EIS No. 950048, DRAFT EIS, AFS, OR, Santiam Pass Forest Health Project, Implementation, Willamette National Forest, McKenzie Ranger District, Linn County, OR, Due: April 10, 1995, Contact: John P. Allen (503) 822–3381.

EIS No. 950049, DRAFT EIS, COE, NC, Buckhorn Reservoir Expansion, Construction of a Dam to Impound Water on the Contentnea Creek, COE Section 404 Permit, City of Wilson, Wilson County, NC, Due: April 10, 1995, Contact: William Adams (910) 251–4748.

EIS No. 950050, DRAFT EIS, SCS, NB, Wahoo Creek Watershed Plan, Flood Prevention and Watershed Protection, Funding and COE Section 404 Permit, Saunders County, NB, Due: April 11, 1995, Contact: Ronald E. Moreland (402) 437–5300.

EIS No. 950051, DRAFT EIS, COE, LA, Amite River and Tributaries Flood Control Project, Implementation, East Baton Rouge Parish Watershed, Florida Parishes, LA, Due: April 14, 1995, Contact: Bill Wilson (504) 862–2527.

EIS No. 950052, DRAFT EIS, SCS, MO, IA, East Fork of the Grand River Watershed Plan, Implementation, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention, Funding, Ringgold and Union Counties, IA and Harrison and Worth Counties, MO, Due: April 10, 1995, Contact: Russell C. Mills (314) 876–0901.

EIS No. 950053, FINAL SUPPLEMENT, NPS, MO, Page Avenue Extension, Bennington Place to US 40, Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park Conservation of Land for Construction of a 10–Lane Elevated Extension of Page Avenue, Approval, St. Louis and Charles Counties, MO, Due: March 27, 1995, Contact: William W. Schenk (402) 221–3431.

EIS No. 950054, LEGISLATIVE DRAFT, AFS, ID, North Fork of the Clearwater River Drainage Kelly Creek and Cayuse Creek, Wild and Scenic River Study, Suitability or Nonsuitability for Designation or Nondesignation in the National Wild Scenic River System, Clearwater National Forest, Clearwater and Idaho Counties, ID, Due: May 25, 1995, Contact: Brian Hensley (208) 476–3775.

EIS No. 950055, FINAL EIS, UAF, OH, Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base (ANGB), Disposal and Reuse of Portons, Implementation, Franklin and Pickaway Counties, OH, Due: March 27, 1995, Contact: Ltc. Terry D. Armstrong (210) 536–3907.

EIS No. 950056, DRAFT EIS, USN, CT, GA, VA, Seawolf Class Submarine Homeporting Program on the East Coast of the United States, Site Selection, COE Section 404 Permit and Implementation, CT, VA and GA, Due: April 10, 1995, Contact: Robert Ostermueller (610) 595–0759.

Dated: February 21, 1995.

William D. Dickerson,

Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 95–4613 Filed 2–23–95; 8:45 am]

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[FRL–5160–9]

Fiscal Year 1995 Solicitation for Socioeconomic Projects Related to Pollution Prevention

Introduction

This Announcement describes a solicitation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to support projects directed toward furthering the objectives of the President's Environmental Technology Initiative (ETI). The ETI is an integral part of the Administration's broad new technology policy, which is outlined in ''Technology for America's Economic Growth: A New Direction to Build Economic Strength''. This government-wide policy recognizes that industry is the primary creator of new technology and the main engine of sustained economic growth. The policy assigns the federal government a catalytic role in promoting the development of new technologies for use across a range of sectors including auto manufacturing, computers and electronics, iron and steel, metal finishing and plating, petroleum refining, and printing—as well as converting defense technologies to civilian applications. The ETI addresses all of the above sectors that are concerned with environmental protection.

EPA seeks proposals to conduct socioeconomic initiatives related to pollution prevention—i.e., projects focused on policy reforms, opportunities for building innovation capacity, and diffusion of innovative prevention technologies. EPA's interests in this instance are clearly distinct from conventional socioeconomic research and development. That is, they go beyond study and analysis of issues to apply existing knowledge in pioneering attempts to effect social or institutional change with respect to promoting development and implementation of innovative technology.

EPA is directing approximately $3.5 million this fiscal year (FY) in awards under this initiative to nonprofit organizations. Proposals averaging $150,000 per year with a maximum duration of 2 years are sought.

Nonprofit organizations are generally defined as those organizations that qualify for such status under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Service tax code. Examples of nonprofit organizations include public and private universities, as well as trade associations, professional societies, research consortia, and community development corporations.

This Announcement can be accessed on the Internet at the following Gopher and World Wide Webb (WWW) addresses:

Gopher: GOPHER.EPA.GOV

WWW: HTTP://WWW.EPA.GOV

Rationale

EPA has structured its ETI project-selection process for FY95 to conform to the strategic ETI objectives contained in the Agency's Draft Technology Innovation Strategy (EPA 543–K–93–002), January 1994. This strategy has the following objectives (please refer to the draft Strategy document for more detail on these objectives):

(1) *Policy Framework:* Adapt EPA's policy, regulatory, and compliance framework to promote innovation;

(2) *Innovation Capacity:* Strengthen the capacity of technology developers and users to succeed in environmental innovation;

(3) *Diffusion:* Accelerate the diffusion of innovative technologies at home and abroad; and

(4) *Environmental and Pollution Prevention Technologies:* Strategically invest funds in the development and commercialization of promising new technologies.

This solicitation is focused on pollution prevention-related proposals that support the first three objectives. Proposals relevant to the fourth objective are being sought jointly by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and EPA through a contemporaneous solicitation. Information about the joint solicitation can be obtained from either NSF (pfirth@nsf.gov; voice 703/306–1480) or EPA (202/260–7474).

The 1990 Pollution Prevention Act declares pollution prevention to be national policy and states that ''* * * pollution should be prevented or reduced at the source whenever feasible.'' Pollution prevention is now considered EPA's preferred choice for environmental protection, and the Agency is seeking to integrate prevention as an ethic throughout all of its activities. Pollution prevention includes equipment or technology modifications, process or procedure modifications, reformulation or redesign

of products, substitution of raw materials, and improvements in industrial housekeeping, operational maintenance, employee training, or inventory control.

On July 22, 1994, EPA Administrator Browner announced the new environmental policy Common Sense Initiative, which is designed to shift environmental protection from the current ''pollutant-by-pollutant, end-of-pipe, command-and-control'' approach to an ''industry-by-industry, multi-media, prevention-oriented'' approach. Six pilot industries were identified for CSI: auto manufacturing, computers and electronics, iron and steel, metal finishing and plating, petroleum refining, and printing. Proposals with relevance to these industries will receive priority consideration.

Program Scope

This EPA grant solicitation is intended to finance prevention-related projects supporting policy analysis (frameworks), institution building (innovation capacity), and domestic and international diffusion. Descriptions of each of the program areas that are addressed in this solicitation are as follows.

Policy-framework topics of interest include: (1) Strengthening incentives for the development and use of innovative prevention technologies; and (2) identifying and reducing barriers to innovation. Aspects to be addressed include regulations and implementation mechanisms (e.g., permitting and compliance policies and programs).

This program area encompasses all environmental media (water, air, etc.) and emphasizes pilot projects not analytical studies. Policy framework proposals often address issues that have a broader focus than pollution prevention alone. Such proposals are welcomed so long as they are also applicable to pollution prevention technologies or issues.

Policy framework focuses on environmental regulatory programs in the broadest sense, from regulation through compliance and enforcement. Projects selected in this areas will address regulatory programs in order to:

- Identify and enhance incentives for the development and use of prevention technologies;
- Minimize barriers to the development and use of such technologies; and
- Incorporate provisions into new and existing regulations and programs that maximize flexibility and widen the range of technologies accepted for use.

Special attention will be given to the use of market-based instruments for creating flexibility and incentives to innovate.

Innovation capacity proposals should be focused on how to assist, or catalyze, prevention technology development and commercialization efforts. Examples of possible work in these areas are programs or projects to:

- Establish programs to standardize testing protocols and verify the cost and performance of innovative prevention technologies;
- Provide pollution prevention technology testing centers;
- Catalyze the efforts of many organizations to promote innovation by convening partnerships;
- Develop and communicate timely information about high priority prevention technology gaps; and
- Work jointly with organizations in the public and private sectors to identify and address non-regulatory sources of market inefficiency and failure in the environmental technology sector.

Proposals on diffusion of information should focus on new and improved means of fostering information networks, technical assistance, and outreach activities. Both domestic and international applications are encouraged. For example, there is a need to enhance the capacity of existing or newly created public and private sector diffusion activities to serve the potential users of pollution prevention technologies both domestically and abroad. Proposals may include activities relating to market demand, availability, cost, performance, opportunities for business development, and regulatory requirements.

General Selection Criteria

The objective of this solicitation is to harness the capability of the nonprofit sector to help address the goals of the ETI. EPA will not accept proposals that are not directly related to one of the areas of ETI focus previously mentioned. Moreover, proposals must address barriers to the development and use of innovative pollution prevention approaches to be eligible unless they are addressing policy framework issues that will also benefit pollution prevention approaches as well as their target.

Each proposal will only be evaluated against one strategy objective based the information provided above. Proposals with relevance to industries highlighted by the Common Sense Initiative and the Design for Environment Program will receive priority consideration. Special consideration will also be given to projects that support small businesses and/or small communities. This focus on a select few industries is intended to provided concentrated support for cleaner technology development and commercialization and sustainable economic growth and increased competitiveness.

Many barriers to development and application of pollution prevention exist because of the lack of flexibility in the policy infrastructure. Thus, proposals that seek to make the implementation of environmental policy a process that is more friendly to technology innovation will also receive additional attention. This is the one area in which projects may go beyond the pollution prevention domain.

The most significant problems and creative solutions most likely will be identified by nonprofit organizations and industrial investigators, working together on challenges posed by real problems. Projects must show appropriateness to current national concerns for pollution reduction or prevention; vague arguments that the proposed project may eventually be of value are not compelling.

This initiative particularly seeks innovative and high risk/high payoff ideas. It does not invite studies of ''the problem'' but rather specific approaches to possible solutions. Since the preparation of competitive proposals is very time consuming, it is also well to present the following examples of what this initiative is not:

- Not basic research;
- Not technology development for pollution prevention, remediation, or control;
- Not diffusion of pollution control technology; and
- Not activities addressing processes to remove pollutants from waste streams or remediate waste problems.

Specific Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated against the following factors:

- Does the project reduce uncertainty, improve flexibility, speed timing, enhance cost-effectiveness, address liability constraints, and/or diminish restraints on technology innovation?
- Is there broad applicability of the project's expected results (i.e., across levels of government, different states, or environmental media)? Is the problem clearly defined?
- Does the project complement current environmental legislative initiatives or significantly strengthen the Nation's ability to meet existing statutory or regulatory goals?
- Will the project produce measurable, visible results in an expeditious time-frame? Action projects will be emphasized over studies. Do project participants have the authority to implement programmatic changes?

• Does the project support multi-organizational partnerships across the public and private sectors? Will the project include leveraging funds among the partnering organizations? Applicant's proposals will be given more consideration to the extent that matching funds or in-kind services from participating partners are included.

• Does the proposal address global, transboundary, or other international environmental issues directly affecting the United States or lower the cost of innovative technologies for use in the United States.

In addition, the following considerations relate to particular subtopics:

• Policy framework proposals will be reviewed with respect to their capability to advance the goals and activities of ETI; breadth of applicability of the expected results; and potential to reduce barriers and create incentives; and projected probability of success.

• Proposals embracing the theme of innovation capacity should specifically be designed to be self-sustaining after ETI funds are expended.

• Domestic diffusion proposals must be customer-based, and should emphasize pollution prevention technology approaches. Special consideration will be given to projects that support small businesses and/or small communities.

• International diffusion proposals should address global or international environmental issues that directly affect the United States. Proposals should also result in improving U.S. competitiveness and trade objectives in the international arena.

The Application

Application forms and instructions are available in the EPA Research Grants Application Kit. Interested investigators should review the materials in this kit before preparing an application for assistance. The kits can be obtained at the following address: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development, Office of Exploratory Research (8703), 401 M Street SW., Washington DC 20460.

Each application for assistance must consist of Application for Federal Assistance Forms (Standard Forms (SF): 424 and 424A), separate sheets that provide the budget breakdowns for each year of the project, the resumes of the principal investigator and co-workers, the abstract of the proposed project, and a project narrative. All certifications must be signed and included with the application.

The closing date for application submission is COB May 1, 1995.

To be considered, the original and eight copies of the fully developed research grant application, prepared in accordance with the instructions in the Application for Federal Assistance Forms, must be received by the EPA Office of Exploratory Research no later than the above closing date. Informal, incomplete, or unsigned proposals will not be considered. Completed applications should be sent via regular or express mail to: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development, Office of Exploratory Research (8703), 401 M Street SW., Washington DC 20460

Applications sent via express mail should have the following telephone number listed on the express mail label: (202) 260–7445.

Special Instructions

The following special instructions apply to all applicants responding to this request for application.

• Applications must unbound and clipped or stapled. The SF–424 must be the first page of the application. Budget information should immediately follow the SF–424. All certification forms should be placed at the end of the application.

• Applicants must be identified by printing ''ETI95'' in block 10 of the SF–424. This will facilitate proper assignment and review of the application.

• A one-page abstract must be included with the application.

• The ''project narrative'' section of the application must not exceed 25, consecutively-numbered, 8½ x 11 inch pages of standard type (i.e.,12 point), including tables, graphs, and figures. For purposes of this limitation, the ''project narrative'' section of the application consists of the following five items:

1. Description of Project
2. Objectives
3. Results or Benefits Expected
4. Approach
5. General Project Information.

Any attachments, appendices, and other references for the narrative section may be included but must remain within the 25-page limitation. Appendices will not be considered an integral part of the application.

Items not included under the 25-page limitation are the SF–424 and other forms, budgets, resumes, and the abstract. Resumes must not exceed two consecutively-numbered pages for each investigator and should focus on education, positions held, and most recent or related publications.

Applications not meeting these requirements will be returned to the applicant without review.

Guidelines and Limitations

All recipients are required to provide a minimum of 1% of the total project cost, which may not be taken from Federal sources. Subcontracts for research to be conducted under the grant should not exceed 40% of the total direct cost of the grant for each year in which the subcontract is awarded.

Eligibility

Nonprofit institutions located within the U.S., including public and private colleges and universities, are eligible under all existing authorizations. Federal agencies and federal employees as well as state and local governments are not eligible to participate it this program. Potential applicants who are uncertain of their eligibility should contact EPA's Grants Operations Branch at (202) 260–9266.

Proprietary Information

By submitting an application in response to this solicitation, the applicant grants EPA permission to share the application with technical reviewers both within and outside of the Agency.

Applications containing proprietary or other types of confidential information will be immediately returned to the applicant without review.

Funding Mechanisms

The funding mechanism for all awards issued under this solicitation will consist of a grant agreement between EPA and the recipient. In accordance with Public Law 95–225, a grant is used to accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by Federal statute rather than acquisition for the direct benefit of the Agency.

Minority Institution Assistance

Pre-application assistance is available upon request for potential investigators representing institutions identified by the Secretary, Department of Education, as Historically Black Colleges or Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACUs), or Native American or Tribal Colleges. For further information on minority assistance, contact Charles Mitchell by telephone at (202) 260–7448, by faxing a written request to (202) 260–0211, or by mailing it to the address for EPA's Office of Exploratory Research shown below.

Contacts

Additional general and technical information on this solicitation and the grants program may be obtained by contacting: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Exploratory Research (8703), 401 M Street SW., Washington, DC 20460, Phone: (202) 260–7474/Fax: (202) 260–0211.

Dated: February 16, 1995.

Joseph K. Alexander,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Research & Development.

[FR Doc. 95–4597 Filed 2–23–95; 8:45 am]

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[FRL–5161–7]

Notice of Public Meetings on Drinking Water Issues

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is holding public meetings related to the Agency's drinking water program over the next several months. Descriptions of the subject areas for the meetings are provided below, along with initial meeting dates, times and locations. Names and phone numbers of EPA contact persons are also provided. Additional information about a particular subject area, as well as dates of additional meetings, may be obtained by calling the EPA contact person listed for that subject area.

The purpose of the meetings is to provide EPA with ideas, suggestions and options either for proceeding with specific activities related to the drinking water program or which can serve as the basis for strategic decisions on program directions and resource allocations. The intent is to provide EPA with the full array of viewpoints, ideas and concerns which are held by its multiplicity of stakeholders. Summaries of the ideas and suggestions from the public meetings will be provided to EPA senior managers in the drinking water program for further consideration.

Some of the meetings will focus on how to carry out specific activities which the agency perceives as ripe for action and which can be undertaken within EPA's existing resource constraints. Others will be used to seek broad input on options for prioritizing among other possible activities within a subject area, including suggestions for other ways to do business. In some cases, these two approaches will be combined in a single meeting.

For some of the eight subject areas, only one or two public meetings may prove necessary. For others, such meetings may take place more frequently over a period of several months. Most of the meetings will be in Washington, D.C. Because EPA will not be able to fund travel for any participants, all meetings will be teleconferenced to enable participation by persons in other locales.

Where the Agency has chosen to proceed with a specific activity, such as revising the State Programs Priorities Guidance for the Public Water Systems Supervisory Program, we will also solicit participation in stakeholder forums in order to enable us to receive additional feedback. These forums will include the array of stakeholder interests. Members of the public may attend and observe the forums. As with the public meetings, the purpose of the forums will be to provide EPA with individual stakeholder views rather than to seek an opinion from the group as a whole.

Where EPA is seeking to prioritize among possible activities, the Agency will convene a senior EPA management group to review the public meeting summaries. That group will assemble the information and develop a program action plan consistent with available resources. The plan will be submitted to the National Drinking Water Advisory Council for its comment. Final decisions on priorities will be made by Assistant Administrator Robert Perciasepe. EPA will continue to seek further stakeholder input on how to proceed after priority activities have been determined.

Alternatively or in addition to attending any particular meeting, members of the public may submit written comments to the EPA contact person for up to fifteen days after the meeting. General questions about the meeting process should be directed to Charlene Shaw with EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water at (202) 260–2285.

Subject Areas and Initial Meeting Schedules

Regulatory Reassessment

EPA will hold a public meeting on regulatory reassessment on March 13, 1995, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the St. James Hotel, 950 24th Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20037. Meetings under this subject area will provide EPA with stakeholder input on priorities for regulating drinking water contaminants. There is a wide variability among the regulations in terms of the relative risk reductions they will produce. Also, EPA does not believe it has the resources to continue working on all regulations currently required in a timely and high quality fashion.

In addition to discussing regulation priorities, meeting participants may also suggest criteria for prioritizing rulemaking efforts. EPA will consider comments provided by participants in developing a prioritized list of regulatory activities. The priority list will be used to identify which regulations can be developed in the near term and which are appropriate for a much longer time frame for development. With this information, EPA hopes to renegotiate current court-ordered schedules and more effectively direct federal, State and local resources. EPA Contact: Jan Auerbach, (202) 260–5274.

Scientific Data Needs

EPA will hold a public meeting on scientific data needs on March 30, 1995, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the EPA Auditorium, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. Up to date information and quality models and methodologies are essential to sound regulatory and programmatic decision-making. They form the foundation for the more visible Agency actions and products. Since data collection and analysis is resource and time intensive, some trade-offs are inevitable. EPA will seek input regarding identification of the most critical needs. Meetings under this subject area would also seek input on other factors which may merit consideration.

This subject area encompasses a wide range of questions, including the following. Within the context of statutory goals and timetables, what types of data should be assembled and considered in chemical assessment? What levels of monitoring data are required at all stages of the contaminant evaluation process, from selection to actual regulatory decisions? What are the other key data needs with respect to regulatory impact assessment? What should the balance be between investing in more sophisticated cost estimate models versus reducing uncertainty in other areas such as health assessment? Within the context of statutory guidelines and available public and private resources, do interested parties believe surrogate indicators (such as volumes of pesticides used) are adequate for contaminant selection for Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) development, or should public water supply monitoring and federal reporting of those data precede MCL development? Beyond contaminant selection, cost and benefit assessments will be discussed.

This subject area also includes discussion of data needs related to source water protection, including drinking water occurrence, locational and well characteristic data which