part of the full application package, but not now.	Complete
21	Should letters of support be sent to the applicant to include in their packet or sent to USEPA directly?	0 - General	Application	Any letters of support can be included with the proposal. They should not be submitted separately to U.S. EPA.	Complete
22	I am wondering if the ACORN statement should be included in the Project Narrative (part of the 15 page limit) or if it can be a separate document, on letterhead, that is one of the attachment documents.	0 - General	Application	Please include the statement in the project narrative.	Complete
23	Re: how to fill out electronic submission. How does one attach a Word doc?	0 - General	Application	Once you are online and at item 14, navigate to where you have your file saved and select the file.	Complete
24	Page 27 of the RFP states that we can put resumes or curriculum vitae of principal investigators/critical staff in Section 14. Are there recommended page numbers or formats for the resumes/CVs?	0 - General	Application	No.	Complete
25	What start date should we put on our application?	0 - General	Application	Please see the proposed timetable and the anticipated project start and end dates in the RFP (Section II, page 19).	Complete

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26	We are requesting letters of support for the GLRI and had a quick question for EPA. We would like to know to whom should we address letters of support?	0 - General	Application	EPA does not have a requirement for this. Depending on what is in the letter, some possibilities are to address the letter to you, the head of your organization, or to the Director of the EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office. You would need to attach any such letter to your proposal.	Complete
27	Do the character restrictions on the cover page for the "Name of Proposal" and "Project Description" include spaces?	0 - General	Application	Yes.	Complete
28	The application asks for type of organization. Since we are a City, does that put us under public or nonprofit private agencies, institutions and organizations? The only other grant I submitted had a local government agency choice, but I don't see one here. Can you help?	0 - General	Application	A city would be included among "public or nonprofit private agencies, institutions and organizations."	Complete
29	Do we need to provide the HUC code – latitude and longitudinal codes?	0 - General	Application	Please provide whatever geographic information is applicable.	Complete
30	Also, because this is not a research program, there is no scientific peer review – shall we leave this blank?	0 - General	Application	If there is no applicable peer review, there is no need to provide an explanation or an attachment.	Complete
31	In proposals that involve the USGS as a partner for monitoring, should the USGS budget show up as a column in the applicants budget chart with costs for all the appropriate budget object classes?	0 - General	Application	If the applicant will issue a contract to USGS, the full amount of that contract should appear in the contracts line of the budget.	Complete
32	There is a 60-character limit for the proposal title. Does this 60-character limit include spaces?	0 - General	Application	Yes	Complete

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33	Should the proposals submitted at this time be abridged versions of their full proposals that will be submitted if pre-approval is achieved? For example: Page 23 of RFP, "Proposals must be no more than fifteen single-spaced pages in length....". Does this apply to the pre-approval submittal or the full submittal at a later date? And if at full proposal stage only, is there a maximum page amount for narrative, budget, etc.. at this time?	0 - General	Application	The 15 page limit applies to THIS proposal submission. If the proposal is selected, the applicant will at that time be able to submit a more detailed full application using grants.gov	Complete
34	A formatting question: The rfp specifies single-space Times New Roman font not smaller than 11 pt with 1" margins. This can result in a layout with long lines that are difficult to read. Can we prepare the proposal in a two-column format?	0 - General	Application	That would be acceptable.	Complete
35	Should the cover page be on the first page with the full project description starting on page 2?	0 - General	Application	The cover page information (items 1-7) should be on the first of the 15 pages.	Complete
36	If so, then do we really just have 14 pages for sections 8-12?	0 - General	Application	That leaves 14 pages for items 8-13.	Complete
37	For 2. Name of proposal, is that 60 characters minus spaces or 60 characters including spaces?	0 - General	Application	The 60 characters includes spaces.	Complete
38	For 6. Brief Project Description is that 595 characters minus spaces or 595 characters including spaces?	0 - General	Application	The 595 characters includes spaces.	Complete

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39	Concerning the Point of Contact area: 1] Is the contact the faculty submitter or the organizational contact? Can both be listed in this area? 2] Address, city, State, etc. is this information for the organizational contact or the faculty contact? 3] Same for phone, fax, email, etc. as #2 above.	0 - General	Application	It was our intention that we would be able to use the contact information to provide information about whether proposals were accepted or rejected and to obtain additional information, as needed. These fields are intended for that purpose.	Complete
40	About the project PI: 1] For this submission does EPA recognize a co-PI on a project or just a co-investigator with just one PI?	0 - General	Application	If selected, a grant will be awarded to a single organization for the project. More than one individual may be identified who will be working on the project.	Complete
41	Are full resumes/curriculum vitae required in the GLRI proposals, or will summaries of PIs and critical staff suffice, i.e. degrees, titles, summary of experience?	0 - General	Application	Please provide the information you believe necessary to respond to the criteria. There is not a requirement for full resumes/curriculum vitae.	Complete
42	Our work will be in the Canadian portion of the Lake Superior basin. What do we use for HUC code?	0 - General	Application	You may use the Tertiary Watershed Code, which would be "2A and 2B" for Lake Superior watersheds.	Complete
43	Does a letter of commitment need to be attached to the proposal for providing voluntary matches to a project?	0 - General	Application	A letter of commitment is not required. However, such a letter may be considered by reviewers in evaluating criteria such as Strategic Approach, Programmatic Capability, and Collaboration/Partnerships.	Complete

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44	Is there a budget form to use or do we make our own table?	0 - General	Application - Budget	Applicants can make their own table.	Complete
45	For budget category "Equipment", is there any restrictions on the type of equipment to be purchased or the limit of dollar amount allowed?	0 - General	Application - Budget	See the applicable section of 40 CFR. 40 CFR Part 30 includes this definition: Equipment means tangible nonexpendable personal property including exempt property charged directly to the award having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$5000 or more per unit. However, consistent with recipient policy, lower limits may be established.	Complete
46	<p>The RFP does not specifically request a stand alone "budget justification" page typical of many grant proposals. The RFP is clear that it is not necessary to include a separate page breaking down subcontractor budgets within the 15 page proposal limit. However, we would like to include a breakdown of their budgets and possibly a budget justification page to assist reviewers.</p> <p>-Could such a "budget justification" page be included in the Appendix to assist reviewers?</p> <p>-Could we add this breakdown of subcontractor budgets to the Appendix?</p>	0 - General	Application - Budget	Do not submit this information as attachments to your submission. Narrative and explanatory information may be included under the appropriate sections of the 15 page budget submission. The items which can be attached are specified in the Request for Proposals. We note that should your project be selected for an award, a budget narrative will be required at that time as part of the full application package.	Complete

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47	Is there any limitation on Indirect Cost (or Facilities & Administration)? Or, do we use the ONR negotiated rate?	0 - General	Application - Budget	The RFP does not limit indirect costs. However, the criteria include an evaluation of the reasonableness and appropriateness of the proposed budget for the level of work proposed and for the expected benefits to be achieved.	Complete
48	What level of indirect is allowed to universities for grants funded under the GLRI?	0 - General	Application - Budget	The RFP does not specify a limit for indirect costs. However, the criteria include an evaluation of the reasonableness and appropriateness of the proposed budget for the level of work proposed and for the expected benefits to be achieved.	Complete
49	In page 27, "12. Budget" does not have budget justification. Is it necessary to provide this information in my proposal?	0 - General	Application - Budget	No. The narrative justification will, however, be required as part of the full application for proposals which are selected for funding.	Complete
50	What level of indirect costs will be allowed under the EPA RFP for academic institution? Is there a specific statement of this amount that could be references for use by university Contracts and Grants Offices?	0 - General	Application - Budget	The RFP does not specify a limit for indirect costs, but they will not in any event exceed the rate negotiated in your organization's indirect cost rate agreement with your cognizant federal agency. However, because the criteria include an evaluation of the reasonableness and appropriateness of the proposed budget for the level of work proposed and for the expected benefits to be achieved, there is an incentive to minimize indirect costs.	Complete
51	Question regarding Management Fee. Is a program development charge applied to Direct and Indirect Charges be permitted?	0 - General	Application - Budget	No, program development charges are not allowable. EPA only reimburses grantees for direct costs allocable to a grant and approved indirect costs. The program development charge you describe appears to be an additional charge added to grants for activities of the organization that are not included in the scope of work or are included in the organization's indirect cost rate. These charges are subject to EPA's policy of not paying management fees.	Complete
52	Is there a description I can be referred to that defines each of the budget categories?	0 - General	Application - Budget	Please see Guide to Preparing Budget Detail available online at: http://www.epa.gov/ogd/AppKit/budget%20sample.pdf	Complete
53	Your RFP, in page 12, says "12. Budget. Specify in a chart, with a column..." Does this mean that table is considered as a chart? Then, should all tables be in Attachments?	0 - General	Application - Budget	Please include the budget chart within the proposal.	Complete

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54	do the suggested project amounts include direct + indirect costs or are these only for direct costs? For example, if a project is listed in the RFP to be ~\$500,000, should we budget indirect costs into this \$500,000 total (which would reduce the available direct costs)?	0 - General	Application - Budget	Suggested amounts include all costs, direct and indirect.	Complete
55	If we line item funding for particular bmps and toward the ladder part of the grant find that we need to move money around, can this be done?	0 - General	Application - Budget	Yes.	Complete
56	Under item #12 of the Project Narrative section of the Proposal is the Budget. In item a. Personnel/Salaries says not to include the costs of consultants or personnel costs of subgrantees or subcontractors. Does this mean that no engineering cost are covered under these grants? We are working with one of the local Townships and they are wondering if they have to pay engineering costs or if they are covered in the 100% grant.	0 - General	Application - Budget	Engineering costs are allowable and may be included under the "contract costs" or "other costs" part of the budget.	Complete
57	Can you clarify the reference to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act under the Reporting section on pages 35-36?	0 - General	Award	Because recipients of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding may need to do more extensive reporting than under other federal grants and because there are costs associated with reporting, we have mentioned the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) as an example of what could be required. Information on ARRA reporting is available from: https://www.federalreporting.gov/federalreporting/home.do	Complete

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58	Will the awarded GLRI grants and cooperative agreements be reimbursement grants and agreements or will any funds be provided up front?	0 - General	Award	Although most grantees treat their awards as reimbursement grants, under the Automated Standard Application for Payments process, a grantee can submit a request for payment no more than 3 days in advance of when it's own payment is due, thus it need not go out of pocket or be reimbursed.	Complete
59	The award dates are listed as ranging from March through June. How will the award dates be determined?	0 - General	Award	Award dates will depend on several factors including selection dates, the time it takes the applicant to develop the final application package, and complexity of the project.	Complete
60	Will QAPPs be required for those proposals that are accepted?	0 - General	Award	Quality assurance requirements will apply to projects involving use or collection of environmental data.	Complete
61	will there be a way to find out which proposals recieved funding, so we can determine who may need consulting or design assistance?	0 - General	Award	Project selections and awards will be posted.	Complete
62	When is the start date for projects funded under this RFP? Could they start October 2010, for example, and run for a year or more, or is there a particular start date?	0 - General	Award	Projects will have different start dates. Some are expected to commence this spring.	Complete
63	I understand that local municipalities are eligible to apply for grant dollars. NEWSOC is an organization made up of 56 permitted municipalities and businesses. If we have a successful proposal and are able to carry out our educational campaign or training with EPA dollars, would our member municipalites be able to use the projects to get credit for their MS4?	0 - General	Award	No they can not use activities EPA funded as nonpoint source activities or with nonpoint source funding to get credit for their MS4 NPDES requirements. MS4's are regulated point sources whose stormwater permit (individual or general) establishes compliance schedules and six minimum requirements for permittees; EPA nonpoint source funds can not be used to come into compliance with NPDES regulations. If a state has added their own additional requirements beyond the six minimum requirements to the MS4 communities, credit can be taken against those additional requirements.	Complete

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64	<p>The issue of multiple federal funding sources each picking up a portion of a project, i.e. a \$3M dam removal that no one source could complete on its own, does not seem to be directly answered. We have been told by other federal agencies (not USEPA) that leveraging multiple funding sources would not be an option, meaning every project must be funded by one and only one federal source. This would essentially eliminate some of the most beneficial projects we have. Can we combine funding, if awarded, from USEPA, USFWS, and NOAA into a single project?</p>	0 - General	Award	<p>Federal grant funding from separate agencies cannot be combined into a single grant, but could be used for discrete projects or elements of a project through separate grants.</p>	Complete
65	<p>Would "Bundled projects" receive greater preference than individual stand alone projects?</p>	0 - General	Bundling	<p>The RFP states that "Each proposal must address only one focus area and one program activity under a focus area..." So your proposal could have several elements so long as it is for one program activity under a focus area. Should you have several projects that are selected for an award, then at that time you may be able to bundle them together in a single grant application with separate, identifiable elements.</p> <p>EPA will evaluate the totality of the proposal which is submitted. If the proposal is selected (as described on page 20 of the Request for Proposals) EPA reserves the right to partially fund proposals by funding discrete portions or phases of proposed projects.</p>	Complete

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66	Could EPA modify bundled project packages? For example, could certain projects be eliminated from larger bundled packages or would the EPA accept or reject the entire package?	0 - General	Bundling	<p>The RFP states that "Each proposal must address only one focus area and one program activity under a focus area..." So your proposal could have several elements so long as it is for one program activity under a focus area. Should you have several projects that are selected for an award, then at that time you may be able to bundle them together in a single grant application with separate, identifiable elements.</p> <p>EPA will evaluate the totality of the proposal which is submitted. If the proposal is selected (as described on page 20 of the Request for Proposals) EPA reserves the right to partially fund proposals by funding discrete portions or phases of proposed projects.</p>	Complete
67	Will states be able to bundle projects for partners since there is a limit to one program under one focus area or does EPA prefer communities and organizations to submit on their own?	0 - General	Bundling	<p>Any applicant may assemble the elements of the project for which it will be responsible and submit that project as a proposal to a program under a focus area. There are advantages and disadvantages to that approach and each applicant is responsible for its own decision. The Section V.f. criteria for Project Effectiveness and Efficiency does evaluate whether and how the project is designed to be performed in a cost-effective manner to facilitate EPA oversight and administration of the project. EPA needs to be able to manage and oversee the grants it issues – with this large amount of funding and relatively small addition of staff, we can't issue more awards than we'll be able to manage. So as we consider what projects to select, we have to look at whether the project is designed in such a way to facilitate administration of the grant.</p>	Complete
68	I understood that I could bundle many projects into a single proposal. How do I do that?	0 - General	Bundling	<p>The RFP states that "Each proposal must address only one focus area and one program activity under a focus area..." So your proposal could have several elements so long as it is for one program activity under a focus area. Should you have several projects that are selected for an award, then at that time you may be able to bundle them together in a single grant application with separate, identifiable elements.</p>	Complete
69	Regarding collaboration, is a letter of intent to collaborate required in the proposal from the agency, group, etc., and if so, is that letter outside of the 15 pg limit?	0 - General	Collaboration	<p>A letter of intent is not required. Any relevant letters from collaborators can be attached as part of section 14. The specified items in section 14 do not count toward the 15 page limit.</p>	Complete

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70	Am I correct in assuming that each individual investigator must register and submit their own proposal on the Great Lakes electronic system vs. one person registering the organization and that person submitting all proposals from that organization?	0 - General	Collaboration	Each organization can choose how they wish to register and respond to the Request for Proposals. However, after selections are made, only an authorized representative of the organization will be able to submit the application package.	Complete
71	Is there a focus on encouraging the formation of coalitions for this RFP as there has been on other EPA RFPs?	0 - General	Collaboration	Collaboration is one of the point-scored criteria.	Complete
72	If we want to invite a federal staff member in a GLRI participating agency to be a collaborator, what is the proper way to contact and invite that participation?	0 - General	Collaboration	There is not a required protocol.	Complete
73	Is there any restrictions on financial collaborations with non-US organizations?	0 - General	Collaboration	We are not aware of any restrictions.	Complete
74	What are large, integrated and comprehensive teams that have assembled around specific project types to do in packaging multiple projects of the same type. Should the front end content on the team make-up, experience, etc., be copied for each individual project proposal that is submitted by the team?	0 - General	Collaboration	The RFP says that EPA awards funds to one eligible applicant as the recipient even if other eligible applicants are named as partners or co-applicants or members of a coalition or consortium. Partnerships can be described in descriptions that are identical for several projects.	Complete

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75	Some previous EPA grant programs have disallowed citing specific partnerships within the EPA as part of the project. Is it possible to have a project that has a collaboration with EPA researchers?	0 - General	Collaboration	No. EPA researchers may not be included in an application as 'partners' or collaborators in a competitive proposal under an agency competition. That would provide the applicant with an unfair advantage. If an applicant is successful, and the agency awards the applicant a cooperative agreement, there may be opportunities for collaboration with EPA researchers.	Complete
76	Based on my understanding, researchers in federal agencies can be a collaborator. Is it possible that researchers in federal agencies, such as ARS, EPA, NRCS, and Forest Service, can be Co-PI?	0 - General	Collaboration	No; however, as described in the RFP and in other answers, there are circumstances in which other federal agencies can receive sub-awards.	Complete
77	Will you be listing contacts by region and is there a BIA contact?	0 - General	Contacts	Contacts are identified by focus area, not by Region. There is not a separate BIA contact.	Complete
78	Is there a list of researchers who are interested in GLRI projects where one might find a partner with specific expertise?	0 - General	Contacts	We encourage applicants to develop their own contacts for this purpose.	Complete
79	Would it be possible for you to send out a list of all the participants on these calls to all participants?	0 - General	Contacts	We encourage applicants to develop their own contacts for this purpose. We have been advised that it is not appropriate for us to distribute this information.	Complete
80	Does an organization have to be currently contracted or employed on the project to be qualified to participate in the RFP process?	0 - General	Eligibility	Organizations that meet the requirements in Section III are eligible. Organizations do not currently need to be contracted or employed on the project.	Complete

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81	Are there any limitations or conditions applying to state agency proposals that aren't described in the RFP document posted on the EPA site?	0 - General	Eligibility	The RFP includes the requirements for proposals from all applicants, including state agencies. If an award is issued, 40 CFR Part 31 includes additional requirements for State agencies.	Complete
82	The RFP says basic research will not be funded. Does that mean the "quantifiable outcomes" do not need to be proven bio-statistically?	0 - General	Eligibility	Proposals should address "...the most significant Great Lakes ecosystem problems..." as detailed in the RFP. Research should provide results relevant to remediation or at least a better understanding of those problems. As always, research results should be verified with properly applied statistical tests. The RFP states: "The term "outcome" means the result, effect or consequence that will occur from carrying out an environmental program or activity that is related to an environmental or programmatic goal or objective."	Complete
83	Are local governments eligible applicants? (i.e. townships, counties, cities)	0 - General	Eligibility	Yes. See Applicant Eligibility in Section III of the Request for Proposals.	Complete
84	Would GLRI fund pre-design and design for a project for which implementation would be funded by another means? If so, in the results, outcomes, etc. could we list the anticipated outcomes of the full project (design and implementation)?	0 - General	Eligibility	Yes. Please also include outputs that can be achieved during the term of the project.	Complete
85	Do projects need to be installed or contracted within the grant time frame?	0 - General	Eligibility	It is not required, but will be evaluated as part of the criteria.	Complete

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86	p. 21 of the RFP says that "basic research" is not eligible for funding, but "research" is an eligible activity. What is the distinction?	0 - General	Eligibility	Eligible research associated with GLRI money should address current environmental problems in the Great Lakes, with outputs relevant to management of the lakes. GLRI funds are intended to lead to real, measurable restoration actions targeted to the Great Lakes. So-called "basic" research seeks to understand scientific principles and concepts. "Applied" research, for purposes of this RFP, is intended to lead to some managerial action that will contribute directly to the restoration of the Great Lakes.	Complete
87	Do you know if non-USA universities and government agencies can apply for this money?	0 - General	Eligibility	Yes, foreign university are eligible to apply for GLRI funds under this RFP. Pursuant to 40 CRF Part 30.2(cc) foreign universities need to comply with portions of 40 CFR Part 30 as specified in the terms and conditions for the award.	Complete
88	I have problems with phragmites invasions etc in the county and am interested in pursuing GLRI money. However, I work for the township and the land that has the phragmites issues is owned by the State DNR. Can I apply for funding to address this issue through the GLRI if the State owns the land?	0 - General	Eligibility	The project would be eligible; however, the proposal should demonstrate how the project would be accomplished and any applicable partnerships.	Complete
89	With EPA GLRI funds, are there any constraints on government furnished equipment or the assignment of equipment that was originally purchased under the grant?	0 - General	Eligibility	There are no such constraints unique to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.	Complete
90	Are 501c4 organizations eligible? We specifically mention 501c3, but there are other non-profits and they are "other public or non-profit private agencies, institutions, and organizations"	0 - General	Eligibility	Pursuant to section 18 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act, non-profit organizations that are exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in any lobbying activities are not eligible to apply for EPA grant dollars.	Complete

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91	f the RFP says it will give x number of grants between X\$\$ and Y\$\$, can they submit a proposal asking for more than the maximum amount cited in the RFP?	0 - General	Eligibility	Per page 19 of the RFP, the amounts are suggestions. Proposals for higher amounts will not be disqualified.	Complete
92	The Lake Carriers' Association is a 501 (c) (06) tax exempt organization. I believe this is the section not-for profit trade associations. Are we eligible?	0 - General	Eligibility	Pursuant to the RFP, all not for profits are eligible for GLRI funds besides non-profits described in Section 501(c)(4) of the IRC that engage in lobbying, as defined under Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995. For profit entities are also not eligible to apply for awards.	Complete
93	We have legal questions about whether some or all local government types in MI can adopt some of the most effective implementation tools (e.g. fertilizer ordinances). Before building into our training programs we need to know if they are legal. May grant funds be used to obtain legal opinions?	0 - General	Eligibility	Yes.	Complete
94	Where can we find "40 CFR Part 30" or "40 CFR Part 31" to determine if we are eligible?	0 - General	Eligibility	They are accessible from http://www.gpoaccess.gov/CFR/	Complete
95	Are Canadian/non-US groups eligible under this RFP?	0 - General	Eligibility - Canada	Canadian/non-US groups are not precluded, but they must meet the criteria in Section III of the RFP on eligibility and your activities: "Entities eligible to apply for grants under this RFP include state agencies, any agency or instrumentality of local government, interstate agencies, federally-recognized tribes and tribal organizations, non-profit organizations as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and other public or non-profit private agencies, institutions, and organizations. " "...assistance is available to eligible applicants for planning, research, monitoring, outreach, and implementation in furtherance of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. To be eligible for funding, proposed activities must be for programs, projects, or activities that are for the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes, including projects impacting connecting waterways such as Lake St. Clair and the St. Lawrence River at or upstream from the point at which the St. Lawrence River becomes the international boundary between Canada and the United States. "	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
96	Are Canadian Universities eligible?	0 - General	Eligibility - Canada	Yes, foreign university are eligible to apply for GLRI funds under this RFP. Pursuant to 40 CRF Part 30.2(cc) foreign universities need to comply with portions of 40 CFR Part 30 as specified in the terms and conditions for the award.	Complete
97	Are Canadian not for profit organizations are eligible to apply?	0 - General	Eligibility - Canada	Canadian not for profit organizations are eligible to apply. Foreign entities must also comply with Section 102(2)(F) of the National Environmental Policy Act.	Complete
98	<p>The Network I am working for is part provincial government and part grass-roots landowners. The province provides funding and office space for me, but my day to day work tasks are directed through council of local landowners. It is a very successful method of getting work done and there are 46 such councils across Ontario now, usually set on the county level.</p> <p>We work not-for-profit but we are not a registered charity. We do partner with groups that are.</p> <p>I am still wondering if we would be able to apply, given our hybrid program make up of part government and part non-profit?</p>	0 - General	Eligibility - Canada	All entities will be examined based on the eligibility information provided to EPA. Both provencial agencies and not for profit agencies should be eligible. If the status of a non-profit requires clarification, EPA may request a copy of the entity's bylaws or a copy of the entity's letter from the IRC that deems confirms its status as a non-profit. For-profit entities are not eligible to apply for grants.	Complete
99	Can a Grant provide funding for travel for collaborating agencies?	0 - General	Eligibility - Expenses	Yes, necessary travel for collaborating agencies may be an eligible cost as a component of the project.	Complete

EPA RFP
Questions and Answers

Last Updated: 01/28/10

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
100	Can equipment be purchased using GLRI funds so that a project can be implemented?	0 - General	Eligibility - Expenses	Yes.	Complete
101	I have noticed that federal employees are ineligible to apply for this rfp. Can they function as collaborators and/or draw salary?	0 - General	Eligibility - Federal	Individuals are not eligible applicants. The Request for Proposals does not limit an organization or an individual's participation as a collaborator. Some federal agencies, such as U.S. Geological Service have express statutory authority to provide services to the public and recover their costs. All federal agencies have authority under the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act to provide specialized services to state and local govns on a cost reimbursement basis. These agreements function like procurement contracts.	Complete
102	Can other federal agencies partner with univerities in the RFP?	0 - General	Eligibility - Federal	Collaboration is allowed. In addition, some federal agencies, such as U.S. Geological Service have express statutory authority to provide services to the public and recover their costs. All federal agencies have authority under the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act to provide specialized services to state and local govns on a cost reimbursement basis. These agreements function like procurement contracts.	Complete
103	Can we have some clarification about the role that the USGS can have in the GLRI EPA RFP? I was working under the guide that they can partner but not be lead investigator on a proposal.	0 - General	Eligibility - Federal	Some federal agencies, such as U.S. Geological Service have express statutory authority to provide services to the public and recover their costs. All federal agencies have authority under the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act to provide specialized services to state and local govns on a cost reimbursement basis. These agreements function like procurement contracts.	Complete
104	Are federal agencies eligible to apply directly to the RFP?	0 - General	Eligibility - Federal	Federal agencies are not eligible to submit proposals and directly receive funding pursuant to the RFP. Federal agencies are entering into separate Interagency Agreements with EPA pursuant to a separate process in which federal agency work was proposed earlier this year.	Complete
105	Is it possible for GLERL or a specific researcher at GLERL to be a "subcontractor" for a proposal because of their specialty, expertise or data?	0 - General	Eligibility - Federal	Some federal agencies, such as U.S. Geological Service and I believe the Corps of Engineers, have express statutory authority to provide services to the public and recover their costs. All federal agencies have authority under the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act to provide specialized services to state and local govns on a cost reimbursement basis. These agreements function like procurement contracts. So you would need to check on your statutory authority for NOAA or GLERL to act in that capacity.	Complete

EPA RFP
Questions and Answers

Last Updated: 01/28/10

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
106	Can a federal agency employee be involved with the development of my proposal?	0 - General	Eligibility - Federal	Federal agencies are not eligible applicants for funding under this RFP. Some agencies can be subgrantee/subcontractor [as described in another question in this category]. It may be that a federal agency employee may be a collaborator on your project; however, please note that federal agency grant reviewers cannot also be collaborators due to a conflict of interest.	Complete
107	Can a federal researcher serve as the principal investigator if they are willing to coordinate non-federal resources, and have significant knowledge that can contribute to the project?	0 - General	Eligibility - Federal	Generally not. You would need to explain the legal basis for a federal employee serving as a principal investigator on a grant proposal submitted to EPA by a non-federal entity. We presume that you are not an EPA employee since Agency employees may not play this role under EPA collaboration policies. Also, if your agency intends to accept funds from the grantee if the proposal is accepted, please identify the statute that would authorize the transaction.	Complete
108	If a federal scientist has had no contact with EPA in regard to a grant proposal, can that federal researcher receive any money to support travel or activities to support the outcomes of a grant?	0 - General	Eligibility - Federal	Not unless your agency has specific statutory authority to accept private funds. EPA does not allow its grant funds to be used for federal agency travel under the general authority of 31 USC 1353 and 41 CFR Chapter 304 to accept travel funds from a non-federal source.	Complete
109	Are federal employees prohibited from offering letters of support, or only if they are directly involved in the grant selection process?	0 - General	Eligibility - Federal	EPA employees cannot offer letters of support for applicants in the GLRI grant competitions due to concerns regarding providing unfair competitive advantages to particular applicants and the endorsement provisions of the Standards of Ethical Conduct. Other federal employees should talk directly with their ethics advisors to see if similar prohibitions apply to them.	Complete
110	For-profit organizations are not eligible under this RFP. -May for-profit organizations submit a proposal as a partner with an eligible organization (with the eligible organization in the lead)? -Will there be subsequent RFPs from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for which for-profit organizations may be eligible?	0 - General	Eligibility - For Profit	Only eligible organizations may submit proposals, however, there are ways that for profits may be involved in the proposal. See Section IV.G of the RFP for additional information. For profit organizations are not identified as eligible organizations under the authorization for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative pursuant to Public Law 111-88; consequently, we do not anticipate subsequent RFPs for which they will be eligible.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
111	When, under what circumstances and with what restrictions can for-profit entities be partners on proposals?	0 - General	Eligibility - For Profit	See Section IV.G of the Request for Proposals and similar questions and responses on this topic.	Complete
112	question for Mr. Russ, from daniel goldfarb of the wildlife habitat council, and we work with industries in the great lakes, if he can please elaborate on the recent question regarding working with industries and private lands owners in planning and implementing these programs? such as pollution prevention, invasives, and habitat restoration- what are the parameters; can we use funding to design programs? can we use funding to work on invasives on private lands and industrial lands? if yes, would you require matches from the land owners? if not, can we use GLRI funding to help an industry design these opportunities?	0 - General	Eligibility - For Profit	Program design is an eligible activity, as is work on private lands and industrial lands. The RFP does not require match, although to the extent any matching or leveraged funds may contribute to the success and feasibility of the project and broaden its impact, it could affect the points an applicant receives under any applicable criteria including possibly Strategic Approach, Appropriate Budget, and Collaboration/Partnerships. It just depends on how the applicant describes how it will affect and impact the project and how the applicant demonstrates that any proposed voluntary match will materialize during grant performance. In Section IV.B.10 and V.G. we specifically discuss it in terms of its impact on the Collaboration/Partnership criteria.	Complete
113	Please explain what EPA expects to fall under the categories of Innovative Approaches under both the Nearshore and Accountability Focus Areas.	0 - General	Eligibility - Innovative Approaches	We are expecting to see innovative ways of achieving the general outcomes and outputs identified for these focus areas, such that the specific expected results identified for these programs may be achieved.	Complete
114	Although the RFP prohibits land acquisition, would other expenses associated with land acquisition be eligible for funding? For example, could EPA funding be used to pay for an appraisal or survey if other sources of funding are used for the subsequent land purchase?	0 - General	Eligibility - Land Acquisition	Land acquisition is an ineligible activity pursuant to p. 21 of the RFP. Counsel has clarified that activities in support of land acquisition would only be eligible if and to the extent the overall purpose of the proposed project met the requirements for a program activity under the Request for Proposals.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
115	Would a mostly-undergraduate institution be eligible?	0 - General	Eligibility - University	Under Section III, entities eligible to apply for grants under this RFP include state agencies, any agency or instrumentality of local government, interstate agencies, federally-recognized tribes and tribal organizations, non-profit organizations as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and other public or non-profit private agencies, institutions, and organizations. Colleges and universities that are subject to 40 CFR Part 30 or 40 CFR Part 31 are also eligible to apply for grants under this RFP.	Complete
116	As a University Institute, can we submit a proposal using federal agencies as a sub-contractor?	0 - General	Eligibility - University	EPA will evaluate the project proposed by the applicant. It is the responsibility of the applicant and any proposed subawardee and/or sub-contractor (including any federal agency) to ensure that each is legally authorized to receive and utilize any funds which are awarded. It is our understanding that there are circumstances where federal agencies have statutory authorization to act as a sub-contractor. Applicants must also refer to the clause on subawards and contracts at Section IV.G of the Request for Proposals.	Complete
117	Water infrastructure projects that are addressed under the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund are not eligible. How is infrastructure being defined? Many projects that may be proposed could include infrastructure replacement such as: installation of storm pipes as a best management practice or culvert replacements to improve fish passage. Would these be eligible project tasks?	0 - General	Eligibility - Water Infrastructure	Infrastructure projects might be eligible under this RFP. Ineligible activities are listed under III Eligibility and Matching, Ineligible Activities. "Under this RFP, EPA will not fund: water infrastructure projects that are addressed under the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund; . . ." Each State has an approved SRF Intended Use Plan which lists projects eligible for funding through that program, and thereby not eligible for GLRI funding.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
118	In Ohio as part of the State Revolving Loan Fund Ohio EPA offered HSTS Repair and Preplacement funding as a pilot project. Due to this will Ohio not be eligible for GLRI funds that would provide assistance for HSTS repair or replacement since the RFP mentions that projects funded by State Revolving Loan Funds are not eligible?	0 - General	Eligibility - Water Infrastructure	Ineligible activities are listed under III Eligibility and Matching, Ineligible Activities. "Under this RFP, EPA will not fund: water infrastructure projects that are addressed under the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund; . . ." Each State has an approved SRF Intended Use Plan which lists projects eligible for funding through that program, and thereby not eligible for GLRI funding. If HSTS repair or replacement is an eligible project under Ohio SRF, that activity would be ineligible for GLRI funding.	Complete
119	When two separate proposals are complementary, will points be awarded for that? will it be beneficial to specifically reference that other proposal in your proposal?	0 - General	Evaluation	It may be beneficial to specifically reference other proposals. Under the criterion for Strategic Approach, applicants may score higher as a result of "Protection or restoration potential as part of an overarching, comprehensive plan (including Lakewide Management Plans, Remedial Action Plans, State Great Lakes plans, watershed plans (including those which impact Areas of Concern), and other place-based plans)..." Under Project Effectiveness and Efficiency, "Proposals will be evaluated based on whether and how the project is designed to be performed by the applicant in a cost effective manner to facilitate EPA oversight and administration of the project."	Complete
120	In the webinar intro you emphasized project effectiveness and efficiency (p32) to help facilitate EPA's ability and administration of the grant. Does EPA's criteria for judging this include the applicant's ability to manage partners and project components? What other specific components make it easier for EPA to oversee a project?	0 - General	Evaluation	Such an ability may be considered. EPA has not pre-determined the elements of this criterion. This is one of the scored criteria (Section V.F.) and it will help EPA to guard against selecting more projects than EPA is able to manage. Proposals will receive a higher score if they can be performed in a cost effective manner that facilitates EPA oversight and administration. Projects which require extensive EPA oversight and administration will not score as highly.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
121	In the early part of the webinar you indicated that proposals should be part of an "overarching plan." Is this a LaMP or RAP or a does it refer to, i.e., a municipal plan or NGO strategic plan?	0 - General	Evaluation	All those mentioned may qualify. The description of Strategic Approach in Section V states: Applicants may score higher on this criterion to the extent they demonstrate in their proposal one or more of the following elements:... [Including] Protection or restoration potential as part of an overarching, comprehensive plan (including Lakewide Management Plans, Remedial Action Plans, State Great Lakes plans, watershed plans (including those which impact Areas of Concern), and other place-based plans)	Complete
122	Can you clarify the statement on page 24 under IV.B.8 that the project description should "include a discussion of whether and how the project is designed to be performed by the applicant in a cost-effective manner to facilitate EPA oversight and administration of the project"?	0 - General	Evaluation	This is one of the scored criteria (Section V.F.) and it will help EPA to guard against selecting more projects than EPA is able to manage. Proposals will receive a higher score if they can be performed in a cost effective manner that facilitates EPA oversight and administration. Projects which require extensive EPA oversight and administration will not score as highly.	Complete
123	Who will the reviewers be for the a certain focus area?	0 - General	Evaluation	Reviewers will be federal staff for which there is no conflict of interest.	Complete
124	State agencies such as Michigan are drafting concept papers identifying state priorities for the EPA and other GLRI program areas/line items. Will these state-identified priorities be used by EPA when evaluating proposals and how?	0 - General	Evaluation	These priorities can be considered in evaluations of the State's proposals if presented as an overarching plan. It is also possible that other applicants may be able to use these priorities as evidence of collaboration, partnerships, and support for their proposals.	Complete
125	What guidance can you provide for how letters of support included in submittals will be evaluated by reviewers?	0 - General	Evaluation	To the extent any support may contribute to the success and feasibility of the project and broaden its impact, it could affect the points an applicant receives under any applicable criteria including possibly Strategic Approach, Appropriate Budget, and Collaboration/Partnerships.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
126	The rfp project description requires applicants to "include a discussion of an education/outreach plan to disseminate project results to interested parties". Then in the application review section of the rfp (H) seems to suggest that this education/outreach should include citizens. Would outreach that does not include the lay public but rather targets management still meet the criteria for this section?	0 - General	Evaluation	This criterion states that "Applicants will be evaluated based on the effectiveness of their education/outreach plans to disseminate project results..." and identifies matters which may be included such as the applicant's demonstrated track record of outreach to citizens on environmental issues. Depending on the project, outreach which targets management could be considered under this criterion for evaluating the effectiveness of their education/outreach plans to disseminate project results.	Complete
127	How do the Outcomes in the main body relate to the expected outcomes?	0 - General	General	They are one and the same. The main body describes general outcomes and outputs applicable to the respective focus areas. The appendix specifies expected results for each of the programs.	Complete
128	Do the small number of awards in many of the categories mean that you have projects in mind already i.e. earmarked for funding?	0 - General	General	There are not projects which have been earmarked for funding. Estimates of the number of projects and awards were based on best professional judgment, taking into account estimates of EPA's capacity to manage projects.	Complete
129	What is the definition of shovel ready projects?	0 - General	General	Immediacy and timeliness in project implementation, as described on page 31.	Complete

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1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
130	<p>This RFP is for \$120 Million. -Where did the rest of the \$475 Million go? -We expected EPA's RFP to have \$200 Million, why is it less?</p>	0 - General	General	<p>The Summary of Proposed Programs and Projects (http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/glri/2010GLRIPProgramsProjects.pdf) details the proposed \$475 Million breakdown. The Interagency Funding Guide (http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/glri/fundingguide2009_r2.pdf) details the portions of the \$475 Million that are planned to go out through the various federal agencies as cooperative agreements. This document will be updated in the near future to better reflect the content and timetables of upcoming RFPs. The \$120 Million represented in this EPA RFP is a substantial part of EPA's allocation. The biggest pieces of the remaining EPA funding are for Legacy Act project agreements, other contracts, and negotiated State and Tribal capacity grants. EPA will be issuing another RFP for additional projects in the spring of 2010 as part of FY2010 dollars. The amount for the spring RFP has not yet been determined.</p>	Complete
131	Is there a solicitation for a grant servicing intermediary?	0 - General	General	There is not in this RFP, although EPA may include such a request in a second RFP to be released Spring 2010.	Complete
132	Is it necessary that I link a proposed project with local Great Lakes administrators?	0 - General	General	The process for the review and selection of proposals is presented in the RFP in section V. Application Review. All proposals received will be reviewed and evaluated according to the process and criteria listed in this section.	Complete
133	What are or where can I find the definitions of the terms 'RFP', 'cooperative agreement', and 'grant'?	0 - General	General	<p>The Request for Proposals is the document by which we are requesting proposals for this Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding. A federal grant is an award of financial assistance from a federal agency to a recipient to carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by a law of the United States. A cooperative agreement is a particular kind of grant. The distinguishing factor between a grant and a cooperative agreement is the degree of Federal participation or involvement during the performance of the work activities. If EPA, usually the Project Officer, participates in project activities, then a cooperative agreement is the proper funding mechanism. If the funded activities meet the definition of assistance and no substantial involvement by EPA is anticipated, a grant must be used to fund the project. See http://www.epa.gov/ogd/recipient/fgcaa.htm for additional information. Detailed descriptions of the proposals which are being requested are found in the appendix to this Request for Proposals.</p>	Complete
134	Will the grants be administered on the Federal fiscal year?	0 - General	General	Funding is tied to the federal fiscal year.	Complete

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1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
135	What are the recommended minimums and maximums?	0 - General	General	If applicable, that information is included in the tables and in the appendix for the individual programs.	Complete
136	Will EPA consider projects greater than the amounts specified? If not, can we submit in phases?	0 - General	General	Yes. EPA will consider the project submitted against the criteria, notwithstanding the amount of the request.	Complete
137	As the RFPs continue to come out a single webpage that provides information on the sources of funding, the RFPs, and the due dates would be beneficial, and would speak towards efforts by USEPA and its sister agencies to coordinate funding decisions within a given agency and between agencies.	0 - General	General	That information is contained in the Interagency Funding Guide, to the extent the information was known at the time the Interagency Funding Guide was published. The Interagency Funding Guide is expected to be updated and re-published this month (December 2009).	Complete
138	Can we enter the same project to the EPA under this RFP and to another organization under different GLRI offerings (like the USFWS)? Can we apply to multiple funding sources for portions of the same project (will coordination of funding decisions be done by USEPA to facilitate larger projects)?	0 - General	General	The same project can be submitted to different funding sources. Be sure the project description is revised to reflect the different criteria for each offering. Federal agencies will coordinate to enhance environmental protection and restoration and to avoid duplicative funding.	Complete
139	Are NEPA requirements relevant for these projects prior to on-the-ground work getting underway or not?	0 - General	General	No. EPA has determined that NEPA does not apply to GLRI funded projects.	Complete
140	Are information and education activities considered eligible as on the ground actions?	0 - General	General	They are eligible activities. Whether they are on-the-ground actions would depend on the specific activities.	Complete

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1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
141	Can a project have different locations? Such as BMP demo sites, can one project install these in different subwatersheds or possibly even in 2 watersheds that are in the same general urban area?	0 - General	General	That would depend on the facts and circumstances of the proposed project.	Complete
142	can recipients of grants use grant money to work with Federal agencies to help them, such as monitoring?	0 - General	General	The recipient, not the federal government, must be the principal beneficiary of grant funding. Basically, grant funding is to be for the benefit of the recipient, not the Federal government. Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with Federal, State and Municipal agencies, but proposals will not be accepted whose intent is specifically to enhance or support Federal agencies for the benefit of that Agency.	Complete
143	Can you clarify USFWS involvement? Someone stated that FWS had \$6.5M for Great Lakes Restoration...will that be a separate RFP?	0 - General	General	\$6.5M of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding is expected to be used by USFWS to award a portion of the grants under this RFP through the Great Lakes Ballast Water Technology Grant Program (I.B.1) and through the Invasive Species Prevention and Control Grant Program (I.B.2).	Complete
144	Could we get a copy of this highlighted rfp file that is presented now? How do we get materials used in the webinar?	0 - General	General	We were intentional in presenting publically available information (particularly the RFP) in the webinar. We can post the highlighted version of the RFP, but please read all applicable sections. Highlighted areas only focus on some of the more common or complex issues.	Complete
145	What funding source did Congress use to fund the GLRI? Does Congress view this program as a one or five year program?	0 - General	General	The \$475 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is included in Public Law 111-88, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010. Funding is in EPA's Environmental Programs and Management account.	Complete
146	Will there only be one grant per state under each category? Or is there some special formula that will be used for deciding how much each state will get?	0 - General	General	Proposals will be selected competitively under the RFP. There are no pre-determined formulas or allocations. If more than one proposal is selected for a state, the state may then choose to bundle proposals together in a single grant application.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
147	Will funding proposals with budget totals that are less than the recommended range given for a particular program be considered less likely for funding than a proposal with a budget total within this range?	0 - General	General	Whether or not a proposal's budget is lower than the recommended range will not be considered by evaluators; however, proposals will be evaluated based on whether and how the project is designed to be performed by the applicant in a cost effective manner to facilitate EPA oversight and administration of the project.	Complete
148	If awarded an implementation grant, we will need to hire technical staff to assist with implementation. I understand that there are no restrictions against hiring staff and that we can build in administrative costs (printing, office space, mileage...). Correct?	0 - General	General	There are no restriction on hiring staff however, there are restriction on the hourly/daily rates consultants can be paid. Eligible administrative costs are defined in federal regulations please refer to OMB Circular NO.A-122 Cost Principles for Non-Profit Organizations.	Complete
149	Did the 13 million announcement for Asian Carp decrease the amount of money available under this RFP?	0 - General	General	No.	Complete
150	Are there any type of "Buy American" clauses or other clauses similar to those in ARRA that could restrict/affect where we procure our screening/fencing material?	0 - General	General	Regular EPA grant requirements apply. There are no "buy-American" provisions comparable to ARRA.	Complete
151	Can grants cover costs for enhancing existing programs or must they be new initiatives?	0 - General	General	Proposals may supplement or enhance existing programs for Great Lakes work, as well as fund new initiatives for Great Lakes work.	Complete
152	I wonder if you could help us get a copy of the previous winning proposals.	0 - General	General	There are no previous winning proposals. The current GLRI RFP is the first RFP to be issued pursuant to the \$475 million Great Lakes Restoration Initiative included in Public Law 111-88, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 which is in furtherance of President Obama's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (the "Initiative") announced in February 2009.	Complete

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1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
153	Is it possible for the start date of a project to be prior to the potential award date? This would be to allow for use of match (in an application under I.C.8) that is currently being spent, and closely related to the proposal. For example, can I have my start date for a proposal be January 1, 2010?	0 - General	General	Although the start date may not precede the award date, EPA has the discretion to allow pre-award costs.	Complete
154	Will EPA continue to respond to questions and post answers up through the due date?	0 - General	General	The RFP has been modified to state that: "EPA will respond to any questions received through January 21, 2010. EPA cannot guarantee that it will respond to any questions received after January 21, 2010." Most questions can be answered through careful consideration of the RFP and much information can also be found in the posted questions and answers. However, due to the volume and complexity of questions, and out of fairness to applicants who submit proposals in advance of the due date, EPA needed to establish a cutoff date. (Mike R. proposed)	Complete
155	This question has to do with incentive payments. As an example, let's say the NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program pays a participant \$1500/A to create wetlands. The actual cost of the restoration might be more like \$3,000/A. Can we use this money to pay a landowner an additional \$500/A toward the retraction effort?	0 - General	General	These costs would be eligible.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
156	One of the activities of the project for which we will be submitting a grant proposal involves cash grants as part of a competitive challenge for college students. Are grants of this type eligible under this RFP? I am not asking for any guidance regarding the viability of such a proposal, but only whether this would be a legal use of any granted funds? I don't see this covered anywhere in the questions asked to date, and it is important for us to know whether or not these are eligible costs.	0 - General	General	These costs would be eligible.	Complete
157	Will GLRI allow food and beverage as an allowable cost for a symposium/conference that accomplishes the goal of promoting environmental outcomes of the proposed GLRI project and networking of stakeholders within one of the focus areas?	0 - General	General	The cost of food and beverages can be allowable costs as part of a conference.	Complete
158	Will the spring rfp cover different topics than the current rfp?	0 - General	General - Spring RFP	Programs proposed for the Spring Request for Proposals are described in Section VIII of this Request for Proposals. Additional information will be found in the updated Interagency Funding Guide, which is expected to be published this month (December 2009). Whether there will be any overlap has not been determined.	Complete
159	How will we know if our ideas might better fit under the spring RFP that was just mentioned in response to the multimedia question?	0 - General	General - Spring RFP	If your project fits under this Request for Proosals, please do submit your proposal for consideration now. Programs proposed for the Spring Request for Proposals are described in Section VIII of this Request for Proposals. Additional information will be found in the updated Interagency Funding Guide, which is expected to be published this month (December 2009). Whether there will be any overlap has not been determined.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
160	Will the second RFP (spring 2010) be for additional funding for FY2010 (namely those funding sources not included in the Fall RFP) or for anticipated FY2011 funding?	0 - General	General - Spring RFP	Programs proposed for the Spring Request for Proposals are described in Section VIII of this Request for Proposals. Additional information will be found in the updated Interagency Funding Guide, which is expected to be published this month (December 2009). Whether there will be any overlap and whether it will include anticipated FY2011 funding has not been determined.	Complete
161	Are future rfps expected to have the same focus areas and programs, or will they be substantially different?	0 - General	General - Spring RFP	The content of future RFPs has not been determined. The December 2009 Interagency Funding Guide (http://greatlakesrestoration.us/action/?p=161) identifies a number of areas for a possible spring EPA request for proposals.	Complete
162	Will geographic distribution be taken into account in awarding grants? -Is there a division of funds based on geographical area that you can discuss?	0 - General	Geography	In making the final selections, each selecting official will consider the review panel rankings and recommendations and any duplicate funding issues as discussed above. In addition, in making the final funding decisions each selecting official may also consider program priorities, funding availability and appropriate balances of geographic and jurisdictional distribution of projects (for projects submitted under the program in focus area I.C.8 – Watersheds Best Management Practices, Planning, and Implementation – the selection official may also consider the review panel’s assessment of any proposed voluntary cost-match as discussed above).	Complete
163	Can we work in Canadian areas?	0 - General	Geography	Yes, provided that connections are made between the projects and the Great Lakes Restoration, Subobjective 4.3.34 of EPA’s Strategic Plan, and/or the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy, as required by the Request for Proposals.	Complete
164	I heard that projects can be outside of the US, the basin or in major tributaries. -How far upstream might actions in tributaries be considered? -Can projects occur outside of the basin? -Will Canadian projects be considered?	0 - General	Geography	Proposals are eligible which protect or restore the Great Lakes. Proposals must be for eligible activities which support the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Subobjective 4.3.3 of EPA’s Strategic Plan and/or the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy to Protect and Restore the Great Lakes. Under the criteria for Strategic Approach, applicants will score higher to they extent they demonstrate a clear connection, rather than a weak connection, to the Great Lakes themselves.	Complete

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1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
165	Can other federal funding sources be offered up as "match" for the purposes of this RFP?	0 - General	Match	See Section IV.B.10 on page 25. Only eligible and allowable costs may be used for voluntary cost-match. Other Federal grants may not be used as voluntary cost-matches without specific statutory authority (e.g. HUD's Community Development Block Grants).	Complete
166	Can these funds be used to match another federal funding source?	0 - General	Match	No special statutory authority exists to allow these funds to be used as match for another federal funding source, so unless the terms of the other request for proposals allow it, these funds cannot be used to match the other federal funding source.	Complete
167	Will other Federal funds be considered as voluntary match or demonstrated support?	0 - General	Match	As described in Section IB.B.10 on page 25, only eligible and allowable costs may be used for voluntary cost-match. Other Federal grants may not be used as voluntary cost-matches without specific statutory authority (e.g. HUD's Community Development Block Grants). However, as described in that section, such other federal funding may be considered as an "other form of additional funds/resources to demonstrate support for the project."	Complete
168	We have an ongoing partnership with a federal partner. We would like to continue to have this federal partner analyze and cost share, but expand our analysis within this GLRI grant. Is this a conflict for us, regarding the budget, or using EPA funds to share these expenses with another federal partner?	0 - General	Match	GLRI funding may be used to supplement existing programs. Collaboration is allowed. In addition, some federal agencies, such as U.S. Geological Service have express statutory authority to provide services to the public and recover their costs. All federal agencies have authority under the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act to provide specialized services to state and local govs on a cost reimbursement basis. These agreements function like procurement contracts.	Complete
169	Can project dollars from this source be used to enhance other federal incentive payments? i.e. EQIP, CRP	0 - General	Match	No special statutory authority exists to allow these funds to be used as match for another federal funding source, so unless the terms of the other request for proposals allow it, these funds cannot be used to match the other federal funding source. However, GLRI funding may be used to supplement existing programs. It is unclear what type of enhancement is meant from this question.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
170	Is there any benefit to providing match except to show partner collaboration? (And for the I.C.8 focus area, where match is a benefit.)	0 - General	Match	Since a voluntary match may contribute to the success and feasibility of the project and broaden its impact, it could affect the points an applicant receives under any applicable criteria including possibly Strategic Approach, Appropriate Budget, and Collaboration/Partnerships. It just depends on how the applicant describes how it will affect and impact the project and how the applicant demonstrates that any proposed voluntary match will materialize during grant performance. In Section IV.B.10 and V.G. we specifically discuss it in terms of its impact on the Collaboration/Partnership criteria.	Complete
171	Is match required?	0 - General	Match	No, match is not required. See sections III and IV.B.10 of the RFP for additional information on match.	Complete
172	If we have a project that has an overall project budget larger than the maximum funding available from the relevant EPA-RFP funding program, should we limit the description of the scope of work to only that work which we are asking EPA to fund or should we include the entire scope of work with reference to other in-hand and/or anticipated funding sources, and specify what aspects of the project we are applying to EPA to fund?	0 - General	Match	In your proposal you will specify the amount requested from EPA. You are able to decide whether the project description is for the full scope or just what EPA will fund. If voluntary matching funds are being contributed, the project description would include the entire scope of work to be done with EPA funds plus matching funds. You will be legally responsible for ensuring that the matching funds are provided and the role they will play. If voluntary matching funds are not being contributed, please limit the description of the work that will be done to what will be funded with the EPA resources. You may make reference to the complementary work in Element 10 of the Project Narrative	Complete
173	When can the match be claimed - is it back dated to the award date, the contract date or some other time?	0 - General	Match	Applicants may use their own funds or other resources for a voluntary cost-match if the standards at 40 CFR 30.23 or 40 CFR 31.24, as applicable, are met. Only eligible and allowable costs may be used for voluntary cost-match, thus matching funds can only be used for eligible costs incurred during the project period.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
174	<p>If an ag bmp project can be partially funded through EQIP (such as a two-stage ditch)can we use GLRI money to piggy-back on EQIP funds? Ex. Let's say it costs \$12/lin.ft to build a two-stage ditch. EQIP will pay \$5/lin. ft. toward the project. Can GLRI funds pay \$5/lin. ft. to boost the amount of landowner assistance to \$10/lin. ft. thus leaving the landowner to cover \$2/lin.ft.? In other words, can this federal pot of money be used as a match to other federal dollars?</p>	0 - General	Match	Federal funds can not be used to match other Federal funds unless authorized in statute; GLRI does not allow this.	Complete
175	<p>While the acquisition isn't eligible for funds, would the purchase of a site or acquisition or conservation easements through other funds be used as a voluntary match?</p>	0 - General	Match	No. Applicants must meet voluntary cost share with eligible and allowable costs. The costs of land acquisition, including interests in land such as easements, are not eligible costs under the terms of the RFP. However, EPA may consider such purchases as a factor in evaluating criteriaq such as the Strategic Approach, and Coolaboration/Paratnerships since leveraged funds need not be comprised of eligible and allowable costs. See Section IV.B.10 on pages 25 and 26 of the RFP for additional information.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
176	<p>If funding is for only one year, how does one apply for a multiple year grant? Would funding be set aside out of the total for all multiple years? For example, let's say the annual proposed funding is \$100K per year for 5 years, would you set aside \$500K for the entire project, or would the applicant be taking the risk of getting started in year one with \$100K and then the project could be over for lack of funding?</p> <p>-Do you know if the projects will be front funded for multiple years</p> <p>How should we handle multi-year projects (3-5 yr implementation/build efforts), especially those that will be too large for funding during a single round?</p>	0 - General	Multi-year Funding	<p>Project periods are expected to be appropriate to the proposed work and are generally expected to range from one to three years, except as specifically described for the respective program. Where possible and appropriate, EPA will provide full funding up front. Multi-year projects for which full funding is not provided up front will include a provision for partial funding stating that an EPA award for the balance of the total budget at a later date is subject to appropriations and availability of federal funds, changes in Program Office priorities, and satisfactory progress; unavailability of additional funds would result in re-negotiation of the scope of work. Because it is possible that subsequent funding for a multi-year project might not be realized, project workplans will be requested which identify discrete products commensurate with available funding.</p>	Complete
177	<p>What guidance can you provide regarding whether to write 1 yr vs. multi-year project submissions?</p>	0 - General	Multi-year Funding	<p>As described in Section II of the Request for Proposals, project periods are expected to be appropriate to the proposed work and are generally expected to range from one to three years, except as specifically described for the respective program. Applicants must determine the scope of their projects in light of the criteria in the Request for Proposals.</p>	Complete
178	<p>My guess is that if multiyear commitments are made, then the number of potential new starts next year will decline proportionately. Correct? What balance of 1 year vs. >1 year projects are anticipated?</p>	0 - General	Multi-year Funding	<p>Your guess is one of several possible scenarios. The balance of short term and long term projects has not been predetermined.</p>	Complete
179	<p>If funding is 'one to five years', Does this mean the program is potentially being funded for the full 5 year period rather than year by year?</p>	0 - General	Multi-year Funding	<p>An assistance agreement could be awarded for a period of up to five years; however, dollars would not be awarded at one time but would be added incrementally each year dependent on the fiscal year budget approved by the President and Congress.</p>	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
180	During the webinar on 12-9 a question was asked regarding 5 year projects. The answer seemed to say that funding for such a project would be awarded on a year-by-year basis, as it was approved in the budget. Does this mean that the full project funding would not be encumbered and made available, but that funding for years 2-5 would be contingent on the federal budget process?	0 - General	Multi-year Funding	EPA will make that decision depending on project needs and fund availability. We have generally funded projects "up front" if their project period is three years or less. Some programs in the RFP specifically provided for five-year project periods. Those projects are expected to be incrementally funded, possibly on a year-by-year basis.	Complete
181	I have a question regarding performance on past grants & agreements. Which grants & agreements are you referring to?	0 - General	Past Performance	See Section IV.B.11 of the Request for Proposals.	Complete
182	Regarding past performance, should the reference be specific to a program, or should it be at the state department level? If at state department level, can it be a generic type statement?	0 - General	Past Performance	The Request for Proposals requests information relevant to the performance by the applicant of similar grants. What is appropriate for a particular program or department will depend on what information is most relevant..	Complete
183	Regarding the 'Programmatic Capability and Past Performance' requirement... I am at a University with many Federal projects in which I have no involvement. Should I list & discuss only my current and past Federal support, or that of the overall University?	0 - General	Past Performance	The applicant for the grant in your case will be the university. The most relevant grants may be those, similar in scope, for which your university was the applicant and you were the PI. You would discuss those of the overall university if you needed to add to the list.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
184	We have both successful grant and contract experience, but the most directly relevant experience are contracts. Is there a way of putting the contract experience forward along with the required grant experience?	0 - General	Past Performance	Scoring is based on experience with assistance agreements (grants and cooperative agreements).	Complete
185	Section IV.B.11 on page 26 states “Programmatic Capability and Past Performance: Submit a list of federally and/or non-federally funded assistance agreements (assistance agreements include grants and cooperative agreements but not contracts) similar in size, scope and relevance to the proposed project that your organization performed within the last three years...” -What is the definition of ‘relevance’ in this context?	0 - General	Past Performance	There should be some additional logical means of comparison for programmatic capability and past performance between the previous projects and the proposed project – for instance, are they all environmental projects, research projects, implementation projects, etc	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
186	Section 11, Programmatic Capability and Past Performance: Our organization is new and does not have any past federal grant history. However, our subgrantees for this proposal do have relevant past performance. Should we include information on our partners/subgrantees, or only information on the agency that will receive the award?	0 - General	Past Performance	For the criteria for Programmatic Capability and Past Performance, evaluators will be considering the Applicant's programmatic capability and past performance. However, to the extent that subgrantee experience may contribute to the success and feasibility of the project, that experience may be a factor that could be considered as part of other criteria.	Complete
187	Regarding past performance - do we refer to grants started in the last three years as well as grants that ended in the last three years?	0 - General	Past Performance	The RFP references activities your organization "performed within the last three years..." Consequently, as they were performed within the last three years it doesn't matter if it began or finished within that three years as long as it is at least one or the other.	Complete
188	If you are submitting a similar project to two different programs, do you need to indicate someplace that that parts of the proposal are being submitted to a second program. If so - how?	0 - General	Program Areas	It is not required. Depending on the type of linkages, you might indicate the linkage in the title, in the full project description in Section 8, or as an overarching plan (if applicable) in Section 14	Complete
189	The guidance is clear about proposals only covering 1 focus area. What about the 8 sub-focus areas? Can a proposal cover more than one sub focus area, e.g., 1.a.2 and 1.a.3. What is the minimum dollar amount?	0 - General	Program Areas	The Request for Proposals specifies that each proposal must address only one focus area and one program activity under a focus area. The programs or "program activities" are what you are referring to as sub-focus areas. A proposal must be submitted to a single program. Some programs specify suggested minimum amounts. Proposals for lesser amounts will not be rejected.	Complete
190	Can we submit a project in one area that has aspects of another area?	0 - General	Program Areas	Yes.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
191	Can we split a project into individual pieces based on the different focus areas addressed in an overall plan? For example, do invasive phragmites removal under Invasive Species category, then submit subsequent proposal on same site to restore wetland acres under Habitat Restoration?	0 - General	Program Areas	Yes.	Complete
192	I don't see a logical program in the RFP where I can submit my proposal. My proposal fits into multiple programs. -Where do you think I should submit it?	0 - General	Program Areas	In fairness to all applicants, we are not able to provide assistance to one that we cannot provide to all of them. Further, if we were to delve into the details of your project enough to fully understand it and recommend a program, we would need to recuse ourselves as reviewers. You know your project best and can find the best fit for it. Consider the principle objective of your project and how that compares to the outcomes and outputs for the focus areas and to the expected results for the programs. Note that in some cases there are focus areas which do include programs for projects that do not fit elsewhere. In addition to this U.S. EPA Request for Proposals, other agencies offer funding opportunities as part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Please review the Interagency Funding Guide for possible programs that might fund your proposal. It is on line at http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/glri/fundingguide2009_r3.pdf . Information is also provided for you to contact an Agency representative regarding eligibility and application requirements.	Complete
193	My proposal seems to fit well in more than one program. -Can I submit it to all of the programs that seem to fit?	0 - General	Program Areas	Please consider the principle objective of your project and how that compares to the outcomes and outputs for the focus areas and to the expected results for the programs. You should be able to determine a best fit. We encourage you to select one program for your submittal, and to consider the expected results for that program when you develop your proposal. However, you are not precluded from submitting a proposal to more than one program.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
194	<p>Here is my idea for a project. -Would this be an applicable project? -Is it responsive to the RFP? -Will it have a chance for being funded? -Is this the kind of project you are looking for?</p>	0 - General	Program Areas	<p>In fairness to all applicants, we cannot screen potential projects or applications prior to their submission through the established process. To do so would compromise a fair and open competition for the best project ideas to advance the restoration of the Great Lakes. We suggest you carefully study the information in the RFP sections on Funding Opportunity Descriptions, Detailed Program/Proposal Submission Information, and the Application Process and Review, and then submit your proposal to the focus area and program in which it fits best. You know your project best and can find the best fit for it. Consider the principle objective of your project and how that compares to the outcomes and outputs for the focus areas and to the expected results for the programs. Note that in some cases there are focus areas which do include programs for projects that do not fit elsewhere. In addition to this U.S. EPA RFP, other agencies offer funding opportunities as part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Review the Interagency Funding Guide for possible alternative programs that might fund your</p>	Complete
195	<p>Is there someone I can communicate with directly to discuss my idea for a project and if it has a chance of being funded?</p>	0 - General	Program Areas	<p>Eligible applicants (see the definition in the RFP) should identify the program in the RFP which best fits their proposal. In accordance with 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 proposals. EPA will respond to questions in writing from individual applicants regarding threshold eligibility criteria, administrative issues related to the submission of the proposal, and requests for clarification about the RFP. For those purposes, we have identified a general contact and contacts for the applicable focus areas (see Section VII of the RFP).</p>	Complete
196	<p>Suppose I submit a proposal that addresses only a portion of a focus area. Will EPA try to merge my project with another that address other parts, or will they consider my proposal as a complete entity?</p>	0 - General	Program Areas	<p>Each proposal must be submitted to a specific program. It will be evaluated according to the criteria for that program. None of the programs are themselves all encompassing of the full focus area.</p>	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
197	Can I submit my projects individually and also submit them as a package?	0 - General	Program Areas	Please consider the principle objective of your project and how that compares to the outcomes and outputs for the focus areas and to the expected results for the programs. You should be able to determine a best fit. We encourage you to select one program for your submittal, and to consider the expected results for that program when you develop your proposal. However, you are not precluded from submitting a proposal to more than one program.	Complete
198	<p>I am seeking clarification regarding an applicant (institution) submitting more than one proposal. The RFP states that applicants may submit more than one, "provided that each one is for a different project."</p> <p>Further on, the RFP states that "each proposal must address only one focus area and one program activity under a focus area."</p> <p>What I'm trying to clarify is whether an institution may submit more than one proposal under the same focus area, as long as they are unique projects.</p>	0 - General	Program Areas	Yes you may.	Complete
199	Can you provide more detail on what is expected through the quarterly reporting requirement described on page 20? Are we expected to provide a summary for this requirement or a complete project break down, including budgetary information, subaward data and project progress?	0 - General	Reporting	This information is not required in the proposal; however, if your project is selected and you receive an award, you will be incurring costs to do reporting during the project period. You need to anticipate what those costs will be so that you can include them in the budget for your proposal.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
200	As funding decisions are made, we expect USEPA will want to bundle multiple projects into single contracts to reduce administrative workloads and better focus project dollars. We can provide generic reports on individual projects, but efforts to synthesize results across funding streams and provide summary reports to USEPA, Congress, local officials, resource users, and others on the cumulative benefits to the resource are likely best done at the state or individual lake level though dedicated projects. 1) Can USEPA provide details on their expectations of how this would work, and what opportunities there are for funding to cover costs associated with gathering, synthesizing, and reporting to USEPA, as well as to the general public?	0 - General	Reporting	<p>Cost associated with gathering, synthesizing, and reporting should be included in the proposal.</p> <p>Page 30 of the Request for Proposal includes this statement: For purposes of transparency and accountability, EPA expects to develop specific reporting requirements applicable to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative which are expected to require grant recipients to directly report on grant progress and activities in an online database using specified formats and timeframes as a condition of their grants. Applicants should make provision for their expected reporting costs in the budget for their proposal. Applicants should look to the requirements of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act as an example of the kind of reporting requirements which may be required by grant recipients.</p> <p>EPA is also looking to the Chesapeake Bay program as another example of how reporting may be done. See http://www.epa.gov/region3/chesapeake/grants.htm#2009</p>	Complete
201	Can I sub-contract a portion (around 10-15%) of the total grant to a university in Canada?	0 - General	Subaward	Yes. There have been no limitations established for sub-contracting or sub-granting to particular entities.	Complete
202	Can you further describe how to address the issue of sub-contracts? If a proposal intimately involves a key collaborator should that collaborator be considered a co-applicant? is it OK if that co-applicant is not a US entity?	0 - General	Subaward	The award will be made to a single entity - the applicant. Collaboration is considered, but there is no official status for a "co-applicant." How an applicant's proposed subawardees/subgrantees and contractors will be considered during the evaluation process is described in Section IV.G.b. on page 30. Neither applicants nor their subawardees/subgrantees or contractors are required to be US entities.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
203	Can a federal agency be a subcontractor for research and monitoring activities for a private or academic applicant?	0 - General	Subaward	Collaboration is allowed. In addition, some federal agencies, such as U.S. Geological Service have express statutory authority to provide services to the public and recover their costs. All federal agencies have authority under the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act to provide specialized services to state and local govts on a cost reimbursement basis. These agreements function like procurement contracts.	Complete
204	Our nonprofit is intimately affiliated with a Federation of industry and university entities. We would like to bring the Federation's capabilities to this effort. The Federation currently supports another Federal agency, which would like to team with EPA on this effort on a cost-share basis. Do you perceive that this teaming would serve as sufficient justification for sole sourcing the industry and university entities?	0 - General	Subaward	University entities would generally receive sub-awards and would not require a sole source justification. Industry participation is subject to the considerations described in Section IV.G of the Request for Proposals.	Complete
205	Can you clarify subgranting and subcontracting requirements regarding the competitive process?	0 - General	Subaward	See Section IV.G of the Request for Proposals and similar questions and responses on this topic.	Complete
206	Are awardees required to bid out the work if they plan to use contracts for services and products, including consultant contracts?	0 - General	Subaward	Please see section IV.G on pages 29-30. Yes, applicants must comply with the competitive Procurement Standards in 40 CFR Part 30 or 40 CFR 31.36 as appropriate	Complete

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1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
207	<p>Subawards - Could you clarify what is intended by the statement on page 30 that says that "applicants must not use subawards/subgrants to obtain commercial services or products from for profit firms or individual consultants."</p> <p>-Does this mean that applicants can not use for profit consultants as part of their projects?</p>	0 - General	Subaward	It means that applicants cannot skirt competitive contracting requirements by labeling a contract as a grant.	Complete
208	<p>Could you also clarify or briefly describe what the limitations on consultant compensation are as described on page 29?</p>	0 - General	Subaward	EPA grant funds can only be used to pay consultants the maximum daily rate for GS-18s. Grantees are free to use other (non federal funds) to increase their salaries. See 40 CFR Part 31.36(j) and an April 7, 2004, Federal Register Notice titled, "Interpretation of Regulations Related to Payments to Consultants Under Grants."	Complete
209	<p>Many of us University folks are quite confused. On large projects like GLEI and indicators, we typically work with many partners from other universities, whom the lead university calls "subcontracts". You may remember that the lead for GLEI was U Minnesota, but we had six partnering institutions who got "subcontracts" under GLEI. These are collaborators with whom we've worked for many years. Are we now being told that we can't choose our collaborators and must find them via some competitive process?</p>	0 - General	Subaward	<p>Under EPA regulations, the partnering process you describe appears to qualify as a "subgranting" process which MAY be awarded without competition. Under the regulations, universities do not provide commercial services per the A-133 standards for distinguishing between vendors and subrecipients. The applicant needs to demonstrate that the partner work furthers an academic purpose. and that the applicant will enter into a proper subgrant (flow down of program requirements/cost allowable under Circular A-21 and A-110 provisions) with the University.</p> <p>If your situation is one of procuring services, however, you might get tripped up. For example, if you propose to hire a laboratory to analyze water samples according to Standard Methods procedures, you may have show that the laboratory was chosen through some competitive process. Also, if one of your "partners" is a commercial organization, e.g. consulting firm or IT management company, then you would need to follow applicable contracting provisions which require a competitive selection process.</p>	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
210	If you have a project with multiple partners and the NGO/Non profit partner can conduct engineering/design components, do you still have to bid engineering & related services even though one of the contributing partners can provide these services?	0 - General	Subaward	Unless the engineering services are being contributed (in which case they would not be "acquired" by the applicant), contracts for these services must be competed to the extent required by the procurement provisions of the regulations at 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31, as appropriate. Engineering services are widely available in the commercial marketplace. It does not appear that providing funds to a NGO/non profit partner on a sole source basis under a subgrant would be consistent w/ the provisions of section .210 of OMB Circular A-133.	Complete
211	It appears as though contractors and professional service providers under any project application will need to be vetted based on their professional experience/ credentials and also based on their costs for services to be provided in projects in which they are included. Who do applicants talk to within EPA to formalize their own vetting process and to ensure it would be found acceptable to USEPA, so that pre-vetted projects are delivered to USEPA.	0 - General	Subaward	Section IV.F of the Request for proposals describes limitations on EPA's ability to communicate with applicants about their proposals. Though we have attempted to provide some information on the subject, it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure compliance with competitive Procurement Standards in 40 CFR Part 30 or 40 CFR 31.36 as appropriate. EPA relies on the applicant to establish and document processes which meet the applicable standards.	Complete
212	On instructions outlined on Page 29 (working with consulting firms), can you clarify the EPA's position on the following scenario? If there is an entity that seeks funding from the EPA, and has already has a previously (competitively bid) contract vehicle in place, do they still need to bid out the grant funded work from the EPA? Also, can you comment if "Quality Based Selection" would be sufficient?	0 - General	Subaward	Recipients can choose contractors from previously bid contractor vehicles which are already in place, provided that they have complied with the procurement provisions of the regulations at 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31, as appropriate. They need not re-bid the work.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
213	Section b. on pg. 30 discusses consideration of contractors in the evaluation process. Does this mean that a respondent organization can go through the competitive procurement process in the proposal phase, and as such name the contractor in the proposal response?	0 - General	Subaward	Yes.	Complete
214	If a university has been a long-term partner (for example they have done all of our monitoring for similar scope projects), and we name that partner, does our previous relationship and project history with them allow for a sole-source justification? Or are we required to bid out that work even though it's not a subcontract? I looked in 40 CFR 30 and 31, but I cannot determine if there are competitive bidding requirements for subawardees if they are named as a partner in the proposal.	0 - General	Subaward	A long term relationship with a partner probably doesn't qualify for using the sole source provision. However, a transaction with a University probably qualifies as a subgrant that may be awarded without competition. Universities do not provide commercial services per the A-133 standards for distinguishing between vendors and subrecipients. The applicant needs to demonstrate that the monitoring furthers an academic purpose and that the applicant will enter into a proper subgrant (flow down of program requirements/cost allowable under Circular A-21 and A-110 provisions) with the University.	Complete
215	NYS process requires that we prepare a single source justification for each of these community projects before we could provide them the funds to conduct the work. That justification would be largely based on the fact that the project was identified in a previously prepared plan. Does that satisfy EPA requirements for subgrants or contracting out the work, or would we need to do more?	0 - General	Subaward	If you are proposing to follow your own procedures and issue subgrants, that would be permissible under the EPA requirements. Competition is not required for subgrants. Competition would generally be required for contracting.	Complete

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1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
216	Can Canadian entities be subgrantees?	0 - General	Subaward	Yes.	Complete
217	if a proposal has multiple subgrantees (for example 4 local governments) could they each undertake different projects to acheive a similar goal, i.e. phosphorus reduction.	0 - General	Subaward	Each proposal must be for a separate project. The project may have separate elements which would all support the same goal.	Complete
218	if an agency already had an overarching contract for services that went through a compitive process, can projects funded by the EPA be executed through those exisiting contracts, or does every project need to go out for a competiive bid?	0 - General	Subaward	Projects can be executed through existing, competitively bid contracts.	Complete
219	Is there a limit to the amount of sub-awards to local governments or universities as a dollar amount or proportion of the total grant?	0 - General	Subaward	No.	Complete
220	Can for-profits be a sub-award?	0 - General	Subaward	Generally not. See Section IV.G. of the RFP.	Complete
221	Is there a link on the GRLI RFP page that describes the competitive bid process that is required.	0 - General	Subaward	No. The competitive bid process is the same for this RFP as it is for other EPA grant programs. See competitive Procurement Standards in 40 CFR Part 30 or 40 CFR 31.36 as appropriate	Complete
222	If a tribal agency is the PI on the project, are they exempt from having to accept bids for contracted work on the project?	0 - General	Subaward	No, Indian Tribes are not exempt from competitive procurement requirements. Indian Tribes are subject to 40 CFR 31.36 which requires competition for services readily available in the commercial market and cost and price analyses.	Complete
223	there is also interest by states to work with local government partners such as counties, cities and sanitary districts. Will projects that require providing subgrants in the form of joint powers agreements also have to go through a competitive process in order to satisfy federal requirements?	0 - General	Subaward	No. EPA's grant regulations and policies on subgrants do not require competition for awards of financial assistance from one govermental unit to another. The agency encourages competition in such transactions but it is not a requirement.	Complete

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1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
224	Is it possible to subaward Nation Research Lab? If so, is it possible to use this grant to pay permanent federal employee's salary or temporary employee's salary?	0 - General	Subaward	Transfers of funds between grantees and National Laboratories are governed by the legal authorities of the Laboratory rather than EPA's. The Laboratory must have statutory authority to accept and use funds from non-federal organizations to use the funds to pay the salary of a permanent or temporary employee. EPA is not a party to the transaction. Please consult with the National Laboratory.	Complete
225	Would prevailing wage rates apply to construction or remediation work subcontracted under these grants?	0 - General	Subaward	There is no federal requirement to pay prevailing wages under the Davis Bacon Act for construction or remediation work funded by the grant program. State or local prevailing wage laws may apply.	Complete
226	<p>The general EPA procurement requirements in 40 CFR pt 30 and 31 indicate that Davis Bacon Act compliance applies to construction work "when required by Federal program legislation"</p> <p>Some habitat restoration projects may involve some amount of earth moving. Our understanding from Dept of Labor regulations is that when the quantity of earth moved is substantial enough, DBA may be triggered.</p> <p>Can you provide guidance on when GLRI habitat restoration (or other category) projects will require compliance with Davis Bacon, and if the definition of construction will differ in any way, particularly with respect to earth moving?</p>	0 - General	Subaward	The GLRI program legislation does not require compliance with the Federal Davis Bacon Act for projects financed with GLRI grant funds. However, state or local prevailing wage laws may apply.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
227	Can not-for-profit organizations, other than universities, be project partners to state agencies or to other not-for-profits via a subcontract agreement, without going through a competitive subcontract solicitation process subsequent to grant award?	0 - General	Subaward	Yes. Please review p. 29 of the RFP. Be aware, however, that “contract” has a very specific meaning to EPA reviewers as a type of funding vehicle that buys specific goods or services. If the situation occurs that a non-profit will be serving in the capacity of a contractor, than that contract must be competed. Subawards in the form of grants to nonprofits need not be competed if they are presented as part of the proposal. Also, pursuant to p. 29 of the RFP, please note that successful applicants cannot use subgrants or subawards to avoid requirements in EPA grant regulations for competitive procurement by using these instruments to acquire commercial services or products from for-profit organizations to carry out its assistance agreement.	Complete
228	What are EPA's set-aside requirements for small, 8a or other sub-contracts?	0 - General	Subaward	EPA's policies for the use of disadvantaged business enterprises are found at 40 CFR Part 33. That regulation requires recipients and their contractors to make good faith efforts to meet fair share objectives for ensuring that disadvantaged business enterprises participate in EPA financial assistance programs. Recipients negotiate fair share objectives with EPA. These fair share objectives are not quotas. Please contact Adrienne Callahan (callahan.adrienne@epa.gov), the Region v DBE coordinator, for additional information on EPA's regulation for DBES.	Complete
229	Is sole-sourcing acceptable to universities and to local units of government?	0 - General	Subaward	Recipients may not enter into sole source procurement contracts with Universities for services (e.g. Accounting, Engineering, Transactional legal services) that are available in the commercial marketplace. However, recipients may provide subawards of financial assistance in the form of a subgrant to universities to support educational programs or research without competition so long as the transaction is consistent with that of a 'subrecipient' relationship under _____.210 of OMB Circular A-133. The agency encourages but does not require competition for such subawards of financial assistance. Similarly, a recipient may provide a subaward of financial assistance w/out competition to a local government to support that entity's programs. It is unlikely that a unit of local government is authorized to provide commercial services. In addition, under 40 CFR 31.36(b)(5) the agency encourages state and local governments to enter into intergovernmental agreements to procure common goods and services in order to promote efficient use of EPA grant funds.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
230	Can an eligible party, teamed with a federal agency, proposing to deploy technology developed by a small business for-profit that is patented/ unique and further modified/enhanced by the federal agency partner required to undergo competition for the unique technology or can it be sole sourced (since there are no competing technologies)?	0 - General	Subaward	Only eligible applicants may apply. Only one applicant may be selected for a proposal. If the patented technology is the only technology available to carry out its project an applicant may be able to award a sole source contract to the owner of that technology.	Complete
231	Is there a EPA policy process for bidding on contracts and contractors? Will we need to put in an estimated cost of a contractor into the budget of the proposal before we actually send out for bid.	0 - General	Subaward	While a competitive process is required, there is not a detailed listing of requirements for that process. You will need to estimate costs if you do not know them.	Complete
232	We'd like to name a contractor in our proposal. This business is the only one who provides the service we need. How do we get competing bids if we can't locate any other company that performs this service? Is there a template we should use to justify that we know of no other company providing this service? How far do we have to go in proving this?	0 - General	Subaward	Identify the services or products and describe the efforts you made to identify another company that could provide it. Your justification must be based on the nature of the needed services and products and whether you can demonstrate that only one firm can provide them. Even if only one company can, you still must conduct, and document prior to awarding the contract, a cost or price analysis which demonstrates that the contractor's charges are reasonable. Unless the company provides a patented product that is essential for your project, your justification for not competing the contract needs to be very strong. A sole source justification for procurement of services and products that are available in the commercial marketplace is not likely to be accepted. A justification based on a conclusion that a particular company is the "best" or "only" source without making a reasonable inquiry into the qualifications and prices of other firms, including disadvantaged business enterprises as required by 40 CFR Part 34, is not acceptable.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
233	We have one or two contract staff who might work on our project. Would that sort of work need to be competitively bid out? How should these costs be reflected within the budget (salary or contract)?	0 - General	Subaward	Yes. The competitive process need not involve formal bidding but you must seek proposals, qualification statements, and proposed pricing arrangements from a reasonable number of potential contractors. Please note that by statute you may only charge an EPA grant or cooperative agreement for compensation for individual consultants at an hourly or daily rate that is equivalent to the rate of pay for a Level IV member of the Federal Senior Executive Service. These will be contract costs. The only costs that are reflected in salaries are for employees of your organization.	Complete
234	Could you elaborate on the requirements for subawardees? If we have a long-term partner (for example a university who has done all of our monitoring for similar scope projects), and we name that partner, does our previous relationship and project history with them allow for a sole-source justification? Or are we required to bid out that work even though it's not a subcontract? I looked in 40 CFR 30 and 31, but I cannot determine if there are competitive bidding requirements for subawardees if they are named as a partner in the proposal.	0 - General	Subaward1	In order for applicants to use the sole source provision, they must demonstrate that competition is not feasible under one of the standards quoted in the regulations. That is a high bar. There are very few commercial services needed for restoration projects (ie A&E, construction, environmental consulting, sampling, monitoring) that are unavailable in the marketplace. Many firms are available to compete given the economic situation. Also, keep in mind that applicants must give disadvantaged businesses a chance to compete per 40 CFR Par 33. It is not hard to compete adequately with email. If the local government rules allow it, just send a list of requirements to a reasonable number of firms and ask for prices, qualifications, and a technical approach. (Note for A&E price does not have to be a selection factor and the competition may be based solely on qualifications and technical approach as long as the applicant evaluates the cost prior to selection). Local governments may have more flexible sole source rules but the federal rules prevail. (CONTINUED IN NEXT QUESTION)	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
235	<p>(CONTINUED)Could you elaborate on the requirements for subawardees? If we have a long-term partner (for example a university who has done all of our monitoring for similar scope projects), and we name that partner, does our previous relationship and project history with them allow for a sole-source justification? Or are we required to bid out that work even though it's not a subcontract? I looked in 40 CFR 30 and 31, but I cannot determine if there are competitive bidding requirements for subawardees if they are named as a partner in the proposal.</p>	0 - General	Subaward2	<p>(CONTINUED) Following are examples of justifications which do NOT meet the standards in the regulations: - "they are our partners" - "they are offering a discount" - "they are contributing in kind" - "we have done business with them for years and know that they are the best" - "they helped us prepare the proposal and understand the project"</p>	Complete
236	<p>The targeted geographic initiative is discussed only briefly in The RFP, can additional details be provided on this topic?</p>	0 - General	Targeted Watersheds	<p>The characteristics of a targeted watersheds are described under the point-scored criterion for Strategic Approach - In considering the protection or restoration potential (the third bullet above) of a proposal for any Nearshore and Nonpoint Source Pollution program under Section I.C of this RFP which is part of an overarching, comprehensive plan, the project may receive a higher score to the extent that: identifiable impairments have been identified and the causes for those impairments have been clearly established; solutions to remediation of the impairments have been identified; broadly supported implementation activities have been designed; and there is potential for significant measurable results.</p>	Complete
237	<p>To clarify; the definition of "targeted watershed" is one that is identified in a plan as described under sec. V.A, bullet 3 (p. 31)?</p>	0 - General	Targeted Watersheds	<p>The characteristics of a targeted watersheds are described under the point-scored criterion for Strategic Approach - In considering the protection or restoration potential (the third bullet above) of a proposal for any Nearshore and Nonpoint Source Pollution program under Section I.C of this RFP which is part of an overarching, comprehensive plan, the project may receive a higher score to the extent that: identifiable impairments have been identified and the causes for those impairments have been clearly established; solutions to remediation of the impairments have been identified; broadly supported implementation activities have been designed; and there is potential for significant measurable results.</p>	Complete

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1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
238	Page 21 of RFP states "remediation of contaminated sediments is an ineligible activity" -- does this apply to sediments in streams and/or sediments within sewers?	1 - Toxics	Eligibility - Sediments	Remediation of contaminated sediments in streams and sewers would not be eligible activities under the Request for Proposals.	Complete
239	I just noticed something very confusing in the RFP- On page 21, under the Ineligible Activities, "remediation of contaminated sediments" is clearly spelled out. Does that mean the "treatment and control technologies" mentioned on page I-13 do not include remediation technologies?	1 - Toxics	Eligibility - Sediments	Contaminated sediment remediation is not eligible for funding; however, investigation of remediation technologies is eligible, as are other activities short of actual remediation.	Complete
240	In p. 21 of the RFP, 'remediation of contaminated sediments' is ineligible. However, it's hard to deal with I.A. Toxic substances without including sediments. Are ineligible activities limited to dredging and disposal/incineration, or is any sediment work out of bounds?	1 - Toxics	Eligibility - Sediments	Contaminated sediment remediation is not eligible for funding; however, investigation of remediation technologies is eligible, as are other activities short of actual remediation.	Complete
241	You have said that remediation of toxic sediments is not eligible. I'm wondering if you can explain why that activity is not eligible. Will there be another source of funding for clean up of toxic sediments?	1 - Toxics	Eligibility - Sediments	Funding for cleanup of contaminated sediments is provided through project agreements under the Great Lakes Legacy Act, which is not a grant program. Contact tuchman.marc@epa.gov for additional information.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
242	Under toxics are projects that would develop and evaluate new technologies and strategies for toxin removal, cleanup, and/or detoxification.	1 - Toxics	General	Yes that would be eligible.	Complete
243	Under the toxics section, I thought I heard Ted say something about public education for the greening of households. Did I hear wrong? I could not find any specific reference to such an outreach effort in that section of the RFP.	1 - Toxics	General	It is a part of one of the examples under Pollution Prevention and Toxics Reduction in the Appendix (1.A.9).	Complete
244	For an inland stream, do the toxics have to be so severe to have been identified as an impaired stream? For example, if lead levels are simply elevated in an urban portion of the stream compared to other areas would an investigation to the source of this lead qualify as an appropriate objective ?	1 - Toxics	General	Source trackdown work may be applicable under the pollution prevention and toxics reduction grants portion of the RFP, for substances that are listed as level 1 or level 2 substances under the Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy (1.A.1).	Complete
245	How would an application qualify in terms of meeting goals or objectives included in the Great Lakes Mercury Phasedown Strategy or the draft mercury emissions reduction strategy that is currently out for public comment?	1 - Toxics	General	A proposal which met the goals or objectives of that strategy or that draft would be an eligible project under Focus Area I.	Complete

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1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
246	Can we "cross over" grant categories under Toxics? For example, while we are helping health care facilities deal with mercury fish advisories, could we use this network to also provide them with info on other toxics and p2 strategies?	1 - Toxics	General	Proposals are evaluated under one specific program activity. If you have two separate activities, this should be reflected in two separate proposals.	Complete
247	How come I don't see the GLAD program from EPA that was listed in the Interagency Funding Guide?	1 - Toxics	General	This program may be included in a second RFP to be released in the spring of 2010.	Complete
248	Could you review again the legacy program and the spring grants and sediments?	1 - Toxics	General	See Section VIII of the RFP and the December 2009 Interagency Funding Guide http://greatlakesrestoration.us/action/?p=161	Complete
249	I have heard that new funding from the GLRI for the Great Lakes Legacy Act will not be restricted solely to Areas of Concern. Can you please verify or clear up this information?	1 - Toxics	General	The new GLRI funding for the Legacy Act is restricted to AOCs. There is currently no provision for non-AOCs in EPA's funding. Other agencies are not necessarily restricted to AOCs for their programs.	Complete
250	will there be other grant opportunities in the near future that will address point sources of pollution to the Great Lakes?	1 - Toxics	General	There may be other opportunities. See the Interagency Funding Guide for funding through the GLRI. See the Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance for other potential sources of federal funding.	Complete
251	Is there room for proposals to prepare for future contaminations and handling the remediation with in situ treatment?	1 - Toxics	General	It appears the proposal would be an eligible activity, so long as the connection is made to the Great Lakes.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
252	Does the fact that an Area of Concern is also designated a Superfund site preclude funding through this RFP? The likely focus area for this proposal would be I.A Toxic Substances and Areas of Concern.	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.1	No, it does not preclude eligibility.	Complete
253	Under Focus Area I.A. Toxic Substances and Areas of Concern, can grant money be used for scientific and engineering studies to define a program to address specific BUI's?	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.1	Yes.	Complete
254	Should all toxics projects be in an AOC?	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.1	Toxics projects are not limited to work in Areas of Concern.	Complete
255	If projects outside of but perhaps upstream or immediately downstream of the specific AOC's defined boundaries generate similar project outputs (for example where an AOC BUI suggests the restoration of so many acres of wetlands), can the same outputs created nearby be useful to achieve BUI delisting?	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.1	A project will be eligible under Section I.A.1 even if located outside of the AOC, so long as it leads to the delisting of beneficial use impairments.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
256	I know you're looking for shovel-ready projects. Can you tell me how much design work needs to be completed in order to apply for GLRI construction funding? We'd like to obtain sufficient design and cost estimates for the 1-29-10 deadline and continue with actually complete design after that date. Is this acceptable?	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.1	It is acceptable to include some design work as part of a project proposal.	Complete
257	In the AOCs, is EPA concerned about contamination in land next to the water as well as toxins in the water?	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.1	Yes, EPA wants projects that address both land as well as water contamination. The goal is to address environmental problems that will lead to delisting the relevant BUIs within the AOCs.	Complete
258	Are financing strategies such as options for identifying the 35% non-federal match for dredging projects topics ones that EPA would consider relevant to implementation of Remedial Action Plans and the delisting of Beneficial Use Impairments in AOCs?	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.1	Yes.	Complete
259	Does delisting preclude our applying for a grant to support continued habitat restoration through land conservation within the drainage of the Oswego River/Harbor Area of Concern?	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.1	The Oswego River was formally delisted as an Area of Concern in June 2006. Because of that development, the Oswego River and Harbor AOC is no longer eligible for funding under the Toxic Substances and Areas of Concern focus area category of "Coordinated Implementation of Remedial Action Plan Programs and Processes" nor under the Habitat and Wildlife Protection and Restoration focus area category of "Habitat Restoration in Great Lakes Area of Concern." However, EPA recognizes that communities undertake restoration projects in the larger watersheds and there are opportunities in the RFP to apply for funds for those activities, including possible LaMP funding.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
260	Under the category I.A.10 Toxicant TMDL Development in the Great Lakes Basin, would monitoring to provide up to date information with which to develop a planned TMDL, be an eligible activity?	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.10	Yes, monitoring to support toxic TMDL development would be an eligible activity.	Complete
261	Are projects on fish consumption with Canadian First Nations eligible?	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.2	It is possible, provided they support the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the Great Lakes subobjective of EPA's Strategy, and/or the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy. Note that these are US documents with a focus on the support of US activities.	Complete
262	Are the only consumption outreach efforts for fish? We were looking at some waterfowl related updates as well.	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.2	Consumption outreach efforts could include other sport-caught wildlife (waterfowl, deer, boar, squirrel, turkey, etc.).	Complete
263	For Toxics section I.A.3., does the project have to have a measured outcome in terms of numbered patients educated?	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.3	Metrics such as that are encouraged but not necessarily required.	Complete
264	In regards to the Health Care Provider Organization Outreach program, I am confused about the phrase "projects would challenge health care provider organizations to develop and implement a plan". -Is the funding really just limited to individual hospitals or provider groups?	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.3	Please refer for Appendix 1.A.3 for more detailed information. This component of the RFP is intended to stimulate large-scale changes within Health Care Professional Organizations and Associations to improve health care professional/patient communications regarding the risks and benefits of eating fish. All eligible applicants identified in Section III on page 21 may apply, including but not limited to, national, state, and local medical and nursing associations, health care based educational institutions, and health care-based companies	Complete

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1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
265	Regarding the IADN part - if proposals addressed a new aspect of existing contaminants (e.g., PCBs), would that respond to the RfP?	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.5	Yes, that would be an eligible activity.	Complete
266	In page I-10, Great Lakes Sediment Core Surveillance Program, are there any specific sites where we need to focus? How many cores from each lake is expected? Do we need to collect larger number and then, select a subset of cores for dating?	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.6	These are issues for the applicant to address in the proposal.	Complete
267	Are we allowed to include the cost for purchasing a new instrument in the proposed budget? If instrument acquisition is allowed, is there an upper limit? Do I need to cost-share for instrument?	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.6	Please refer to grant regulations and OMB circulars that can be found on GLNPO's webpage for managing a GLNPO assistance agreement < http://www.epa.gov/greatlakes/fund/manage.html >. Generally, equipment is an allowable budget item for an assistance agreement. OMB Circulars addressing university procurement and administration of a grant and university cost principles are available from: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/rewrite/circulars/a110/a110.html#34 http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/rewrite/circulars/a021/a021.html Cost share is not required.	Complete
268	Under Section I.A.6 - this activity has typically been done by GLNPO using the Lake Guardian. Does EPA now intend to "outsource" this activity?	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.6	Through this program, EPA is targeting efforts to implement a a Great Lakes Sediment Core Surveillance program. The Lake Guardian may be available as a sampling platform to assist a grantee in its efforts.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
269	Will EPA make the Lake Guardian available as sampling platform and if so, how do we estimate such costs in our proposals?	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.6	This is a new program being solicited through the RFP. Limited R/V Lake Guardian time would be made available to accomplish this work at no cost to the applicant. The exact dates and duration of the ship time would be negotiated with the recipient of the award.	Complete
270	For sediment sampling, can we get support from EPA ships (R/V Mudpuppy or both of the ships needed). Do we need to budget for the ship time?	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.6	Applicants should budget for ship time on the R/V Mudpuppy. If the project is selected and if the R/V Mudpuppy is available when needed, EPA mayl negotiate appropriate budget and grant changes at that time.	Complete
271	In the Great Lakes Sediment Core Surveillance area of the RFP. Is EPA expecting applicants to analyze current PBTs of concern or only emerging contaminants?	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.6	The primary objective of the Great Lakes sediment core surveillance program it to provide information on the presence and trends of chemicals of emerging concern in the Great Lakes. Applicants are not precluded from including the analysis of current PBTs of concern; however, applicants should discuss how including these chemicals will address the expected results and further develop the body of knowledge of PBTs in the Great Lakes.	Complete
272	In the call for a Sediment Core Surveillance program you cite a document with certain chemicals of emerging concern. This list does not include any pharmaceuticals or personal care products (you have these listed as pseudo-persistent). Are you interested in a project that examines these compounds in sediment cores or only the GLBTS lists?	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.6	Eligibility under the Sediment Core Surveillance program is limited to the lists referenced in the RFP.	Complete
273	Question for Ted: As far as sub-topic I.A.9 is concerned, what are the program priorities for mercury reduction?	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.7	The GLRC mercury reduction strategy cited in the RFP includes the priorities for mercury reduction.	Complete

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1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
274	Does the screening for chemicals of emerging concern include biomonitoring projects?	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.7	No, this refers to evaluating chemicals for properties in order to inform monitoring and surveillance efforts.	Complete
275	Why is the dollar amount for Program 7 (Screen for Chemicals of Emerging Concern) so low in comparison to the other programs? Screening for emerging chemicals, such as PPCPs is a very expensive prospect (e.g., \$400 - \$700 per sample). Can these projects be tied to other programs?	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.7	By screening, we generally mean using computer models which are much less expensive than field testing.	Complete
276	Where can we get a list of the "new chemicals of concern"?	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.7	http://www.epa.gov/qrllakes/p2.html	Complete
277	If a proposal addresses exposure and effects, but does not address the impact on population dynamics, would that proposal be considered?	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.8	Yes, but to the extent that you are able to tie effects to population dynamics, we are interested in that as well.	Complete
278	Are bioremediation approaches encouraged under the I.A.9. category?	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.9	Bioremediation technology development could be an eligible activity under 1.A.9.	Complete
279	Do Green Infrastructure projects (such as bioretention on streets or parking lots) qualify under section 9. Pollution prevention and toxics reduction in great lakes	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.9	To the extent that such projects address sources of level 1 or level 2 persistent bioaccumulative toxicants such as PAHs, they would be eligible.	Complete

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1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
280	For I.A.(- PP-Toxics reduction Question: I understand the GLRI grant can't be used to buy land. Can grant funds be used to construct a Household Hazardous Waste drop-off collection building?	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.9	This would be an eligible activity.	Complete
281	The draft Action Plan identified infrastructure for waste collection to reduce burning as a strategy to reduce toxic substances in the Great Lakes basin ecosystem. Is an organic waste collection program to reduce illegal burning eligible for EPA funding under the Pollution Prevention & Toxic Reduction program? This program would not include household waste that is already managed by existing MSW collection programs.	1 - Toxics	Program I.A.9	Yes.	Complete
282	Due to the widespread nature of invasive species would any proposal for control need to have a certain scale/geographic area coverage to be eligible?	2 - Invasives	Eligibility	No, applications can be submitted for a variety of scales/geographic areas. The competitiveness of the project will be assessed as described in the V. Application Review section.	Complete
283	Under IB2, does the RFP allow for research proposals to develop control techniques even if no on-the-ground restoration is accomplished during the research?	2 - Invasives	Eligibility	Yes. The competitiveness of the project will be assessed as described in the V. Application Review section.	Complete
284	Are projects addressing terrestrial invasive plants eligible? Are terrestrial invasives projects located outside AOCs eligible?	2 - Invasives	Eligibility	Yes.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
285	To establish an ongoing boat-washing facility requires power. Are utility costs an eligible cost to fund?	2 - Invasives	Eligibility	Yes.	Complete
286	Will EPA consider funding timely feasibility studies focused on canal closures (esp. the CAWS) even though another Federal Agency has received Congressional authorization to perform a similar study.	2 - Invasives	General	Funding can be used to supplement, but not supplant, existing programs.	Complete
287	How come I don't see the 'Sustain Our Great Lakes' program from EPA that was listed in the Interagency Funding Guide?	2 - Invasives	General	The Sustain our Great Lakes RFP for this year has already been issued and closed. For more information visit: http://www.sustainourgreatlakes.org/Apply.aspx	Complete
288	Are projects to address coastal plant invasives included in this section?	2 - Invasives	General	Yes.	Complete
289	Who is coordinating the VHS invasive species proposals at the USEPA?	2 - Invasives	General	Section IV.F describes limitations on communications with applicants. In fairness to all applicants, we cannot coordinate proposal submissions for any program. All projects need to be judged on their own merits through the Application process.	Complete
290	The Interagency Funding Guide described an opportunity for funding to each state with an approved state ANS plan. Is that funding part of this RFP (i.e., I.B.2) or is it separate? If yes, when can we anticipate an RFP and will the 25% match requirement be included?	2 - Invasives	General	This funding for State ANS Management Plan implementation is not offered through this RFP. For more information contact Michael Hoff at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (612-713-5114, e-mail: michael_hoff@fws.gov).	Complete
291	Are there any restrictions on using funds to employ staff for on-the-ground invasive control projects?	2 - Invasives	General	Staffing costs are eligible costs for funding.	Complete
292	Is funding available to provide pumpout stations for the commercial ferry industry?	2 - Invasives	General	Such a project could be proposed. Note that for-profit companies are not eligible to submit proposals; however, there are ways that for-profits may be involved in the proposal. See Section IV.G of the RFP for additional information.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
293	Do Asian carp count as 'Invasive species already present' and therefore eligible under the 1st program area?	2 - Invasives	General	The first grant project is intended to promote the development of ballast water technology. To the extent that the project addresses the movement of Asian Carp via ballast water, it could be considered under the 1st grant program.	Complete
294	How is this section of the GLRI funding being utilized to respond to the known threat of asian carp entry into the Great Lakes from the Chicago-area canals? Rapid Response? Permanent Barrier and required changes in operation of canals and locks? Development of biological treatments?	2 - Invasives	General	Asian Carp projects may be funded under these grant programs, consistent with the expected results of each offering. Other actions outside of this RFP are being pursued by Federal, State, and local agencies.	Complete
295	To establish an ongoing boat-washing facility, requires power. Are utility costs an eligible cost to fund?	2 - Invasives	General	Yes. Note that the ongoing costs of operation will need to be addressed after the grant project and funding period ends.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
296	<p>I've been following a city's proposed plan for an Asian (Silver and Bighead) carp processing plant along Illinois River similar to a pilot fish plant already in operation along in Havana, Ill.</p> <p>My question: In EPA's proposed funding plan for the 2010 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/glri/GLRIProposed2010FundingPlan050509.pdf (p. 11), "innovative control technologies" are listed as a priority. SO: Do the EPA and other agencies involved consider Asian (bighead and silver) carp processing plants an "innovative control technology?"</p>	2 - Invasives	General	Such a project would be eligible under that program.	Complete
297	How would you view a proposal which used EPA funding for a position that might be promoting the use of BMPs, or even helping to implement BMPs, that might be funded through NRCS dollars?	3 - Nearshore	Eligibility	Funding "capacity building" to support promote and/or implement BMPs is an eligible activity under this RFP.	Complete

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1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
298	We would like to offer cost-share funding to homeowners to get off of their septic systems and tie into sewer lines where available. Is this allowable with GLRI funds?	3 - Nearshore	Eligibility	This is not a NPS BMP it is considered a point source because they are taking a NPS and making into a point source that is covered by an NPDES Permit and NPS funds can be used to NPDES activities. Michigan DEQ did this same activity as a component of a CMI project and restored a waterbody (delisted from Michigan's approved 303(d) list) and then it submitted to EPA HQ as a NPS Success Story (http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/Success319/). EPA HQ's rejected it as a NPS Success Story because the solution (eliminating septic systems by tying them into an existing sewer system) was not considered a NPS solution but a point source activity. Also in Indiana this activity is an eligible activity under the State SRF Program.	Complete
299	How come I don't see the 'Enhanced 2010 National Coastal Assessment' program from EPA that was listed in the Interagency Funding Guide?	3 - Nearshore	General	We have chosen a non-grant funding vehicle; this work will be negotiated under a contract.	Complete
300	What role will USDA-NRCS have in reviewing proposal under topic 7 and 8?	3 - Nearshore	General	In appropriate situations, reviewers from USDA-NRCS may participate in the reviews.	Complete
301	What does USEPA mean by "nearshore"? I assume this varies by lake?	3 - Nearshore	General	For purposes of this RFP, the definition of "nearshore" is found under I.C. General Background, "The nearshore environment includes both aquatic and terrestrial features which extend variable distances away from the land-water intersection. This is the area in which most residents and visitors interact with the Great Lakes. . ." This paragraph further describes examples of degraded aquatic nearshore water quality and some potential environmental stressors.	Complete
302	How do these nearshore initiatives match up with IJC nearshore priorities?	3 - Nearshore	General	The GLRI RFP nearshore program elements, plus other RFP elements, align very well with the IJC 2008-2009 Great Lakes priorities.	Complete

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1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
303	To actually achieve measurable impacts on-the-ground would be very costly in the nonpoint control realm (dwarfing available funds)...yet planning or strategizing for expedited implementation establishes targets rather than truly being able to demonstrate a measurable change in the resoure(s) over the project period. Could change objectives or projections therefore be used to meet the measurability criterion if new tools, etc. to equip managers are made available?	3 - Nearshore	General	We assume this question is asking about the eligibility of the development of new tools for managers to apply to measure effects of nonpoint source control actions. Measuring “change” in highly variable environmental conditions can be difficult, especially over a relatively short time frame of a few years. The development of tools or techniques to assist managers to evaluate progress toward objective targets would be an eligible project under this RFP.	Complete
304	Under the Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution section, are stormwater infrastructure improvements eligible if there is documented data showing that human feces are entering in the stormwater	3 - Nearshore	General	Stormwater infrastructure improvements might be eligible under this RFP. Ineligible activities are listed under III Eligibility and Matching, Ineligible Activities. “Under this RFP, EPA will not fund: water infrastructure projects that are addressed under the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund; . . .” Each State has an approved SRF Intended Use Plan which lists projects eligible for funding through that program, and thereby not eligible for GLRI funding.	Complete
305	We have an approach to provide incentives for a needs-based, variable-width buffer program; however the program would not follow other existing federal filter strip programs such as CREP or CRP, which local landowners are reluctant to sign up for. Can GLRI dollars be used to pay for buffer creation and payments to participants in what we believe will be a more appealing incentive program in our area?	3 - Nearshore	General	These may be eligible costs.	Complete

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1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
306	For the "sanitary survey" section of the nearshore health section, do projects need to be based on EPA-approved sanitary surveys, or can projects address management of contamination sources that haven't been proven directly through approved sanitary surveys but through other research?	3 - Nearshore	Program I.C.2	Projects to address contamination sources at beaches are eligible for consideration, whether or not the sources were identified through a formal Sanitary Survey process. Please review the information provided in the RFP Appendix under I.C.2.	Complete
307	Regarding program area 3 in the Nearshore Health focus area (Communicating Beach Monitoring to the Public), as well as other programs in other focus areas that call for communication and/or public outreach and education: Will proposals for nonprofit news organizations that dedicate time and resources to covering the GLRI be considered for funding?	3 - Nearshore	Program I.C.3	Eligible non-profit organizations are eligible to submit proposals for communications and/or outreach under RFP program element I.C.3 or other RFP elements. Proposals will be reviewed according to the criteria offered in section V. Application Review.	Complete
308	For 1.C.6 Nearshore waters impairments and stressors, one of the expected results is "math modeling of causal agents and nearshore impairments and results of management scenarios". Here are you referring to predictive or forecasting models or modeling of the environmental system (i.e. models of the actual environmental processes) ?	3 - Nearshore	Program I.C.6	Section I.C. Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution repeatedly refers to impairments of the aquatic nearshore waters and the potential environmental stressors that contribute to the impairments. Section I.C.6. of the Appendix states, "The intent of this program is to lead toward the reduction or elimination of the number and severity of incidences of nearshore nuisance problems such as Cladophora growth, harmful algal blooms (HABs), botulism, and other eutrophication-related issues." Proposals are requested that fully support this intent, including projects that involve modeling to better target restoration actions.	Complete
309	Would it be possible to recommend some top priority TMDL list	3 - Nearshore	Program I.C.7	No. Section I.C.7 of the Appendix provides some suggestions.	Complete

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1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
310	Can we use GLRI money to fund residential septic system repairs and replacements?	3 - Nearshore	Program I.C.8	For I.C.8. Watersheds Best Management Practices, Planning and Implementation. projects, GLRI funding is limited to practices/management measures that linked to identified water quality problems and are designed to eliminate/control the source/cause of the problem.	Complete
311	If there is an NRCS spec in the FOTG for a bmp, are we required to use it?	3 - Nearshore	Program I.C.8	Yes: in a national agreement between EPA and USDA for implementing the Clean Water Act Nonpoint Source Programs, both parties agreed to the use of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG)	Complete
312	Do livestock related bmps require a manure management plan and if so, can we use GLRI money to develop the plan?	3 - Nearshore	Program I.C.8	I assume this is in relation to non CAFO operations {activities required under a CAFO are considered NPDES requirements and not nonpoint source eligible activities}a plan is necessary to determine what is necessary to solve the identified water quality problems and planning is an eligible activity under section I.C.8. Watersheds Best Management Practices, Planning and Implementation. a in the RFP	Complete
313	Does a farm have to have a Conservation Plan for us to use GLRI money on it?	3 - Nearshore	Program I.C.8	It is unclear from your question if your referring to a whole farm plan or a conservation operations plan that is limited to cropping systems - I assume this in relation to a conservation operations plan which would be necessary to identify which practices/measures need to be implemented/installed to solve the identified water quality problems.	Complete
314	Nonstructural management practices are one of the most cost-effective source controls to reduce pollutants in ultra-urban areas where extensive retrofitting is not an option. Is the purchase of high-efficiency street sweeping equipment and a study of their pollutant removal effectiveness eligible for funding under the "Watersheds Best Management practices, Planning, and Implementation" grant?	3 - Nearshore	Program I.C.8	High-efficiency street sweepers are not eligible as a NPS Best Management Practice under any program I'm aware of. However, it is eligible under Section 402 stormwater and SRF for stormwater controls.	Complete
315	I'm wondering if development of a watershed management plan is eligible for funding under the current RFP.	3 - Nearshore	Program I.C.8	Yes, watershed planning is eligible for GLRI funding.	Complete

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1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
316	Under Watershed Planning and Implementaion BMPs, can you describe what is considered watershed modeling? Would hydrologic modeling for purposes of delineating and protecting unstudied flood plains be eligible?	3 - Nearshore	Program I.C.8	Hydrologic modeling to delineate and protect flood plains is an eligible activity under this RFP. Please refer to Section I.C.8. in the Appendix to understand the intent of this RFP program element. In particular, proects should lead “to watersheds remediation . . .”	Complete
317	Can Watershed BMPs be implemented in areas for which approved watershed plans do not exist?	3 - Nearshore	Program I.C.8	Yes.	Complete
318	We've heard that BMP funding will be prioritized for restoration work over protection work. In other words implementing a watershed protection plan in a relatively clean area where we are trying to protect existng water quality, would be a lower priority for funding than implementing a plan in a relatively polluted area. Is this true?	3 - Nearshore	Program I.C.8	There is no specific directive to prioritize funding for a plan in a polluted area rather than protecting a relatively clean area. Please review the Expected Outcomes and Outputs for this focus area, which will be part of the basis for proposal review. See V. Application Review, A. Strategic Approach.	Complete
319	Do existing watershed management plans developed through EPA 319 grant provide a basis for pursuing I.C.8?	3 - Nearshore	Program I.C.8	Yes. EPAs Nine Element Watershed Management Plans or other plans that are consistent with the Nine Element Plans are the basis for much of program elements of I.C.8.	Complete
320	I have a question on Section I.C.8 pages 1-27 and 28 of the proposal. Are you considering proposals that help with development of BMP implementation strategies through modeling? Or are you only focusing on projects that actually implement BMPs on the ground?	3 - Nearshore	Program I.C.8	Projects that apply modeling to help develop BMP implementation strategies are eligible under this RFP. However, please review the Expected Outcomes and Outputs for this focus area, which will be part of the basis for proposal review. See V. Application Review, A. Strategic Approach.	Complete

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1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
321	Are BMP's (stormwater ponds, biofilters, etc.) designed to reduce non-point source pollution including sediment & phosphorous eligible under the watershed best management practices portion (section 8) of the Nearshore Health and Nonpoint source pollution grant?	3 - Nearshore	Program I.C.8	Yes. See especially in the Appendix, Section I.C.8. Watersheds Best Management Practices, Planning and Implementation, subsection a.	Complete
322	Is it acceptable to use this federal assistance to conduct conservation work on private land?	4 - Habitat	Eligibility	Yes, provided that the project supports the (i) the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative; (ii) Sub-objective 4.3.3 (Improve the Health of Great Lakes Ecosystems) of EPA's Strategic Plan and/or (iii) the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy to Protect and Restore the Great Lakes.	Complete
323	If federal dollars have been spent before on restoration at a particular site, can we apply for funding for a different type of restoration at that same site?	4 - Habitat	Eligibility	An applicant may apply for funding for a different type of restoration at a site where federal dollars have been spent on restoration before.	Complete
324	If a design/construction project is proposed, does the design need to be completed, or can the design be part of the grant application?	4 - Habitat	Eligibility	Project design may be part of a grant application.	Complete
325	The RFP expressly prohibits land acquisition. Does it allow for the purchase of development rights or conservation easements?	4 - Habitat	Eligibility - Land Acquisition	No, EPA infrastructure cannot handle either acquisitions or easements. Two other federal agencies, NOAA and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, already have infrastructures in place and the GLRI will make use of their authorities for this type of project.	Complete
326	Why is land acquisition an ineligible activity?	4 - Habitat	Eligibility - Land Acquisition	Land acquisition is ineligible because EPA has no infrastructure in terms of attorneys on staff to handle this type of transaction and is unlikely to add attorneys for this purpose in the future. In addition, NOAA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service do list programs in the Interagency Funding Guide for land acquisition.	Complete
327	Will the EPA develop the infrastructure for handling fee or easement acquisition funding during the proposed five years of the GLRI?	4 - Habitat	Eligibility - Land Acquisition	No, it is unlikely that EPA will develop the infrastructure to handle acquisition and easements. Two other federal agencies, NOAA and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, already have infrastructures in place and the GLRI will make use of their authorities for this type of project.	Complete

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1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
328	This question concerns the use of GLRI funds for projects related to land acquisition and conservation easements. Can the funding be used to support the salary of staff to manage and acquire the conservation easements?	4 - Habitat	Eligibility - Land Acquisition	Land acquisition is an ineligible activity pursuant to p. 21 of the RFP. Counsel has clarified that activities in support of land acquisition would only be eligible if and to the extent the overall purpose of the proposed project met the requirements for a program activity under the Request for Proposals.	Complete/Updated
329	How come I don't see the 'Sustain Our Great Lakes' program from EPA that was listed in the Interagency Funding Guide?	4 - Habitat	General	The Sustain our Great Lakes RFP for this year has already been issued and closed. For more information visit: http://www.sustainourgreatlakes.org/Apply.aspx	Complete
330	I don't see the CELCP \$5 million in the RFP. Did I miss it, or has it been removed?	4 - Habitat	General	The CELCP program is a NOAA program. The Interagency Funding Guide (found at http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/) includes this information about that program: "Funding and program information can be found at http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/land/celcp_fundingop.html or by contacting Elaine Vaudreuil (301-713-3155 x103/Elaine.Vaudreuil@noaa.gov)"	Complete
331	In the interagency guidance document, there was a topic related to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) "Great Lakes Wind Power" to develop new bird and bat data, and I don't see it in the current RFP. Where is it?	4 - Habitat	General	This is a US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) program. The Interagency Funding Guide (found at http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/) includes this information about that program: "Additional information is available from Jeff Gosse (612-713-5138/ jeff_gosse@fws.gov), and at http://www.fws.gov/midwest/wind/ and http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIE&flag2006=false&oppId=45437 "	Complete
332	What sort of progress tracking is EPA looking to receive for projects? If it involves some sort of behavioral change, is a before and after survey appropriate? For restoration, do they want baseline monitoring and after completion monitoring?	4 - Habitat	General	At the present time, before and after restoration monitoring is not required for tracking. EPA will require interim reports and a final report that should detail outcomes and outputs of the project as well as track budget items. In addition, the appendix I.D. Habitat and Wildlife Protection and Restoration details what proposals need to demonstrate and therefore report on in subsequent required reports.	Complete

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1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
333	Is it acceptable to use this federal assistance to conduct habitat restoration or enhancement work on public trust (submerged) lands?	4 - Habitat	General	Restoration work may take place on public trust lands if permission and the proper permits have been obtained.	Complete
334	Restoration activities will require long-term monitoring and evaluation to validate project results. Should this monitoring be incorporated into the base restoration project proposal or submitted separately under the Accountability, Evaluation, Monitoring...et al. focus area?	4 - Habitat	General	Although monitoring is an important component of good habitat restoration, federal budgets do not usually accommodate monitoring beyond project completion. Applicants may describe proposed monitoring in both the short and long term understanding that this will take place independently of the base restoration grant. The applicant may also choose to apply separately under the Accountability, Evaluation, Monitoring...et al. focus area.	Complete
335	Can these funds be used to restore habitats on federal lands (i.e., NWRs)?	4 - Habitat	General	GLRI funds may be used to restore habitats on federal lands; however, federal agencies are not eligible to apply to this request for proposals.	Complete
336	Can you provide the speakers contact information for additional grant information for acquisition and easement programs?	4 - Habitat	General	NOAA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are the two agencies that fund land acquisition and easements. The contacts for NOAA are John Iliff, 301-713-0174 x109, John.Iliff@noaa.gov, and Jenni Wallace, (301) 713-0174 x183 (M,W), (410) 295-3153 (T,Th,F), Jenni.Wallace@noaa.gov. The contact for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is Amy McGovern, 312-886-1474, mcgovern.amy@epa.gov.	Complete
337	For eligibility, there seems to be a grey line between habitat restoration and remediation of contaminated sediment. What is that line? Why is one eligible while the other isn't?	4 - Habitat	General	Contaminated sediment remediation actions in Areas of Concern are eligible under the Great Lakes Legacy Act (GLLA). GLLA projects are non-grant projects and are conducted through a separate process for which submittals may be made throughout the year; consequently they are not a part of this Request for Proposals. Contact Marc Tuchman, 312-353-1369, tuchman.marc@epa.gov, for more information.	Complete
338	Under Section I.D.1, will grants only be awarded for Lake Erie & Lake Michigan biodiversity blueprints? What about implementation of existing Biodiversity Blueprint such as Lake Ontario's?	4 - Habitat	Program I.D.1	Please see I.D.4., Restoring Great Lakes Habitats, for reference to implementation of conservation plans such as the Binational Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Lake Ontario.	Complete

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1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
339	Page 15, # 1 Blueprints for Diversity Protection and Restoration. It notes that develop biodiversity blueprints for the Lake Michigan and Erie basins and other key subwatersheds. What does EPA consider "other key subwatersheds"? What criteria is being used to select these?	4 - Habitat	Program I.D.1	The paragraph on the project category "Blueprints for Biodiversity Protection and Restoration" listed on page 15 of the Request for Proposals (RFP) and the associated information in the appendix contain the criteria that will be used in selecting projects. "Other key subwatersheds" has not been defined beyond what is in the RFP.	Complete
340	Under the blueprints for diversity section, will you consider proposals that target aquatic or sediment microbial communities?	4 - Habitat	Program I.D.1	The "Blueprints for Biodiversity Protection and Restoration" program category states, "The blueprints will identify, synthesize, and analyze information regarding key species, natural communities, ecological systems and abiotic processes." The applicant will need to determine whether "aquatic or sediment microbial communities" fits under this category given the previous statement.	Complete
341	Can we submit one proposal for more than one lake? Or do we have to submit separate proposals?	4 - Habitat	Program I.D.1	It's up to you whether you submit one proposal or more than one.	Complete
342	If a project overlaps an Area of Concern but is not fully within it - how will it be considered if applied for under I.D.2 (habitat restoration in AOCs)?	4 - Habitat	Program I.D.2	A project will be considered if it fulfills the intent of I.D.2., Habitat Restoration in Great Lakes Areas of Concern: the project will lead to the delisting of habitat-related beneficial use impairments and/or lead to the achievement of blueprint-area goals.	Complete
343	If projects outside of but perhaps upstream or immediately downstream of the specific AOC's defined boundaries generate similar project outputs (for example where an AOC BUI suggests the restoration of so many acres of wetlands), can the same outputs created nearby be useful to achieve BUI delisting?	4 - Habitat	Program I.D.2	A project will be eligible under Section I.D.2 (habitat restoration in AOCs) even if located outside of the AOC, so long as it leads to the delisting of habitat-related beneficial use impairments.	Complete

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1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
344	I know you're looking for shovel-ready projects. Can you tell me how much design work needs to be completed in order to apply for GLRI construction funding? We'd like to obtain sufficient design and cost estimates for the 1-29-10 deadline and continue with actually complete design after that date. Is this acceptable?	4 - Habitat	Program I.D.2	It is acceptable to include some design work as part of a project proposal.	Complete
345	The description of the Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Monitoring program (Habitat and Wildlife Protection and Restoration Focus Area) includes funding in the amount of up to \$12 million for "one to five years." Does this mean the program is potentially being funded for the full 5 year period rather than year by year?	4 - Habitat	Program I.D.3	An assistance agreement could be awarded for a period of up to five years; however, dollars would not be awarded at one time but would be added incrementally each year dependent on the fiscal year budget approved by the President and Congress.	Complete
346	I.D.3 increased from an expected \$2.4 million to \$12 million. It would appear that there is a strategic/resource issue driving this, and/or a particular need or project goal USEPA feels needs addressed that will require larger funding. Can you discuss this?	4 - Habitat	Program I.D.3	The increase from \$2.4 million to \$12 million in I.D.3., Monitoring Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands, is due to the possibility that an assistance agreement could be awarded for a period of up to five years. However, dollars would not be awarded at one time but would be added incrementally each year dependent on the fiscal year budget approved by the President and Congress.	Complete
347	Are you looking at more comprehensive studies or can you look at one specific category (ie. amphibians) for monitoring?	4 - Habitat	Program I.D.3	Projects may consider comprehensive monitoring or monitoring one specific category (i.e. amphibians).	Complete

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1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
348	Project I.D.3 - Monitoring Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands. If an element of the GLCWC protocols will undergo a methodology refinement before the surveying begins (i.e., Marsh Monitoring Program bird surveying) should the proposal reflect the new protocol (based on the current science) or the one published in the GLCWC Monitoring Plan (Burton et al 2008)?	4 - Habitat	Program I.D.3	The proposal should reflect whatever protocols will be used to monitor in this particular project.	Complete
349	Does EPA have a target set of wetlands or can the applicant submit a wetland for monitoring? Target size of wetland?	4 - Habitat	Program I.D.3	All Great Lakes coastal wetlands were mapped and classified as part of a Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Monitoring Consortium cooperative agreement. That information is available at http://www.glc.org/wetlands/ . The applicant may submit a coastal wetland for monitoring; the Request for Proposals does not state a target size.	Complete
350	Is there a recommended land area size?	4 - Habitat	Program I.D.4	There is not a recommended land area size. However, the intent of the Request for Proposals is to fund projects that increase protection and restoration of habitats, including physical, chemical, and biological processes and ecosystem functions and maintain or improve the conditions of native fish and wildlife. The applicant must show how the project will contribute to the expected outcomes.	Complete
351	Could you elaborate on wetland "restoration." We're interested in constructed wetlands as a nutrient management practice. What kind of documentation would we need tht a wetland had existed on a project site before?	4 - Habitat	Program I.D.4	The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan defines restoration as, "the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged or destroyed." The Action Plan continues, "For purposes of this Initiative, restoration includes ecosystem protection, enhancement, rehabilitation and remediation. A restored ecosystem is resilient; chemical, physical, and biological functions and processes provide the requisite conditions for life. A restored ecosystem contains sustainable populations of native plant and animal species and their habitats. Potential threats or further damage have been eliminated or reduced as much as possible and the restored ecosystem is able to withstand future threats. Restoration is not the attempt to change the ecosystem to pre-European settlement conditions."	Complete

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1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
352	I was wondering if project I.D.4 ("Restoring Great Lakes Habitats") is intended to be specific to habitats coastal to the Great Lakes, or does it/can it include habitats within the Great Lakes basin that impact the health of the lakes.	4 - Habitat	Program I.D.4	Project I.D.4. states (page 15) that this program category may include proposals "to restore Great Lakes wetland, wetland-associated upland, coastal, upland, and island habitats." In addition, Section III of this Request for Proposals states that "[t]o be eligible for funding, proposed activities must be for programs, projects, or activities that are for the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes..." This means projects must impact the health of the Great Lakes.	Complete
353	Focus 4 Habitat: 2. Habitat Restoration: Will EPA fund projects that lead to de-listing of an AOC if the proposed work has been court-ordered to be completed by the local unit of government (i.e. would this work be eligible for funding)?	4 - Habitat	Program I.E.2	That type of activity would generally not be eligible if it would fund a "fine or a penalty" under OMB Circular A-122. Costs of fines and penalties resulting from violations of, or failure of the organization to comply with Federal, State, and local laws and regulations are unallowable except when incurred as a result of compliance with specific provisions of an award or instructions in writing from the awarding agency. See http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars_a122_2004/#b16	Complete
354	Any comment from the facilitator on the potential of involvement of CBO's and high schools from the education and monitoring focus area as well as possible curriculum development, especially in the urban areas such as South LSD in Chicago where there are ongoing projects...this would include mentoring possibly from existing and future contracts. Could things go beyond field trips?	5 - AEMECP	Eligibility	Depending on what is proposed, these could be eligible activities.	Complete
355	Is there a program in this RFP for the Lake Superior Cooperative Monitoring Year of 2010?	5 - AEMECP	General	EPA proposed to include a request for proposals related the Lake Superior Cooperative Monitoring Year of 2010 in a second RFP planned for Spring 2010.	Complete
356	Is there a program in this RFP for the Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council facilitation?	5 - AEMECP	General	LMMMC facilitation will not be issued in a RFP, but a request for 2010 Lake Michigan Cooperative Monitoring projects is included in this RFP.	Complete

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1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
357	How come I don't see the 'Economic and Social Values of Ecosystem Services' program from EPA that was listed in the Interagency Funding Guide?	5 - AEMECP	General	This program may be included in a second RFP to be released Spring 2010.	Complete
358	How come I don't see the 'Great Lakes Web Content, Applications, and Collaboration Platform' program that was listed in the Interagency Funding Guide?	5 - AEMECP	General	This program may be included in a second RFP to be released Spring 2010.	Complete
359	How come I don't see a location for quality assurance support that was listed in the Interagency Funding Guide under the 'Coordinated Implementation of Lakewide Management Plans, Programs, and processes through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative' program?	5 - AEMECP	General	State quality assurance support is being negotiated separately with the States.	Complete
360	Can you develop your proposal around data that has already been collected from continuous monitoring early warning detection devices for the past 3 years and initiate analyses of the data collected for the past 3 years on WQ being archived at 10 monitoring stations?	5 - AEMECP	General	Proposals based on data from successful monitoring programs are welcomed. However, in accordance with the Conference Report to Public Law 111-88, funds are to "supplement and expand, not supplant, base Great Lakes programs when compared to fiscal year 2009 levels."	Complete
361	Can EPA labs as a source of data be anticipated and included in the proposal?	5 - AEMECP	General	Data from federal laboratories is in the public domain and may be included in proposals. Federal agencies are not eligible for funding under this RFP.	Complete
362	It's not clear where coastal classification projects would fit into the RFP focus areas and project categories. Can EPA provide information where this type of work might be proposed?	5 - AEMECP	General	Applicants are responsible for identifying the program area for their proposals.	Complete

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1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
363	Is there a specific place for climate change mitigation/adaptation project solicitation?	5 - AEMECP	General	There is not a single program activity for climate change mitigation / adaptation projects. The RFP incorporates planning for climate change into many project solicitations. The first bullet under section I.E.2 describes example projects including public outreach, participation, and education in support of Great Lakes and/or LaMP (and Lake St. Clair and connecting channels) goals, including climate change outreach/education and adaptation projects.	Complete
364	And, lastly, were we to receive a grant, would EPA really have oversight and administration of the project?	5 - AEMECP	General	Any award in this focus area would be issued, overseen, and administered by EPA.	Complete
365	Can funding in this focus area be used to provide monitoring resources to agencies. Specifically, would you consider supporting the acquisition of boats and/or other facilities that states might use to conduct other work in support of the goals of this focus area?	5 - AEMECP	General	These may be eligible costs; however, there may be a need for clarification about such a purchase and a need to demonstrate that the monitoring resources are needed for the project.	Complete
366	Do you anticipate ship time on the Lake Guardian to be impacted by GLRI?	5 - AEMECP	General	Yes, we anticipate that ship time will be impacted by the GLRI. The Lake Guardian may be available as a sampling platform to assist grantees in its efforts. Limited R/V Lake Guardian time would be made available to accomplish this work at no cost to the applicant. The exact dates and duration of the ship time would be negotiated with the grant recipients.	Complete
367	We are wondering if Lake Michigan Academy funding could be used to conduct training on issues such as environmental input into the transportation planning and project development process, or improving local environmental groundwater data available available to local transportation sponsors)?	5 - AEMECP	General	The Lake Michigan Watershed Academy is described in the RFP as "Lake Michigan-sensitive land use and transportation planning by regional planning organizations." Such organizations may use that funding for the Lake Michigan-related purposes you describe.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
368	Will funding program I.E.2 support implementation of Lake Ontario Biodiversity Strategy and/or the Lake Huron Biodiversity Conservation Strategy activities or is it intended to support only participation in the LaMP process?	5 - AEMECP	Program I.E.2	Section I.E.2 and Appendix II identify some of the critical LaMP programs, projects, and activities for implementation that are not solicited under other programs in the RFP. Section I.D.4 of the RFP specifically mentions the Lake Ontario Binational Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and its goals as an example of the types of projects being sought.	Complete
369	Are education/outreach projects that focus, in part, on the Detroit River (Detroit River RAP area) eligible under Section I.E.2	5 - AEMECP	Program I.E.2	Yes, the first bullet under section I.E.2 describes example projects including public outreach, participation, and education in support of Great Lakes and/or LaMP (and Lake St. Clair and connecting channels) goals.	Complete
370	On page I-34 Section I.E.2. of the RFP (Coordinated Implementation of LaMPs, programs and projects) - Does this replace the RFP issued in Dec. 08 for Lake Forums (EPA-R5-GL2009-2)? Have awards been made for that RFP?	5 - AEMECP	Program I.E.2	Awards have been made pursuant to that RFP.	Complete
371	On page I-35 of the RFP there is reference to "Green Marinas." What does this refer to? Is this the same as Clean Marinas? We do not see the tie between this and the current LaMP programs.	5 - AEMECP	Program I.E.2	The terms "Clean Marina" and "Green Marina" are both used to indicate a marina that has done an environmental assessment of its operation and adopted new procedures to address areas where environmental issues were pointed out in the assessment. Many states have a formal program for marinas to join. For more information on Clean Marinas, please refer to www.epa.gov/nps/marinas/ . Please also refer to the LaMP documents (links provided in Appendix II of the RFP) for more detailed information on these programs and their linkages to LaMP goals, objectives, priorities, and next steps. For example, Chapter 9 of the Lake Michigan LaMP 2008 outlines the major challenges to create a framework of tools and activities to support stewardship at the community level. It also outlines on pages 5-9 USEPA's Sustainable Ports Plan, Lake Michigan Ports locations, and the Lake Michigan Ecosystem Environmental Management Assessment Tool 's application project in Muskegon, MI.	Complete
372	Can you have a Green infrastructure project in a CSO area?	5 - AEMECP	Program I.E.2	Yes.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
373	Under the "Coordinated LaMP Implementation" category, do public outreach/education projects need to be basin-wide to be eligible for funding, or can local/regional projects be eligible (assuming they can make a connection to LaMP implementation)?	5 - AEMECP	Program I.E.2	Outreach/education projects do not need to be basin-wide to be eligible for GLRI funding. However, these projects should make a direct linkage to LaMP implementation and reflect LaMP priorities, as discussed in the LaMP documents (links provided in Appendix II of the RFP).	Complete
374	Where can we find out more information about the 2010 Nearshore Coastal Assessment referred to under program I.E.4?	5 - AEMECP	Program I.E.3	The 2010 Nearshore Coastal Assessment is part of a series of probability based surveys of aquatic resources. Please refer to the following website for more information < http://www.epa.gov/owow/monitoring/nationalsurveys.html >. The National Coastal Condition Reports describe the ecological and environmental conditions in U.S. coastal waters using data collected during these assessments and highlight several other exemplary federal, state, tribal, and local programs that assess coastal ecological and water quality conditions. 2010 is the next assessment field year for this every five year report. US EPA is working with coastal states to plan and execute the 2010 sampling. In the Great Lakes, there will be 50 samples per lake. As stated in the RFP, coordination should occur with State agencies and other engaged in nearshore monitoring.	Complete
375	Under program I.E.7, are 'sensors' strictly remote, on-line sensors, such as T, chlorophyll, DO sensors etc?	5 - AEMECP	Program I.E.7	I encourage you to review the links identified under section I.E.7 that describe in more detail the Integrated Earth Observing System and the Integration Ocean Observing System (IOOS). In fairness to all applicants, we cannot screen potential projects or applications prior to their submission through the established process. To do so would compromise a fair and open competition for the best project ideas to advance the restoration of the Great Lakes. We suggest you carefully review all the funding opportunities under this RFP both the descriptions in pages 5 through 18 and the detailed information in pages I-1 to I-38, and then submit your proposal to the focus area and program in which it fits best. You know your project best and can find the best fit for it. Consider the principle objective of your project and how that compares to the outcomes and outputs for the focus areas and to the expected results for the programs.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
376	The RFP talks about an observing system that will provide a comprehensive assessment of the Great Lakes ecosystem. Is this meant to imply that any observing system that helps fill gaps in efforts to measure and monitor indicators of ecosystem function fits within the project scope, including science-related efforts such as improving water balance characterization (i.e. water levels) of the lakes? Or does the monitoring system necessarily exclude science related studies such as water-balance studies?	5 - AEMECP	Program I.E.7	Under I.E.7 of the RFP, we are looking for projects that implement strategic components of the ocean and earth observing systems described in the RFP that are relevant to Great Lakes decision making. I encourage you to look at the expected results under the Observing Systems program (in addition to the outcomes and outputs for the AEMECP focus area) and compare them to the objectives of your project.	Complete
377	On page 17 of the RFP there is reference to "Great Lakes States' enhanced tributary monitoring efforts." What does this refer to? We are aware of no such effort in our state.	5 - AEMECP	Program I.E.7	The intent of the reference is to focus development and implementation of observing system components in the nearshore area and close to tributaries. The reference to Great Lakes States' enhanced tributary monitoring efforts is meant to encompass the myriad of tributary monitoring projects and programs that other Federal agencies, states, tribes and locals have undertaken or will undertake through the GLRI.	Complete
378	Will you be accepting proposals under 8. Innovative Environmental Approaches, or will this be where innovative proposals from other focus areas get moved if don't quite fit?	5 - AEMECP	Program I.E.8	The applicant is responsible for selecting the appropriate program and may choose to submit a proposal under program activity 8 for Innovative Environmental Approaches. EPA will not switch proposals from one program activity to another.	Complete

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Question	Focus Area	Category	Answer	Status / Comments
379	Under Task I.E.8. Accountability, Education, Monitoring, Evaluation, Communication, and Partnerships – Innovative Environmental Approaches - is Evaluation limited to physical measures OR is there interest in identifying, documenting, monitoring societal and economic benefits, as well?	5 - AEMECP	Program I.E.8	This RFP program activity encompasses work that is innovative and not specifically mentioned in the other focus area 5 program activities; therefore, could include many varied topics. Please also note that there is an EPA program listed in the Interagency Funding Guide < http://www.epa.gov/glno/glri/fundingguide2009_r3.pdf > called Economic and Social Values of Ecosystem Services. This program may be included in a second RFP to be released Spring 2010. In fairness to all applicants, we cannot screen potential projects or applications prior to their submission through the established process. To do so would compromise a fair and open competition for the best project ideas to advance the restoration of the Great Lakes.	Complete
380	Is funding for a climate change projects that has data within different agencies, but not analyzed together a possibility to be funded under #8 of Focus 5?	5 - AEMECP	Program I.E.8	This RFP program activity encompasses work that is innovative and not specifically mentioned in the other focus area 5 program activities; therefore, could include many varied topics including climate change projects. It should also be pointed out that while there is not a single program activity for climate change mitigation / adaptation projects, the RFP incorporates planning for climate change into many project solicitations.	Complete
381	Under focus area 5, sections 5 or 8, will you consider proposals that attempt to predict the stability of contaminated sediments under changing global warming scenarios. I was a little confused by your comment regarding sediment. An aquatic ecosystem would seem to include sediments.	5 - AEMECP	Program I.E.8	Yes, sediments are considered part of the ecosystem. You know your project best and can best determine where it will fit. Consider the principle objective of your project and how that compares to the outcomes and outputs for the AEMECP focus areas and to the expected results for the program areas I.E.5. and I.E.8.	Complete
382	Is the mention of the "\$100,000 to \$250,000" funding range a strict limit? In other words, would you consider a proposal in excess of \$250,000?	5 - Habitat	Program I.D.1	The dollar amounts are approximate; proposals may exceed (or be less than) the range.	Complete