



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF  
WATER

MAY 31 2007

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Availability of Fiscal Year 2007 DWSRF Tribal Program Funds

TO: Regional Drinking Water Program Managers  
Regions I, II, and IV - X

FROM:   
Steve Heare, Director  
Drinking Water Protection Division

The FY 2007 appropriation for the DWSRF program is \$837,495,000. Attached is the final FY 2007 DWSRF Regional allotment of tribal funds. The Tribal allocation is based on the results of the 2003 needs survey (released in June 2005) and the 2006 Indian Health Services Sanitation Deficiency System (IHS SDS) Funding Plan. Tribal funds are based on Safe Drinking Water Act allocations and are 1.5% of the total DWSRF allocation.

**FY 2007 Guidance for the Tribal program**

*Drinking Water Access Goal*

As a reminder, all awards must adhere to the FY2007 guidance that was contained in my June 7, 2006 memorandum which provided you with the "tentative" allotments. In summary, that guidance stated that: a) we strongly encourage Regions to use the Tribal Set-Aside funds to address projects that are identified in the Indian Health Service's Sanitation Deficiency System and have a Deficiency Level of 4 or 5, and b) EPA Order 5700.7 applies to any grants made under Tribal Set-Aside program.

*Reporting to HQ*

HQ would like to establish a standard reporting protocol because OGWDW has responsibility for allotting Drinking Water Infrastructure Grant Tribal Set-Aside (DWIG TSA) funds and must account for Regional spending. Under this reporting protocol, regions must enter data into the Tribal PWSS and DWIG TSA Grant Tracking Tool (GTT) to describe the projects funded using the DWIG TSA funds they are allotted each year. At a minimum, the reports shall be made once per year, 120 days after the end of

the federal fiscal year (approx February 1). Regions are encouraged to report more frequently.

o The data must include:

1. The total amount of funds available for the federal fiscal year. This includes carryover funds from the prior fiscal year and new-year funds allotted to the Region.
2. Basic information about each project/activity for which funds were obligated during the fiscal year (fields in quotes are in the GTT), including:
  - a "Project ID" identification number (e.g., grant or contract number),
  - a "Project Description" for the project,
  - the "Project Officer" for the project,
  - the "Recipient of Funds,"
  - the "Tribe (or Tribes) Benefiting" from the project,
  - the "EPA amount of award" obligated for the project and "Date of Award",
  - the "PWSID Benefiting" and "Name of PWS Benefiting",
  - the "SDWIS Pop. Benefiting",
  - "Proj. counts toward Access Goals" and, if yes, "number of households at LDL 4 or 5 served by project",
  - The following information describing the project: "If Upgrading Existing System, select type", "Does PWS Benefiting Have a Certified Operator", "Does this Project Address Any Compliance Issues", and the "Project Status"
3. The amount of funds not obligated during the fiscal year that will be carried forward into the subsequent fiscal year. All funds directed to the Region for the DWIG TSA must be accounted for.

**If the region provides an IHS project ID for each project, OGWDW will be able to import access data directly from the IHS wSTARS data system into the GTT.** If the region does not provide an IHS project ID, the region is responsible for entering required access data into the GTT.

### *Operator Certification*

Finally, I would like to clarify DWIG TSA requirements regarding operator certification. The following is a quote from the 2005 Tribal Drinking Water Operator Certification Program: Final Guidelines,

"In addition, previously published Drinking Water Infrastructure Grant Tribal Set-Aside (TSA) Final Guidelines (October 1998) state that after EPA has developed a National Tribal Drinking Water Operator Certification Program for operators of systems in Indian country, 'any system to be assisted with TSA funds must be operated by an adequately trained and certified operator' in order for a tribe to receive a grant for that system and 'EPA Regional offices will not make grant awards to any systems that do not meet this condition.' Therefore, EPA will require a Tribe to have, or

agree to obtain within the project grant budget period, a certified operator(s) under an EPA approved program available to their drinking water system(s) in order to secure funds from the TSA program.”

This requirement will come into effect once the National Tribal Operator Certification Contract is in place and certification examinations are available nationwide. In the meantime, PWSs should continue to be encouraged to have certified operators on staff when feasible.

If you have any questions about the allotment calculations, please give me a call, or have your staff call David Harvey at (202) 564 -1460.

Attachment

cc: Cynthia Dougherty  
Charles Job  
Ron Bergman

**FINAL FY 2007  
DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS  
TRIBAL SET-ASIDE ALLOTMENTS**

*Based on \$837,495,000 in EPA's Operating Plan for the DWSRF  
A total of \$12,562,000 is available for the DWIG TSA Program*

Region 1	\$279,000
Region 2	\$268,000
Region 4	\$489,000
Region 5	\$695,000
Region 6	\$1,214,000
Region 7	\$311,000
Region 8	\$1,437,000
Region 9	\$3,459,000
Region 10	\$4,410,000
<b>National Total:</b>	<b>\$12,562,000</b>