

second White Paper will be available and used.

Dated: June 6, 1996.

Robert G. Kellam,

Acting Director, Information Transfer and Program Integration Division.

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[FRL-5520-6]

Request for Public Comment on the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) Guidelines for Project Submission and Criteria for Project Certification Document

AGENCY: Border Environment Cooperation Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for public comment.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of the BECC Guidelines for Project Submission and Criteria for Project Certification document for public review and comment.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the BECC on or before July 10, 1996. Oral comments may be received on July 18, 1996 at the BECC Board of Directors Public Meeting in San Diego, California.

ADDRESSES: To mail comments, receive a copy of the document, or for further information contact:

Ms. April Lander, MEM, Program Manager—Environment, Border Environment Cooperation Commission, P.O. Box 221648, El Paso, TX 79913, Telephone: 011-52 (16) 29-23-95, Fax: 011-52 (16) 29-23-97, Email:

alander@cocef.interjuarez.com

H. Roger Frauenfelder, General Manager, Border Environment Cooperation Commission, P.O. Box 221648, El Paso, TX 79913.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) is a binational organization, created through an agreement between the United States and Mexican governments via an environmental side agreement to NAFTA. The BECC assists communities and other sponsors in coordinating and implementing environmental infrastructure projects to help resolve environmental and human health issues on both sides of the U.S./Mexican border. Projects certified by the BECC may be considered for North American Development Bank (NADBank) financing and/or other sources of financing.

Prior to certifying environment infrastructure projects, and with

extensive public review and comment, the BECC Board of Directors adopted the BECC Guidelines for Project Submission and Criteria for Project Certification document (Criteria document) at its Regular Public Meeting, August 31, 1995 in El Paso, TX. The Criteria document provides guidelines for submission of projects using a two step process and indicates the eight fundamental areas of criteria for project certification, including: (1) General project description, (2) environment and human health, (3) technical feasibility, (4) economic and financial feasibility, (5) social issues, (6) community participation, (7) operations and maintenance, and (8) sustainable development. At the August 31, 1995 BECC Public Meeting, the Board of Directors decided to provide the public another opportunity to review and comment on the Criteria document after one year of application.

The BECC encourages public comments to be annotated directly on the Criteria document. The document may be found on the BECC Home Page at <http://cocef.interjuarez.com> and may be requested on computer diskette, via Email, or through the mail.

The BECC is particularly interested in receiving comments in the areas of small community assistance and sustainable development. Public comments may be submitted to the BECC in writing on or before July 10, 1996. Oral comments may be received at the July 18, 1996 BECC Board of Directors Public Meeting in San Diego, California. The Criteria document will be revised following a review and synthesis of the written and oral comments made by the public. It is anticipated that a final draft document will be available for public review in August. Furthermore, it is expected that the BECC Board of Directors will consider the final document for approval at its fall public meeting scheduled for October 24, 1996.

Dated: June 4, 1996.

H. Roger Frauenfelder,
General Manager.

[FR Doc. 96-15038 Filed 6-12-96; 8:45 am]

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[OPPTS-00189; FRL-5375-7]

Notice of Availability of FY 1996 Multimedia Environmental Justice Through Pollution Prevention Grant Funds

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: EPA is soliciting grant proposals under the Environmental Justice Through Pollution Prevention (EJP2) grant program. EPA anticipates that between \$750,000 and \$1.5 million will be available. The purpose of this program is to support pollution prevention approaches that address environmental justice concerns. The grant funds will support national or regional environmental or environmental justice organizations that will provide financial or technical assistance to community-based, grass-roots groups, or Tribal organizations for projects that use pollution prevention approaches to address environmental justice concerns.

DATES: Applications must be postmarked by July 31, 1996, and received by EPA's Pollution Prevention Division office in Washington, DC by August 5, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To obtain copies of the EJP2 grant program guidance and application package, or to obtain more information regarding the EJP2 grant program, please contact Chen Wen at (202) 260-4109, or Pamela Moseley at (202) 260-2722. You may also forward your requests and questions via the Internet, by writing to: wen.chen@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Scope and Purpose of the EJP2 Grant Program

The purpose of the FY 1996 EJP2 grants program is to fund national or regional environmental organizations that will in turn support community organizations in using pollution prevention solutions to address the environmental problems of minority and low-income communities and tribes. This grant program is designed to fund projects which have a direct impact on affected communities. This approach complements last year's Environmental Justice Through Pollution Prevention grant program, where grants were provided directly to grass-roots and community organizations. Funds awarded must be used to support pollution prevention programs in minority and low-income communities or Tribal lands.

EPA is particularly interested in innovative approaches which will result in activities and products that can be applied to other communities. The Agency strongly encourages cooperative efforts between communities, business and industry to address common pollution prevention goals. Projects funded under this grant may involve public education, training, demonstrations, research,

investigations, experiments, surveys, studies, public-private partnerships, or approaches to develop, evaluate, and demonstrate non-regulatory strategies and technologies.

II. Definitions of Environmental Justice and Pollution Prevention

Environmental justice is defined by EPA as the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, programs, and policies. Fair treatment means that no racial, ethnic or socio-economic group should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from the operation of industrial, municipal, and commercial enterprises and from the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies.

The Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 establishes a hierarchy of environmental management practices. In order of preferences, these practices include:

- Pollution prevention
- Recycling
- Treatment
- Disposal

Pollution prevention means source reduction; that is, any practice that reduces or eliminates any pollutant at the source prior to recycling, treatment, or disposal. Pollution prevention also includes practices that reduce or eliminate the creation of pollutants through:

Increased efficiency in the use of raw materials, energy, water, or other resources; and

Protection of natural resources by conservation.

This grant program is focused on using the top of the hierarchy--pollution prevention--to bring about better environmental protection.

III. Possible Approaches

Below are brief summaries of sample projects which meet the definitions of pollution prevention and environmental justice. These may help guide applicants as they develop their proposals.

- Provide funding, assistance, or technical support to organizations that will assist minority and low-income communities and Tribal organizations in obtaining environmental information or designing and implementing training programs for such communities to promote pollution prevention initiatives.

- Provide funding, assistance, or technical support to organizations that will conduct demonstration programs in concert with voluntary programs (e.g.,

the Green Lights program or the Waste Wise program) which promote resource efficiency, or EPA; industry sector projects such as the Common Sense Initiative.

- Provide funding, assistance, or technical support to organizations that will conduct research, demonstrations, or public educational training activities to institutionalize sustainable agricultural practices including integrated pest management techniques to reduce use of pesticides.

- Provide funding, assistance, or technical support to organizations that will establish demonstration projects to provide financial assistance through establishment of revolving loan funds to assist small businesses in obtaining loans for pollution prevention-oriented activities.

- Provide funding, assistance, or technical support to organizations that will be working with the business community in a collaborative fashion to address community environmental justice issues.

IV. Eligibility

Eligible applicants include currently incorporated organizations that are not intended to be profit-making organizations, including any Federally-recognized Tribal organizations. Organizations must be incorporated by July 31, 1996, in order to receive funds. Governments other than Tribal entities are not eligible to receive funding under this program. Private businesses and individuals are not eligible. Organizations excluded from applying directly are encouraged to work with eligible applicants in developing proposals that will include them as participants in the projects. For this funding cycle, EPA especially encourages organizations that are not experienced in grant writing to seek out partnerships with national or regional-based organizations.

No applicant can have two grants for the same project at one time. EPA will consider only one proposal for a given project. Applicants may submit more than one application as long as the applications are for separate and distinct projects. However, no organization will receive more than one grant per year under the EJP2 grant program. Organizations seeking funds from the EJP2 grants can request up to \$250,000. EPA anticipates most grants will be awarded in the \$100,000 and \$200,000 range. All grants are subject to a 5% matching requirement. All grantees are required to contribute at least 5% of the total project cost, either through in-kind or monetary contributions.

Dated: June 6, 1996.
William H. Sanders III,
Director, Office of Pollution, Prevention, and Toxics.

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[FRL-5519-5]

National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology; Reinvention Criteria Committee; Public Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: Under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, PL 92-463, EPA gives notice of a two-day meeting of the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) Reinvention Criteria Committee (RCC). NACEPT provides advice and recommendations to the Administrator of EPA on a broad range of environmental policy issues. The RCC has been asked to identify criteria the Agency can use to measure the progress and success of specific reinvention projects and its overall reinvention efforts; and to identify criteria to promote opportunities for self-certification, similar to the concept used for pesticide registration. This meeting is being held to provide the EPA with perspectives from representatives of state and local government, academia, industry, and NGOs.

DATES: The two-day public meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 24, 1996, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Thursday, July 25, 1996 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Dupont Plaza Hotel, 1500 New Hampshire Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20036.

Materials, or written comments, may be transmitted to the Committee through Gwendolyn Whitt, Designated Federal Official, NACEPT/RCC, U.S. EPA, Office of Cooperative Environmental Management (1601-F), 401 M Street, SW., Washington, DC 20460.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gwendolyn Whitt, Designated Federal Official for the Reinvention Criteria Committee at 202-260-9484.

Dated: May 30, 1996.
Gwendolyn C.L. Whitt,
Designated Federal Official.
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