

2000 Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilots on November 5, 1999. The Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund pilots (each funded up to \$500,000) test cleanup and redevelopment planning models, direct special efforts toward removing regulatory barriers without sacrificing protectiveness, and facilitate coordinated environmental cleanup and redevelopment efforts at the federal, state, and local levels. EPA expects to select up to 70 additional Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund pilots by May 2000. The deadline for new proposals for the FY 2000 Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund pilots is February 7, 2000. Proposals must be postmarked by February 7, 2000, and sent to U.S. EPA Headquarters. In addition, duplicate copies of the proposal must also be submitted to the appropriate U.S. EPA Regional Office, ATTN: Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Coordinator.

The Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund pilot proposals are selected on a competitive basis. To ensure a fair selection process, evaluation panels consisting of EPA Regional and Headquarters staff and other federal agency representatives will assess how well the proposals meet the selection criteria outlined in the newly revised guidelines, entitled *The Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative: Proposal Guidelines for Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund* (November 1999).

DATES: All proposals must be postmarked or sent to U.S. EPA Headquarters and a duplicate copy sent to the appropriate U.S. EPA Regional Office via registered or tracked mail no later than February 7, 2000.

ADDRESSES: BCRLF guidelines can be obtained by calling the Superfund Hotline at the following numbers: Washington, DC Metro Area at 703-412-9810
Outside Washington, DC Metro at 1-800-424-9346
TDD for the Hearing Impaired at 1-800-553-7672

Copies of the Proposal Guidelines for Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund are available via the Internet: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The U.S. EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, Outreach and Special Projects Staff, Barbara Bassuener (202) 260-9347 or Jennifer Millett Wilbur (202) 260-6454.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields Economic

Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, local governments, communities, and other stakeholders involved in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely cleanup, and sustainably reuse brownfields. As part of this Initiative, EPA has awarded cooperative agreements to States (including U.S. territories), political subdivisions (including cities, towns, counties), and Indian tribes to capitalize Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund pilots. The purpose of these pilots is to test brownfields cleanup revolving loan fund models that direct special efforts toward facilitating coordinated public and private brownfields cleanup efforts at the federal, state, and local levels.

In FY 2000, the EPA expects to select up to 70 new BCRLF pilots to be funded up to \$500,000 per eligible entity by the end of May 2000.

Eligible entities for FY 2000 BCRLF pilots, as in previous years, will be entities that have been awarded Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots prior to FY00. In addition, political subdivisions with jurisdiction over sites that have either (1) been the subject of a targeted brownfields assessment (formerly called targeted site assessments), or (2) been selected by the U.S. EPA prior to January 1, 2000, to be the subject of a targeted brownfields assessment, are also eligible for a single BCRLF pilot award. BCRLF pilot proposals do not have to be limited to sites identified, characterized, or assessed under a previously awarded assessment pilot or targeted brownfields assessment.

Proposals from coalitions are permitted to apply, but a single entity must be identified as the applicant. Additionally, a letter of support from each coalition member must be included as an attachment.

Applicants must demonstrate through their proposal: (1) An ability to manage a revolving loan fund and environmental cleanups; (2) a need for cleanup funds; (3) commitment to creative leveraging of EPA funds with public-private partnerships and in-kind services; and (4) a clear plan for sustaining the environmental protection and related economic development activities initiated through the BCRLF program. The eligible entities must meet EPA's threshold and evaluation criteria. There is no guarantee of an award. Also, the size of the awards may vary (for example, from \$50,000 to \$500,000 per eligible entity), depending on the proposal's responses to the evaluation criteria.

Funding for the Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund pilots is authorized under section 104(d)(1) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, (CERCLA or Superfund), 42 U.S.C. 9604(d)(1).

Submission to Congress and the General Accounting Office

The Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*, as added by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, generally provides that before a rule may take effect, the agency promulgating the rule must submit a rule report, which includes a copy of the rule, to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States. EPA will submit a report containing this action and other required information to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States prior to publication of the rule in the **Federal Register**. This action is not a "major rule" as defined by 5 U.S.C. § 804(2).

Date Signed: October 27, 1999.

Linda Garczynski,

Director, Outreach and Special Projects Staff, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6471-1]

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) or Superfund, Section 104; Announcement of Proposal Deadline for the Competition for Fiscal Year 2000 Supplemental Assistance to the National Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of proposal deadline and guidelines.

SUMMARY: The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will begin to accept proposals for supplemental assistance for the National Brownfields Assessment Pilots on November 5, 1999. Assessment pilots awarded on or before September 30, 1998, may apply for up to \$150,000 for continuance and expansion of their brownfields assessment efforts. This supplemental funding will be awarded on a competitive basis.

In fiscal year 2000, an additional \$50,000 may be awarded to an applicant

to assess the contamination of a brownfields site(s) that is or will be used for greenspace purposes. Greenspace purposes may include, but are not limited to, parks, playgrounds, trails, gardens, habitat restoration, open space, and/or greenspace preservation.

EPA expects to select up to 50 National brownfields assessment pilots to receive supplemental assistance by March 2000. The deadline for proposals for the 2000 supplemental assistance is December 22, 1999. Proposals must be post-marked or sent to EPA via registered or tracked mail by the stated deadline.

The supplemental assistance for the National brownfields assessment pilots will be administered on a competitive basis. To ensure a fair selection process, evaluation panels consisting of EPA Regional and Headquarters staff will assess how well the proposals meet the selection criteria outlined in the application booklet *The Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative: Proposal Guidelines for Supplemental Assistance for the Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots* (October 1999). Applicants are encouraged to contact and, if possible, meet with EPA Regional Brownfields Coordinators.

DATES: All proposals must be post-marked or sent to EPA via registered or tracked mail by December 22, 1999.

ADDRESSES: The proposal guidelines can be obtained by calling the Superfund Hotline at the following numbers:

Washington, DC Metro Area at 703-412-9810

Outside Washington, DC Metro at 1-800-424-9346

TDD for the Hearing Impaired at 1-800-553-7672

Copies of the guidelines are also available via the Internet: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Superfund Hotline, 800-424-9346.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As a part of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative, the Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots are designed to empower States, communities, tribes, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely cleanup and promote the sustainable reuse of brownfields. EPA has awarded cooperative agreements to States, cities, towns, counties and Tribes for demonstration pilots that test brownfields assessment models, direct special efforts toward removing

regulatory barriers without sacrificing protectiveness, and facilitate coordinated public and private efforts at the Federal, State, tribal and local levels. To date, the Agency has funded 307 Brownfields Assessment Pilots.

In fiscal year 2000, EPA has determined that brownfields assessment pilots awarded on or before September 30, 1998, may apply for up to \$150,000 for continuance and expansion of their brownfields assessment efforts. These pilots focus on EPA's primary mission—protecting human health and the environment. They are also an essential piece of the nation's overall community revitalization efforts. EPA works closely with other federal agencies through the Interagency Working Group on Brownfields, and builds relationships with other stakeholders on the national and local levels to develop coordinated approaches for community revitalization.

Supplemental funding for the brownfields assessment pilots is authorized under Section 104(d)(1) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, (CERCLA or Superfund), 42 U.S.C. 9604(d)(1). States (including U.S. Territories), political subdivisions (including cities, towns, counties), and federally recognized Indian Tribes which received a brownfields assessment pilot grant on or before September 30, 1998, are eligible to apply. EPA welcomes and encourages brownfields projects by coalitions of such entities, but only a single eligible entity may receive a cooperative agreement. Cooperative agreement funds will be awarded only to a state, a political subdivision of a state, or a federally recognized Indian tribe.

Through a brownfields cooperative agreement, EPA provides funds to an eligible state, political subdivision, or Indian Tribe to undertake activities authorized under CERCLA section 104. Use of these supplemental assistance pilot funds must be in accordance with CERCLA, and all CERCLA restrictions on use of funds also apply to the assessment pilots.

The evaluation panels will review the proposals carefully and assess each response based on how well it addresses the selection criteria, briefly outlined below:

Part I (Required)

1. Established Brownfields Program (4 points out of 20)
2. Accomplishments Under Existing Brownfields Assessment Pilot (4 points out of 20)
3. Demonstrated Ability To Administer Existing Brownfields

Assessment Demonstration Pilot (4 points out of 20)

4. Work To Be Performed (8 points out of 20)
- Part II (Optional)**
5. Greenspace
 - Authority and Context (2 points out of 8)
 - Community Involvement (2 points out of 8)
 - Site Identification, Site Assessment Plan, Flow of Ownership, and Reuse Planning (4 points out of 8)

Dated: October 26, 1999.

Linda Garczynski,

Director, Outreach and Special Projects Staff, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-00628; FRL-6392-1]

State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) Working Committees on Pesticide Operations and Management and Water Quality and Pesticide Disposal; Open Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: The State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) Working Committees on Pesticide Operations and Management and Water Quality and Pesticide Disposal will hold a 3-day meeting, beginning on November 8, 1999, and ending on November 10, 1999. This notice announces the location and times for the meeting and sets forth the tentative agenda topics.

DATES: The SFIREG Pesticide Operations and Management Working Committee will meet alone on Monday, November 8, 1999, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Pesticide Operations and Management and Water Quality and Pesticide Disposal Working Committees will meet jointly on Tuesday, November 9, 1999, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. The Water Quality and Pesticide Disposal Working Committee will meet on Tuesday, November 9, 1999, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and again on Wednesday, November 10, 1999, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at The Doubletree Hotel, 300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington-Crystal City, VA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Philip H. Gray, SFIREG Executive Secretary, P. O. Box 1249, Hardwick, VT