



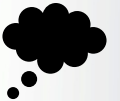
National Priorities: Evaluation of Pollutants in Biosolids

Informational Webinar for Applicants



EPA National Priorities RFA

October 27, 2020

- Review application Information for the EPA NP RFA:
“Evaluation of Pollutants in Biosolids”
- Provide guidance for eligibility, submission, technical aspects of application process
- Answer questions about the application process



Webinar Ground Rules

- Please hold your questions until all EPA presentations have been made.
- You may type your questions in the comments box. 
- No specific research project or idea can be discussed but, clarifying questions regarding what is written in the RFA announcement may be answered.
- These slides will be provided after the webinar.
- Please keep yourself muted during the presentation. 



Agency Contacts

- **Technical Contact:** Ben Packard, Project Officer (packard.benjamin@epa.gov); phone: 202-564-7673
- **Eligibility Contact:** Ron Josephson, Eligibility & Peer Review Officer (josephson.ron@epa.gov); phone: 202-564-7823
- **Electronic Submissions:** Debra M. Jones, Administrative Officer (jones.debram@epa.gov); phone: 202-564-7839





National Research Program Overarching Research Topics

Clean Water Act

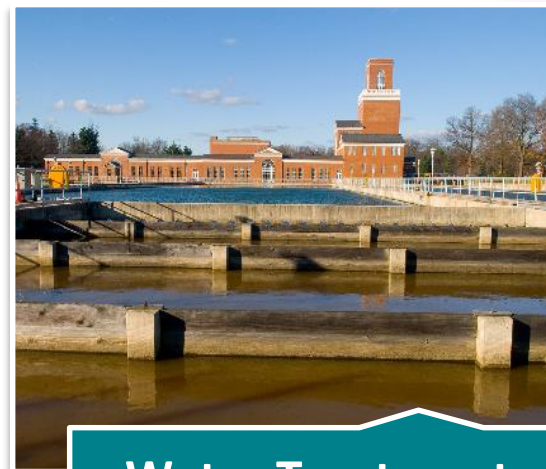
Safe Drinking Water Act



Watersheds



**Nutrients and
Harmful Algal
Blooms**



**Water Treatment
and Infrastructure**

SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH PROGRAM



RFA & Award Information

- Estimated Number of Awards: 4
- Anticipated Funding Amount: \$1,498,000 per award
- 25% non-federal cost share/match is **required**
- Proposed budget must not exceed \$1,498,000.
- RFA will close on January 5, 2021 at 11:59:59 pm Eastern Time

Read the RFA very carefully, all necessary information is provided

Research Areas:

1. Understanding the impact of different common treatment and management processes on resulting pollutant levels in Class A & B biosolids.
2. Better understanding of the occurrence, fate, and transport of chemical pollutants in land-applied biosolids.

EPA encourages applicants to focus on only one research area. However; applications that address more than one research area will not be deemed ineligible but will not necessarily be rated more highly than those that address just one.



Research Area 1 – Treatment and management processes on pollutant levels in biosolids

- What are the differences in biosolids quality generated from municipal dominated sources and mixed municipal/commercial/industrial sources?
- What is the fate and transportation of chemicals of emerging concern and pollutant groups in biosolids treatment management?
- What are amendments or novel processes that can remove or degrade chemicals of emerging concern in sludge and biosolids?
- Can analytical methods be developed or adapted to identify chemical pollutants in raw sewage sludge, biosolids, and composts throughout the residual's management process?

Research Area 2 – Occurrence, fate and transport of pollutants in land-applied biosolids

- What are the highest priority chemical pollutants in land-applied biosolids?
- What are the fate, transport and transformation characteristics of high priority chemical pollutants when biosolids are land- applied?
- What is the distribution and variability in the uptake, transformation, and movement of chemical pollutants and groups of pollutants in plants grown for human consumption and livestock feed?
- What tests and procedures, or suite of tests and procedures for biosolids can be developed as screening tools prior to land application?

- Information for utilities to better understand the products from a given process or treatment train.
- Biosolids management options and costs for handling biosolids and wastewater treatment processes.
- Economic analyses evaluating the feasibility of treatment processes.
- Cost effective methods to be used by states and utilities.
- Training on new methods to evaluate chemical pollutants in biosolids.



Example Outputs – Research Area 2

- Information to describe chemical pollutant concentrations in relevant media and models to predict chemical pollutant concentrations to support risk assessments.
- Risk communication materials and tools that translate scientific results into easily understandable outreach and education materials for wastewater professionals and the public.
- New and updated management strategies for biosolids based on characterization and modeling studies.



Applicants should describe the following:

- Type of collaboration/support proposed and what role it will play in the overall project.
- How the collaboration will enhance the capacity of the project. How will results be useable by state/local agencies, utilities, and impacted communities
- How related or complementary projects/studies will be coordinated with activities of the project.
- How you will ensure that the collaboration will materialize during project performance.



Cooperative Agreements

EPA will award Cooperative Agreements:

- Cooperative agreements allow collaborations between EPA and the institution's principal investigators
- Collaborations should enhance recipient's project:
 - Data sharing from similar and complementary projects
 - Coordinating in-house research projects with
 - Sample analysis by EPA laboratories with unique instrumentation
- Once EPA determines which applications will be awarded, cooperative agreement terms and conditions, roles and responsibilities, will be negotiated and a memo will be developed along with terms and conditions for the award.
- EPA Employees should not be contacted in development of their proposals.



Eligibility Information

Eligible to Apply:

Public and private nonprofit institutions/organizations

Public and private institutions of higher education

Domestic Research that will benefit the US

Foreign collaborators, data collection or use are OK

- International Budget needs to be justified, reviewed, and approved



Application Materials

- To apply under this solicitation, use the application package available at **Grants.gov**
- For further submission information see: **RFA Section IV.F. “Submission Instructions and other Submission Requirements”**
- Note: All necessary forms are included in the electronic application package, with the exception of the current and pending support form, available at: **Research Funding Opportunities: How to Apply and Required Forms**

Make sure to include the current and pending support form in your Grants.gov submission

Please refer to the following RFA sections for additional information:

IV. Application And Submission Information

- Required application package materials including:
 - EPA Human Subjects Research Statement (HSRS)
 - Scientific Data Management Plan (SDMP)

V. Application Review Information

- Peer Review Criteria
- Relevancy Review Criteria



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Thank you!

