

Under the terms of the proposed settlement agreement, EPA has agreed that: (1) On or before October 31, 2005, the EPA Administrator will sign a notice of proposed rulemaking to amend the OLD as provided in Attachment A to the Settlement Agreement; (2) As part of the proposed amendments to the OLD, EPA will include language in the preamble as provided in Attachment B to the Settlement Agreement; (3) Within 180 days of the date the comment period on the proposed amendments closes, EPA will sign a notice of final rulemaking.

Petitioners have agreed to dismiss their petitions for review if EPA takes final action amending the OLD in a manner substantially the same as the amendments set forth in Attachment A and not substantially inconsistent with the language in Attachment B.

For a period of thirty (30) days following the date of publication of this notice, the Agency will receive written comments relating to the proposed settlement agreement from persons who were not named as parties or interveners to the litigation in question. EPA or the Department of Justice may withdraw or withhold consent to the proposed settlement agreement if the comments disclose facts or considerations that indicate that such consent is inappropriate, improper, inadequate, or inconsistent with the requirements of the Act. Unless EPA or the Department of Justice determine, based on any comment which may be submitted, that consent to the settlement agreement should be withdrawn, the terms of the agreement will be affirmed.

II. Additional Information About Commenting on the Proposed Settlement

A. How Can I Get A Copy Of the Settlement?

EPA has established an official public docket for this action under Docket ID No. OGC-2005-0014 which contains a copy of the settlement. The official public docket is available for public viewing at the Office of Environmental Information (OEI) Docket in the EPA Docket Center, EPA West, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. The EPA Docket Center Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the OEI Docket is (202) 566-1752.

An electronic version of the public docket is available through EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, EPA Dockets. You may use EPA

Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket/> to submit or view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the official public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically. Once in the system, select "search," then key in the appropriate docket identification number.

It is important to note that EPA's policy is that public comments, whether submitted electronically or on paper, will be made available for public viewing in EPA's electronic public docket as EPA receives them and without change, unless the comment contains copyrighted material, CBI, or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Information claimed as CBI and other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute is not included in the official public docket or in EPA's electronic public docket. EPA's policy is that copyrighted material, including copyrighted material contained in a public comment, will not be placed in EPA's electronic public docket but will be available only in printed, paper form in the official public docket. Although not all docket materials may be available electronically, you may still access any of the publicly available docket materials through the EPA Docket Center.

B. How and To Whom Do I Submit Comments?

You may submit comments as provided in the **ADDRESSES** section. Please ensure that your comments are submitted within the specified comment period. Comments received after the close of the comment period will be marked "late." EPA is not required to consider these late comments.

If you submit an electronic comment, EPA recommends that you include your name, mailing address, and an e-mail address or other contact information in the body of your comment and with any disk or CD-ROM you submit. This ensures that you can be identified as the submitter of the comment and allows EPA to contact you in case EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties or needs further information on the substance of your comment. Any identifying or contact information provided in the body of a comment will be included as part of the comment that is placed in the official public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket. If EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment.

Your use of EPA's electronic public docket to submit comments to EPA electronically is EPA's preferred method for receiving comments. The electronic public docket system is an "anonymous access" system, which means EPA will not know your identity, e-mail address, or other contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment. In contrast to EPA's electronic public docket, EPA's electronic mail (e-mail) system is not an "anonymous access" system. If you send an e-mail comment directly to the Docket without going through EPA's electronic public docket, your e-mail address is automatically captured and included as part of the comment that is placed in the official public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket.

Dated: October 6, 2005.

Brenda Mallory,

*Acting Principal Deputy General Counsel,
Office of General Counsel.*

[FR Doc. 05-20814 Filed 10-17-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7984-5]

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) or Superfund, Section 128(a); Notice of Grant Funding Guidance for State and Tribal Response Programs

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will begin to accept requests, from December 1, 2005 through January 31, 2006, for grants to supplement State and Tribal Response Programs. This notice provides guidance on eligibility for funding, use of funding, grant mechanisms and process for awarding funding, the allocation system for distribution of funding, and terms and reporting under these grants. EPA has consulted with state and tribal officials in developing this guidance.

The primary goal of this funding is to ensure that state and tribal response programs include, or are taking reasonable steps to include, certain elements and a public record. Another goal is to provide funding for other activities that increase the number of response actions conducted or overseen by a state or tribal response program. This funding is not intended to supplant current state or tribal funding for their

response programs. Instead, it is to supplement their funding to increase their response capacity.

For fiscal year 2006, EPA will consider funding requests up to a maximum of \$1.5 million per state or tribe. Subject to the availability of

funds, EPA regional personnel will be available to provide technical assistance to states and tribes as they apply for and carry out these grants.

DATES: This action is effective as of December 1, 2005. EPA expects to make

non-competitive grant awards to states and tribes which apply during fiscal year 2006.

ADDRESSES: Mailing addresses for U.S. EPA Regional Offices and U.S. EPA Headquarters are as follows:

Region	States	Mailing address
EPA Region 1; Diane Kelley	CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT	One Congress Street, Boston, MA 02114-2023.
EPA Region 2; Larry D'Andrea	NJ, NY, PR, VI	290 Broadway, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10007.
EPA Region 3; Tom Stolle	DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV	1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.
EPA Region 4; Rosemary Patton	AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN	Atlanta Federal Center, 61 Forsyth Street, Atlanta, GA 30303.
EPA Region 5; Deborah Orr	IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI	77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604-3507.
EPA Region 6; Stan Hitt	AR, LA, NM, OK, TX	1445 Ross Ave., Suite 1200, (6SF-PB), Dallas, TX 75202-2733.
EPA Region 7; Jim Callier	IA, KS, MO, NE	901 N. 5th Street, Kansas City, KS 66101.
EPA Region 8; Kathie Atencio	CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY	999 18th Street, Suite 300 (EPR-B), Denver, CO 80202-2406.
EPA Region 9; Carolyn Douglas	AZ, CA, HI, NV, AS, GU	75 Hawthorne Street, SFD 1-1, San Francisco, CA 94015.
EPA Region 10; Timothy Brincefield	AK, ID, OR, WA	1200 Sixth Avenue (ECL-112), Seattle, WA 98101.
Headquarters; Jennifer Millett Wilbur	U.S. EPA, Office of Brownfields Cleanup & Redevelopment, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, MC 5105T, Washington, DC 20460.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The U.S. EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, Office of Brownfields Cleanup and Redevelopment, (202) 566-2777.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act (SBLRBRA) was signed into law on January 11, 2002. The Act amends the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended, by adding section 128(a). Section 128(a) authorizes a \$50 million grant program¹ to establish and enhance state² and tribal³ response programs. Generally, these response programs address the assessment, cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields sites and other contaminated sites. Section 128(a) grants will be awarded and administered by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regional offices. This document provides guidance that will enable states and tribes to apply for and use section 128(a) funds in Fiscal Year 2006.

State and tribal response programs oversee assessment and cleanup activities at the majority of brownfield

sites across the country. The depth and breadth of state and tribal response programs vary. Some focus solely on CERCLA related activities, while others are multi-faceted, for example, addressing sites regulated by both CERCLA and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Many state programs also offer accompanying financial incentive programs to spur cleanup and redevelopment. In passing section 128(a),⁴ Congress recognized the accomplishments of state and tribal response programs in cleaning up and redeveloping brownfield sites. Section 128(a) also provides EPA with an opportunity to strengthen its partnership with states and tribes.

The primary goal of this funding is to ensure that state and tribal response programs include, or are taking reasonable steps to include, certain elements and a "public record." The secondary goal is to provide funding for other activities that increase the number of response actions conducted or overseen by a state or tribal response program. This funding is not intended to supplant current state or tribal funding for their response programs. Instead, it is to supplement their funding to increase their response program's capacity.

Subject to the availability of funds, EPA will be available to provide technical assistance to states and tribes

as they apply for and carry out section 128(a) grants.

Eligibility for Funding

To be eligible for funding under CERCLA section 128(a), a state or tribe must:

- Demonstrate that their response program includes, or is taking reasonable steps to include, the four elements of a response program, described below; *or* (b) be a party to voluntary response program Memorandum of Agreement (VRP MOA)⁵ with EPA; *AND*
- Maintain and make available to the public a record of sites at which response actions have been completed in the previous year and are planned to be addressed in the upcoming year, *see* CERCLA section 128(b)(1)(C).

Matching Funds/Cost-Share

With the exception of the section 128(a) funds a state or tribe uses to capitalize a Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund under CERCLA section 104(k)(3), states and tribes are *not* required to provide matching funds for grants awarded under section 128(a).

The Four Elements—Section 128(a)

Section 128(a) recipients that do not have a VRP MOA with EPA, must

¹ The Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance entry for the section 128(a) State and Tribal Response Programs grant program is 66.817.

² The term "state" is defined in this document as defined in CERCLA section 101(27).

³ The term "Indian tribe" is defined in this document as it is defined in CERCLA section 101(36). Intertribal consortia, as defined in the Federal Register notice at 67 FR 67181, are also eligible for funding under CERCLA section 128(a).

⁴ The Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act (SBLRBRA) was signed into law on January 11, 2002. The Act amends CERCLA by adding section 128(a).

⁵ The legislative history of SBLRBRA indicates that Congress intended to encourage states and Tribes to enter into MOAs for their voluntary response programs. States or tribes that are parties to VRP MOAs and that maintain and make available a public record are automatically eligible for section 128(a) funding.

demonstrate that their response program includes, or is taking reasonable steps to include, four elements. Section 128(a) also authorizes funding for activities necessary to establish and enhance the four elements and to establish and maintain the public record requirement.

Generally, the four elements are: *Timely survey and inventory of brownfield sites in state or tribal land.* EPA's goal in funding activities under this element is to enable the state or tribe to establish or enhance a system or process that will provide a reasonable estimate of the number, likely locations, and the general characteristics of brownfield sites in their state or tribal lands.

EPA recognizes the varied scope of state and tribal response programs and will not require states and tribes to develop a "list" of brownfields sites. However, at a minimum, the state or tribe should develop and/or maintain a system or process that can provide a reasonable estimate of the number, likely location, and general characteristics of brownfields sites within their state or tribal lands.

Given funding limitations, EPA will negotiate work plans with states and tribes to achieve this goal efficiently and effectively, and within a realistic time frame. For example, many of EPA's Brownfields Assessment grantees conduct inventories of brownfield sites in their communities or jurisdictions. EPA encourages states and tribes to work with these grantees to obtain the information that they have gathered and include it in their survey and inventory.

Oversight and enforcement authorities or other mechanisms and resources. EPA's goal in funding activities under this element is to have state and tribal response programs that include oversight and enforcement authorities or other mechanisms, and resources that are adequate to ensure that a response action will protect human health and the environment and be conducted in accordance with applicable federal and state law; and the necessary response activities are completed if the person conducting the response activities fails to complete the necessary response activities (this includes operation and maintenance or long-term monitoring activities).

*Mechanisms and resources to provide meaningful opportunities for public participation.*⁶ EPA's goal in funding activities under this element is to have states and tribes include in their

response program mechanisms and resources for public participation, including, at a minimum:

- Public access to documents and related materials that a state, tribe, or party conducting the cleanup is relying on or developing in making cleanup decisions or conducting site activities;
- Prior notice and opportunity for public comment on cleanup plans and site activity; and
- A mechanism by which a person who is, or may be, affected by a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant at a brownfields site—located in the community in which the person works or resides—may request that a site assessment be conducted. The appropriate state or tribal official must consider this request and appropriately respond.

Mechanisms for approval of a cleanup plan and verification and certification that cleanup is complete. EPA's goal in funding activities under this element is to have states and tribes include in their response program mechanisms to approve cleanup plans and to verify that response actions are complete, including a requirement for certification or similar documentation from the state, the tribe, or a licensed site professional to the person conducting the response action that the response action is complete. Written approval by a state or tribal response program official of a proposed cleanup plan is an example of an approval mechanism.

Public Record Requirement

In order to be eligible for section 128(a) funding, states and tribes (including those with MOAs) must establish and maintain a public record system, described below, in order to receive funds. Recipients receiving section 128(a) funding for the first time in FY06 must demonstrate that they established and maintained the public record, as describe below, to be eligible for funding in FY07.

Specifically, under section 128(b)(1)(C), states and tribes must:

- Maintain and update, at least annually or more often as appropriate, a record of sites that includes the name and location of sites at which response actions have been completed during the previous year;
- Maintain and update, at least annually or more often as appropriate, a record of sites that includes the name and location of sites at which response actions are planned to be addressed in the next year; and
- Identify in the public record whether or not the site, upon completion of the response action, will

be suitable for unrestricted use. If not, the public record must identify the institutional controls relied on in the remedy.

Section 128(a) funds may be used to maintain and make available a public record system that meets the requirements discussed above.

Distinguishing the "survey and inventory" element from the "public record." It is important to note that the public record requirement differs from the "timely survey and inventory" element described in the "Four Elements" section above. The public record addresses sites at which response actions have been completed in the previous year and are planned to be addressed in the upcoming year. In contrast, the "timely survey and inventory" element, described above, refers to a general approach to identifying brownfield sites.

Making the public record easily accessible. EPA's goal is to enable states and tribes to make the public record and other information, such as information from the "survey and inventory" element, easily accessible. For this reason, EPA will allow states and tribes to use section 128(a) funding to make the public record, as well as other information, such as information from the "survey and inventory" element, available to the public via the internet or other means. For example, the Agency would support funding state and tribal efforts to include detailed location information in the public record such as the street address and latitude and longitude information for each site.⁷ A state or tribe may also choose to use the section 128(a) funds to make their survey and inventory information available on the internet as well.

In an effort to reduce grant reporting requirements and increase public access to the public record, EPA encourages states and tribes to place their public record on the internet. If a state or tribe places the public record on the internet, maintains the substantive requirements of the public record, and provides EPA with the link to that site, EPA will, for purposes of grant funding only, deem the public record reporting requirement met.

Long-term maintenance of the public record. EPA encourages states and tribes to maintain public record information, including data on institutional controls, on a long term basis (more than one year) for sites at which a response action

⁶ States and tribes establishing this element may find useful information on public participation on EPA's community involvement Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/action/community/index.htm>.

⁷ For further information on latitude and longitude information, please see EPA's data standards Web site available at [http://oaspub.epa.gov/edr/epastd\\$.startup](http://oaspub.epa.gov/edr/epastd$.startup).

has been completed. Subject to EPA regional office approval, states or tribes may include development and operation of systems that ensure long term maintenance of the public record, including information on institutional controls, in their work plans.⁸

Use of Funding

Overview

Section 128(a)(1)(B) describes the eligible uses of grant funding by states and tribes. In general, a state or tribe may use a grant to “establish or enhance” their response programs, including elements of the response program that include activities related to responses at brownfield sites with petroleum contamination. States and tribes may use section 128(a) funding to, among other things:

- Develop legislation, regulations, procedures, ordinances, guidance, etc. that would establish or enhance the administrative and legal structure of their response programs;
- Capitalize a revolving loan fund (RLF) for brownfields cleanup under CERCLA section 104(k)(3). These RLFs are subject to the same statutory requirements and grant terms and conditions applicable to RLFs awarded under section 104(k)(3). Requirements include a 20% match on the amount of section 128(a) funds used for the RLF, a prohibition on using EPA grant funds for administrative costs relating to the RLF, and a prohibition on using RLF loans or subgrants for response costs at a site for which the recipient may be potentially liable under section 107 of CERCLA. Other prohibitions contained in CERCLA section 104(k)(4) also apply;
- Purchase environmental insurance or develop a risk-sharing pool, indemnity pool, or insurance mechanism to provide financing for response actions under a state or tribal response program;
- Establish and maintain the required public record described above. EPA considers activities related to maintaining and monitoring institutional controls to be eligible costs under section 128(a); or
- Conduct limited site-specific activities, such as assessment or cleanup, provided such activities establish and/or enhance the response program and are tied to the four elements.

Uses Related to “Establishing” a State or Tribal Response Program

Under CERCLA section 128(a), “establish” includes activities necessary to build the foundation for the four elements of a state or tribal response program and the public record requirement. For example, a state or tribal response program may use section 128(a) funds to develop regulations, ordinances, procedures, or guidance. For more developed state or tribal response programs, establish may also include activities that keep their program at a level that meets the four elements and maintains a public record required as a condition of funding under CERCLA section 128(b)(1)(C).

Uses Related to “Enhancing” a State or Tribal Response Program

Under CERCLA section 128(a), “enhance” is related to activities that add to or improve a state or tribal response program or increase the number of sites at which response actions are conducted under a state or tribal response program. The exact “enhancement” uses that may be allowable depend upon the work plan negotiated between the EPA regional office and the state or tribe. For example, regional offices and states or tribes may agree that section 128(a) funds may be used for outreach and training directly related to increasing awareness of its response program, and improving the skills of program staff. It may also include developing better coordination and understanding of other state response programs, e.g., RCRA or USTs. Other “enhancement” uses may be allowable as well.

Uses Related to Site-Specific Activities

States and tribes may use section 128(a) funds for activities that improve state or tribal capacity to increase the number of sites at which response actions are conducted under the state or tribal response program.

Eligible uses of funds include, but are not limited to, site-specific activities such as: oversight of response action; technical assistance to federal brownfields grant recipients; development and/or review of site-specific quality assurance project plans (QAPPs); preparation and submission of Property Profile Forms; auditing site cleanups to verify the completion of the cleanup; conducting assessments or cleanups at brownfields sites.

Uses Related to Site-Specific Assessment and Cleanup Activities

Site-specific assessment and cleanup activities should establish and/or enhance the response program and be

tied to the four elements. Site-specific assessments and cleanups must comply with all applicable federal and state laws and are subject to the following restrictions:

- Section 128(a) funds can only be used for assessments or cleanups at sites that meet the definition of a brownfield site at CERCLA section 101(39).
- No more than \$200,000 per site can be funded for assessments with section 128(a) funds, and no more than \$200,000 per site can be funded for cleanups with section 128(a) funds.
- Absent EPA approval, the state/tribe may not use funds awarded under this agreement to assess and clean up sites owned by the recipient.
- Assessments and cleanups cannot be conducted at sites where the state/tribe is a potentially responsible party pursuant to CERCLA section 107, except at brownfields sites contaminated by a controlled substance as defined in CERCLA section 101(39)(D)(ii)(I).
- Subgrants cannot be provided to entities that may be potentially responsible parties (pursuant to CERCLA section 107) at the site for which the assessment or cleanup activities are proposed to be conducted.

Costs Incurred for Activities at “Non-Brownfields” Sites

Costs incurred for activities at non-brownfields sites, e.g., oversight, may be eligible and allowable if such activities are included in the state’s or tribe’s work plan. For example, auditing completed site cleanups in jurisdictions where states or tribes use licensed site professionals, to verify that sites have been properly cleaned up, may be an eligible cost under section 128(a). These costs need not be incurred in connection with a brownfields site to be eligible, but must be authorized under the state’s or tribe’s work plan to be allowable. Other uses may be eligible and allowable as well, depending upon the work plan negotiated between the EPA regional office and the state or tribe. However, assessment and cleanup activities may only be conducted on eligible brownfields sites, as defined in CERCLA section 101(39).

Uses Related to Site-Specific Activities at Petroleum Brownfields Sites

States and tribes may use section 128(a) funds for activities that establish and enhance their response programs, even if their response programs address petroleum contamination. Also, the costs of site-specific activities, such as site assessments or cleanup at petroleum contaminated brownfields sites, defined at CERCLA section 101(39)(D)(ii)(II), are eligible and are

⁸ States and tribes may find useful information on institutional controls on EPA’s institutional controls Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/action/ic/index.htm>.

allowable if the activity is included in the work plan negotiated between the EPA regional office and the state or tribe. Section 128(a) funds used to capitalize a Brownfields RLF may be used at brownfields sites contaminated by petroleum to the extent allowed under the CERCLA section 104(k)(3) RLF program.

General Programmatic Guidelines for 128(a) Grant Funding Requests

Funding authorized under CERCLA section 128(a) is awarded through a cooperative agreement⁹ with a state or tribe. The program is administered under the general EPA grant and cooperative agreement regulations for states, tribes, and local governments found in the Code of Federal Regulations at 40 CFR part 31. Under these regulations, the grantee for section 128(a) grant program is: "The government to which a grant is awarded and which is accountable for the use of the funds provided. The grantee is the entire legal entity even if only a particular component of the entity is designated in the grant award document." 40 CFR 31.3.

One application per state or tribe. Subject to the availability of funds, EPA regional offices will negotiate and enter into section 128(a) cooperative agreements with eligible and interested states or tribes. *EPA will accept only one application from each eligible state or tribe.*

Define the State or Tribal Response Program. States and tribes must define in their work plan the "section 128(a) response program(s)" to which the funds will be applied, and may designate a component of the state or tribe that will be EPA's primary point of contact for negotiations on their proposed work plan. When EPA funds the section 128(a) cooperative agreement, states and tribes may distribute these funds among the appropriate state and tribal agencies that are part of the section 128(a) response program. This distribution must be clearly outlined in their annual work plan.

Separate cooperative agreements for the capitalization of RLFs using section 128(a) funds. If a portion of the section 128(a) grant funds requested will be used to capitalize a revolving loan fund for cleanup, pursuant to section

104(k)(3), two separate cooperative agreements must be awarded, i.e., one for the RLF and one for non-RLF uses. States and tribes may, however, submit one initial request for funding, delineating the RLF as a proposed use. Section 128(a) funds used to capitalize an RLF are not eligible for inclusion into a Performance Partnership Grant (PPG).

Authority to Manage a Revolving Loan Fund Program. If a state or tribes chooses to use its section 128(a) funds to capitalize a revolving loan fund program, the state or tribe must have the authority to manage the program, e.g., issue loans. If the agency/department listed as the point of contact for the section 128(a) grant does not have this authority, it must be able to demonstrate that another state or tribal agency does have the authority to manage the RLF and is willing to do so.

Section 128(a) grants are eligible for inclusion in the Performance Partnership Grant (PPG). States and tribes may include section 128(a) grants in their PPG. (69 FR 51756 (2004)) Section 128(a) funds used to capitalize an RLF are not eligible for inclusion in the PPG.

Project Period. EPA regional offices will determine the project period for each cooperative agreement. These may be for multiple years depending on the regional office's grants policies. Each cooperative agreement must have an annual budget period tied to an annual work plan.

Demonstrating the Four Elements. As part of the annual work plan negotiation process, states or tribes that do not have MOAs must demonstrate that their program includes, or is taking reasonable steps to include, the four elements described above. EPA will not fund, in future years, state or tribal response program annual work plans if EPA determines that these requirements are not met or reasonable progress is not being made. EPA may base this determination on the information the state or tribe provides to support its work plan, or on EPA's review of the state or tribal response program.

Establishing and Maintaining the Public Record. Prior to funding a state's or tribe's annual work plan, EPA regional offices will verify and document that a public record, as described above, exists and is being maintained.¹⁰

• *States or tribes that received initial funding in FY03 and FY04:* FY06 requests will not be accepted from states

or tribes that fail to demonstrate, by the January 31, 2006 request deadline, that they established and maintaining a public record. (Note, this would potentially impact any state or tribe that had a term and condition placed on their FY05 grant award that prohibited drawdown of FY05 funds prior to meeting public record requirement.) States or tribes in this situation will not be prevented from drawing down their prior year funds, once the public record requirement is met, but will be restricted from applying for FY06 funding.

• *States or Tribes that received initial funding in FY05:* By the time of the actual FY06 award, the state or tribe must demonstrate that they established and maintained the public record (those states and tribes that do not meet this requirement will have a term and condition placed on their FY06 grant that prevents the drawdown of FY06 funds until the public record requirement is met).

• *Recipients receiving funds for the first time in FY06:* These recipients have one year to meet this requirement and may utilize the section 128(a) grant funds to do so.

Demonstration of Significant Utilization of Prior Years Funding

During the allocation process, EPA headquarters places significant emphasis on the utilization of prior years' funding. When submitting your FY06 request, the following information must be submitted:

• For those states and tribes with active Superfund VCP Core or Targeted Brownfields Assessment cooperative agreements awarded under CERCLA section 104(d), you must provide, by agreement number, the amount of funds that have not been requested for reimbursement (i.e., those funds that remain in EPA's Financial Data Warehouse) and must provide a detailed explanation and justification for why such funds should not be considered in the funding allocation process.

• For those states and tribes that received section 128 funds in FY03 and 04, you must provide the amount of FY03 and FY04 funds that have not been requested for reimbursement (i.e., those funds that remain in EPA's Financial Data Warehouse) and must provide a detailed explanation and justification for why such funds should not be considered in the funding allocation process.

Note: EPA Regional staff will review EPA's Financial Database Warehouse to confirm the amount of outstanding funds reported. It is strongly recommended that you work with your regional counterpart to determine the

⁹ A cooperative agreement is a grant to a state or a tribe includes substantial involvement of EPA regional enforcement and program staff during performance of activities described in the cooperative agreement work plan. Examples of this involvement include technical assistance and collaboration on program development and site-specific activities.

¹⁰ For purposes of grant funding, the state's or tribe's public record applies to that state's or tribe's response program(s) that utilized the section 128(a) funding.

amount of funds “outstanding.” In making this determination, EPA will take into account those funds that have been committed through an appropriate state or tribal contract, inter-agency agreement, or similar type of binding agreement, but have not been requested for reimbursement, i.e., that are not showing as “drawn down” in EPA’s Data Warehouse.

Demonstration of Need To Receive Funds above the FY05 Funding Distribution

Due to the limited amount of funding available, recipients must demonstrate a specific need when requesting an amount above the amount allocated to the state or tribe in FY05.

Allocation System and Process for Distribution of Fund

EPA regional offices will work with interested states and tribes to develop their annual work plans and funding requests. For Fiscal Year 2006, EPA will consider funding requests up to a maximum of \$1.5 million per state or tribe. This limit may be changed in future years based on appropriation amounts and demand for funding.

After the January 31, 2006 deadline, regional offices will submit summaries

of state and tribal requests to EPA headquarters. Before submitting requests to EPA headquarters, Regional offices may take into account additional factors when determining recommended allocation amounts. Such factors include, but are not limited to, the depth and breadth of the state or tribal program; scope of the perceived need for the funding, e.g., size of state or tribal jurisdiction or the proposed work plan balanced against capacity of the program, amount of prior funding, and funds remaining from prior years, etc.

After receipt of the Regional recommendations, EPA headquarters will consolidate requests and allocate funds accordingly.

Information To Be Submitted With the Funding Request

States and tribes requesting section 128 funds for FY06 must submit the following information, as applicable, to their regional contact on or before January 31, 2006 (Regions may request additional information, as needed):

- For those states and tribes with prior Superfund VCP Core or Targeted Brownfields funding awarded under CERCLA section 104(d), provide, by

agreement number, the amount of funds that have not been requested for reimbursement (i.e., those funds that remain in EPA’s Financial Data Warehouse) and a detailed explanation and justification for why such funds should not be considered in the funding allocation process.

- For those states and tribes that received an FY03 and/or FY04 128 allocation, provide the amount of FY03 and/or FY04 funds that have not been requested for reimbursement (i.e, those funds that remain in EPA’s Financial Data Warehouse) and a detailed explanation and justification for why such funds should not be considered in the funding allocation process.

- For those states and tribes requesting amounts above their FY05 allocation, provide an explanation of the specific need(s) that triggered the request for increased funding.

- All states and tribes requesting funds for FY06 must submit a summary of the planned use of the funds with associated dollar amounts. Please provide it in the following format, if possible:

Funding use	Requested amount	Summary of intended use (example uses)
“Establish or Enhance” the four elements.	\$XX,XXX	—Develop a community involvement process. —Fund an outreach coordinator. —Develop/enhance ordinances, regulations, procedures for response programs. —Issue public notices of site activities. —Review cleanup plans and verify completed actions.
Establish and Maintain the Public Record.	XX,XXX	—Maintain public record. —Create web site for public record. —Disseminate public information on how to access the public record.
“Enhance the Response Program or Cleanup Capacity”.	XX,XXX	—Hire additional staff for oversight of brownfields cleanups. —Attend training and conferences on brownfields cleanup technologies and other brownfields topics. —Perform program management activities. —Negotiate/manage contracts for response programs.
Site-specific Activities	XX,XXX	—Enhance program management and tracking systems. —Perform 10 site assessments in rural communities. —Negotiate brownfields agreements/voluntary cleanup contracts. —Provide technical assistance to federal brownfields grant recipients. —Develop and/or review QAPPs. —Conduct cleanup activities at brownfields sites. —Prepare Property Profile Forms.
Environmental Insurance	XX,XXX	—Review potential uses of environmental insurance.
Revolving Loan Fund	XX,XXX	—Create a cleanup revolving loan fund.
Total Funding Requested	XXX,XXX	

General Funding Priorities

When EPA Regions negotiate individual state and tribal work plans, it is anticipated that funding will be prioritized as follows:

- Funding of program activities that establish and/or enhance the four elements of a state or tribal response program and to enable states and tribes

to comply with the public record requirement, including activities related to institutional controls. (States and tribes that have established one or more of the four elements will not be prejudiced in funding distributions if their work plan includes activities that enhance the four elements. States with MOAs will not be prejudiced in funding distributions if their work plan does not

include tasks related to establishing or enhancing the four elements.)

- Activities that develop and maintain the public record.
- Program development and implementation activities that enhance the response program or the cleanup capacity of a state or tribal response program.

- Site-specific activities, as negotiated and approved by EPA.
- Funding for environmental insurance mechanisms.
- Funding to capitalize brownfields cleanup revolving loan funds.

EPA will target funding of at least \$3 million per year for tribal response programs. If this funding is not used, it will be carried over and added to at least \$3 million in the next fiscal year. It is expected that the funding demand from tribes will increase through the life of this grant program (authorized by Congress through FY2006), and this funding allocation system should ensure that adequate funding for tribal response programs is available in future years.

Terms and Reporting

Cooperative agreements for state and tribal response programs will include programmatic and administrative terms and conditions. These terms and conditions will describe EPA's substantial involvement including technical assistance and collaboration on program development and site-specific activities.

Progress Reports. In accordance with 40 CFR 31.40, state and tribes must provide progress reports as provided in the terms and conditions of the cooperative agreement negotiated with EPA regional offices. State and tribal costs for complying with reporting requirements are an eligible expense under the section 128(a) grant. As a minimum, state or tribal progress reports must include both a narrative discussion and performance data relating to the state's or tribe's accomplishments and environmental outputs associated with the approved budget and workplan and should provide an accounting of section 128(a) funding. If applicable, the state or tribe must include information on activities related to establishing or enhancing the four elements of the state's or tribe's response program. All recipients must provide information relating to establishing or, if already established, maintaining the public record.

Reporting Requirements. Depending upon the activities included in the state's or tribe's work plan, an EPA regional office may request that a progress report include:

Information related to the public record. All recipients must report information related to establishing or, if already established, maintaining the public record, described above. States and tribes can refer to an already existing public record, e.g., website or other public database to meet this requirement.

For the purposes of grant funding only, and depending upon the activities included in the state or tribe's work plan, this *may* include:

A list of sites at which response actions have been completed including:

- Date the response action was completed.
- Site name.
- The name of owner at time of cleanup, if known.
- Location of the site (street address, and latitude and longitude).
- Whether an institutional control is in place;
- Explain the type of the institutional control in place (e.g., deed restriction, zoning restriction, local ordinance, state registries of contaminated property, deed notices, advisories, etc.)
- Nature of the contamination at the site (e.g., hazardous substances, contaminants, or pollutants, petroleum contamination, etc.)
- Size of the site in acres.

A list of sites planned to be addressed by the state or tribal response program including:

- Site name and the name of owner at time of cleanup, if known.
- Location of the site (street address, and latitude and longitude).
- To the extent known, whether an institutional control is in place;
- Explain the type of the institutional control in place (e.g., deed restriction, zoning restriction, local ordinance, state registries of contaminated property, deed notices, advisories, etc.)
- To the extent known, the nature of the contamination at the site (e.g., hazardous substances, contaminants, or pollutants, petroleum contamination, etc.)
- Size of the site in acres.

Reporting environmental insurance. Recipients with work plans that include funding for environmental insurance must report:

- Number and description of insurance policies purchased (e.g., type of coverage provided; dollar limits of coverage; category and identity of insured persons; premium; first dollar or umbrella; site specific or blanket; occurrence or claims made, etc.
- The number of sites covered by the insurance.
- The amount of funds spent on environmental insurance (e.g., amount dedicated to insurance program, or to insurance premiums) and the amount of claims paid by insurers to policy holders.

Reporting for site-specific assessment or cleanup activities. Recipients with work plans that include funding for brownfields site assessment or cleanup must complete the OMB-approved

Property Profile Form for each completed site assessment and cleanup.

Reporting for other site-specific activities. Recipients with work plans that include funding for other site-specific related activities must include a description of the site-specific activities and the number of sites at which the activity was conducted. For example:

- Number and frequency of oversight audits of licensed site professional certified cleanups.
- Number and frequency of state/tribal oversight audits conducted.
- Number of sites where staff conducted audits, provided technical assistance, or conducted other oversight activities.
- Number of staff conducting oversight audits, providing technical assistance, or conducting other oversight activities.

Reporting for RLF uses. Recipients with work plans that include funding for Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) must include the information required by the terms and conditions for progress reporting under CERCLA section 104(k)(3) RLF grants.

Reporting for Non-MOA states and tribes. All recipients *without* a Voluntary Response Program MOA must report activities related to establishing or enhancing the four elements of the state's or tribe's response program. For each element state/tribes must report how they are maintaining the element or how they are taking reasonable steps to establish or enhance the element as negotiated in individual state/tribal work plans. For example, pursuant to CERCLA section 128(a)(2)(B), reports on the oversight and enforcement authorities/mechanisms element *may* include:

- A narrative description and copies of applicable documents developed or under development to enable the response program to conduct enforcement and oversight at sites. For example: legal authorities and mechanisms (e.g., statutes, regulations, orders, agreements); policies and procedures to implement legal authorities; and other mechanisms;
- A description of the resources and staff allocated/to be allocated to the response program to conduct oversight and enforcement at sites as a result of the grant;
- A narrative description of how these authorities or other mechanisms, and resources, are adequate to ensure that: a response action will protect human health and the environment; and be conducted in accordance with applicable Federal and State law; and if the person conducting the response action fails to complete the necessary

response activities, including operation and maintenance or long-term monitoring activities, the necessary response activities are completed; and

- A narrative description and copy of appropriate documents demonstrating the exercise of oversight and enforcement authorities by the response program at a brownfield site.

Where applicable, EPA may require states/tribes to report specific performance measures related to the four elements which can be aggregated for national reporting to Congress. The regional offices may also request other information be added to the progress reports, as appropriate, to properly document activities described by the cooperative agreement work plan. EPA regions may allow states or tribes to provide performance data in appropriate electronic format. The regional offices will forward progress reports to EPA Headquarters, if requested. This information may be used to develop national reports on the outcomes of CERCLA section 128(a) funding to states and tribes.

Dated: September 15, 2005.

Linda Garczynski,

Director, Office of Brownfields Cleanup and Redevelopment, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response.

[FR Doc. 05-20823 Filed 10-17-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL -7985-4]

Science Advisory Board Staff Office Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) Notification of Public Advisory Committee Meeting (Teleconference)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or Agency) Science Advisory Board (SAB) Staff Office announces a public teleconference of the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC or Committee) to review and approve the advisory report of the CASAC Ambient Air Monitoring and Methods (AAMM) Subcommittee (Subcommittee) on its recent peer review of the Federal Reference Method (FRM) for thoracic coarse particulate matter (PM_{10-2.5}).

DATES: The teleconference meeting will be held on November 3, 2005, from 1 to 4 p.m. (eastern time).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Any member of the public who wishes to obtain the teleconference call-in numbers and access codes; would like to submit written or brief oral comments; or wants further information concerning this teleconference meeting, should contact Mr. Fred Butterfield, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), EPA Science Advisory Board (1400F), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460; via telephone/voice mail: (202) 343-9994; fax: (202) 233-0643; or e-mail at: butterfield.fred@epa.gov. General information concerning the CASAC or the EPA SAB can be found on the EPA Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/sab>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

CASAC and the AAMM Subcommittee

The CASAC, which comprises seven members appointed by the EPA Administrator, was established under section 109(d)(2) of the Clean Air Act (CAA or Act) (42 U.S.C. 7409) as an independent scientific advisory committee, in part to provide advice, information and recommendations on the scientific and technical aspects of issues related to air quality criteria and national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) under sections 108 and 109 of the Act. The CASAC, which is administratively located under the SAB Staff Office, is a Federal advisory committee chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C., App.

The SAB Staff Office established the CASAC AAMM Subcommittee in early 2004 as a standing subcommittee to provide the EPA Administrator, through the CASAC, with advice and recommendations, as necessary, on topical areas related to ambient air monitoring, methods and networks. The Committee and the Subcommittee comply with the provisions of FACA and all appropriate SAB Staff Office procedural policies.

Background

In response to a request from EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (OAR), Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS), the CASAC AAMM Subcommittee conducted a peer review on the FRM for PM_{10-2.5} and a consultation on various particulate matter (PM) monitoring-related issues at a public meeting held September 21-22, 2005 in Durham, NC. Subsequent to that meeting, the Subcommittee drafted an advisory report for the CASAC's consideration. Detailed summary information on EPA's proposed FRM for thoracic coarse particulate matter is

contained in a previous **Federal Register** notice (70 FR 51353, August 30, 2005).

Availability of Meeting Materials

The CASAC AAMM Subcommittee's draft advisory report and the final agenda for this teleconference meeting will be posted on the SAB Web site at: http://www.epa.gov/sab/panels/casac_aamm_subcom.html and <http://www.epa.gov/sab> (under "Meeting Agendas"), respectively, in advance of the CASAC teleconference. Written meeting materials and background information from the Subcommittee's September 21-22, 2005 meeting are posted on the "CASAC File Area" page of EPA's Ambient Monitoring Technology Information Center (AMTIC) Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/amtic/casacinf.html>.

Questions concerning EPA's ambient air monitoring efforts should be directed to Mr. Tim Hanley, OAQPS, at phone: (919) 541-4417; or e-mail: hanley.tim@epa.gov. Questions concerning the Agency's FRM development efforts and PM_{10-2.5} measurement methods evaluation should be directed to Dr. Robert Vanderpool of EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD), National Exposure Research Laboratory (NERL), at phone: (919) 541-7877; or e-mail: vanderpool.robert@epa.gov.

Procedures for Providing Public Comment

The SAB Staff Office accepts written public comments of any length, and will accommodate oral public comments whenever possible. The SAB Staff Office expects that the public will not repeat previously-submitted oral or written statements. *Oral Comments:* Requests to provide oral comments must be *in writing* (e-mail, fax or mail) and received by Mr. Butterfield no later than October 27, 2005 to reserve time on the November 3, 2005 meeting agenda. Opportunities for oral comments will be limited to five minutes per speaker. *Written Comments:* Written comments should be received in the SAB Staff Office by October 28, 2005 so that the comments may be made available to the members of the members of the CASAC for their consideration. Comments should be supplied to Mr. Butterfield at the contact information provided above, in the following formats: one hard copy (original signature optional), or one electronic copy via e-mail (acceptable file format: Adobe Acrobat PDF, WordPerfect, Word, or Rich Text files (in IBM-PC/Windows 98/2000/XP format)).