

Innovative Water Technologies for Lagoon Wastewater Systems in Small Communities RFA

Informational Webinar Questions and Answers

February 3, 2022

1. Could a public water system apply to install new equipment that has not been deployed and tested in the U.S.?

Answer: The deployment of technology can be part of the research application, but the application must address the components of both research areas. If deployed, the technology must be in the United States for a lagoon facility in a small community (serving less than 10,000 people) and should capture three years of performance, operation and maintenance, and cost data in the overall analysis. Data on a novel technology must also include a comparison to other lagoon systems.

2. Is it the intent that technology procurement occurs before the application submission?

Answer: It does not have to occur before the application submission, but three years of data is required for the analyses. The project period is four years with the option for a one year no cost extension.

3. Must it be full scale for the project, or could someone do multiple pilots at a single location?

Answer: Different scales and multiple pilots are acceptable. The technology piloted should be structured to obtain useful data for comparison to other lagoon systems as well.

4. Is a Tribal community considered as foreign entity?

Answer: Tribal communities are not considered foreign entities. According to the RFA (Section III.A), "Public water systems, institutions of higher education (IHEs), research institutions or foundations, regional water organizations and certain nonprofit organizations as further described below, located in the U.S. or its territories or possessions are eligible to apply." A Tribal community may be a subawardee to an eligible applicant.

5. Will the type of nutrients addressed by the technology affect weighting of proposal?

Answer: For the purpose of this RFA, nutrients are defined as total nitrogen, total phosphorous and ammonia. Applications that do not address all 3 types of nutrients will not be scored lower. However, the RFA states the primary nutrient of interest is ammonia and should therefore be a component of the research proposal.

6. Does infrastructure modification matter or does it boil down to overall cost?

Answer: Lagoon infrastructure may contain many modifications that are relevant as long as the core technology remains a lagoon system and the modification improves the overall performance. The modification should be captured in the data collected on performance, capital costs, long-term operations and maintenance and inform the life cycle cost and life cycle impact analyses. Life cycle cost, not just the overall cost, is a large aspect for consideration as well as sustainability and required skills for operation and maintenance for add-on technologies and modifications.