

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6987-7]

Chesapeake Bay Program FY2002 Request for Proposals

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Chesapeake Bay Program is issuing a request for proposals (RFP) that will further goals of the Chesapeake 2000 agreement. Up to 750,000 dollars may be available for Fiscal Year 2002. The Chesapeake Bay Program is seeking innovative, cost-effective proposals to accomplish the outcomes listed in the RFP. These outcomes were designed to help meet the Chesapeake 2000 goals. Any nonprofit organization, federal, state or local government agency, interstate agency, college or university is eligible to submit proposals in response to the RFP. Funding will be provided to an organization under the authority of Clean Water Act, section 117.

The RFP will be available May 30, 2001 at the following website: <http://www.epa.edu/r3/chespk/> You may receive a paper copy by calling Kim Scalia at 214-814-5421 or by e-mail at scalia.kim@epa.gov or by calling Lori Mackey at 410-267-5715 or by e-mail at mackey.lori@epa.gov. All proposals must be postmarked by Monday, July 16, 2001. Any late, incomplete, or faxed proposals will not be considered.

Diana Esher,*Acting Director, Chesapeake Bay Program Office.*

[FR Doc. 01-13511 Filed 5-29-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OW-FRL-6987-2]

Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.**ACTION:** Notice of Availability of Grants for Development of Coastal Recreation Water Monitoring and Public Notification Under the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act.**SUMMARY:** The Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act (BEACH Act) signed into law on October 10, 2000, amends the Clean Water Act (CWA) to reduce the risk of disease to users of the Nation's recreational waters. The BEACH Act authorizes the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA) to award program development and implementation grants to eligible States, Territories, Tribes, and local governments to support microbiological testing and monitoring of coastal recreation waters, including the Great Lakes, that are adjacent to beaches or similar points of access used by the public. BEACH Act grants also provide support for development and implementation of programs to notify the public of the potential exposure to disease-causing microorganisms in coastal recreation waters. EPA is now encouraging coastal States and Territories to apply for BEACH Act Grants for Program Development (referred to as Development Grants) to develop effective and comprehensive coastal recreation water monitoring and public notification programs.

DATES: Submit your application on or before July 30, 2001.**ADDRESSES:** You must send your application to the appropriate Regional Grant Coordinator listed in this notice under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section VII.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Charles Kovatch, 202-260-3754.**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Grant Program***What Is the Statutory Authority for the Development Grants?*

The statutory authority for BEACH grants section 406(b) of the Clean Water Act as amended by the BEACH Act, Public Law 106-284, 114 Stat. 970 (2000). It provides in part: "The Administrator may make grants to States and local governments to develop and implement programs for monitoring and notification for coastal recreation waters adjacent to beaches or similar points of access that are used by the public."

What Activities Are Eligible for Funding Under the Development Grants in Fiscal Year 2001?

In Fiscal Year 2001, EPA intends to award grants authorized under the BEACH Act to support the development of coastal recreation water monitoring and public notification programs. The BEACH Act requires EPA to publish performance criteria for monitoring and notification of coastal recreation waters by April 2002. EPA expects to publish performance criteria for implementation of coastal recreation water monitoring and public notification programs in October 2001. In fiscal year 2002 and beyond, if funds are appropriated to support this program, EPA expects to make grants to also support implementation of monitoring and

notification programs that are consistent with EPA's performance criteria.

II. Funding and Eligibility*Who Is Eligible to Apply for Development Grant Funds Under This Federal Register Notice?*

Coastal and Great Lake States are eligible for Development Grants to develop and implement monitoring and notification programs. The term "State" is defined in section 502 of the Clean Water Act to include the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. However, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands no longer exists. The Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau, which were previously entities within the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, have entered into Compacts of Free Association with the Government of the United States. As a result, each is now a sovereign, self-governing entity and, as such, is no longer eligible to receive grants as a Territory or possession of the United States.

Are Local Governments Eligible for Funding?

The BEACH Act authorizes EPA to make a grant to a local government for implementation of a monitoring and notification program only if, after the 1-year period beginning on the date of publication of performance criteria, EPA determines that the State is not implementing a program that meets the requirements of the statute. EPA expects to publish performance criteria in October 2001, and therefore expects October 2002 as the earliest date for local governments to be eligible for beach grants.

Are Tribal Governments Eligible for Funding?

Section 518(e) of the CWA authorizes EPA to treat eligible Indian tribes in the same manner as States for the purpose of receiving CWA section 406 grant funding. EPA is developing a rule that would establish procedures for Indian tribes to apply for eligibility for funding under the BEACH Act. The rule would contain the statutory criteria for Indian tribes to be treated in the same manner as a State and indicate how a tribe is to apply for such treatment. The rule would facilitate the award of funding to Indian tribes that qualify under this new CWA program. EPA plans to publish the rule as an interim final regulation in the **Federal Register** by the end of this