

information related to applicants/grant recipients roles and responsibilities from EPA's Grants and Debarment Web site at (http://www.gov/ogd/grants/how_to_apply.htm). Proposals submitted in response to this solicitation, or questions concerning the solicitation should be sent to: State Innovation Grants Program, National Center for Environmental Innovation, Office of the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (MC 1807T), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460. (202) 566-2186. (202) 566-2220 FAX.

Innovation_State_Grants@epa.gov.

For courier delivery only: Sherri Walker, State Innovation Grants Program, U.S. EPA, EPA West Building, Room 4214D, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20005.

Proposal responses or questions may also be sent by fax to (202-566-2220), addressed to the "State Innovation Grant Program," or by e-mail to: Innovation_State_Grants@epa.gov. We encourage e-mail responses. If you have questions about responding to this notice, please contact EPA at this e-mail address or fax number, or you may call Sherri Walker at 202-566-2186. EPA will acknowledge all responses it receives to this notice.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is soliciting pre-proposals for an assistance agreement program (the "State Innovation Grant Program") in an effort to support innovation by State environmental regulatory agencies. In April 2002, EPA issued its plan for future innovation efforts, published as *Innovating for Better Environmental Result: A Strategy to Guide the Next Generation of Innovation at EPA* (EPA 100-R-02-002; <http://www.epa.gov/innovation/pdf/strategy.pdf>). This assistance agreement program strengthens EPA's partnership with the States by assisting State Innovation that supports the Strategy. EPA would like to help States build on previous experience and undertake strategic innovation projects that promote larger-scale models for "next generation" environmental protection and promise better environmental results. EPA is interested in funding projects that: (1) Go beyond a single facility experiment to promote change that is "systems-oriented;" (2) provide better results from a program, process, or sector-wide innovation; and (3) promote integrated (cross-media) environmental management with high potential for transfer to other States.

"Innovation in permitting" is the theme for the 2006 solicitation. Under

this theme, EPA is interested in pre-proposals that:

(a) Apply the Environmental Results Program model, an alternative to permitting scheme for small business sectors;

(b) Explore the relationship between Environmental Management Systems and permitting; or

(c) Seek to build State support for EPA's National Environmental Performance Track Program or similar State performance-based environmental leadership programs.

EPA interprets "innovation in permitting" broadly to include permitting programs, pesticide licensing programs, and other alternatives or supplements to permitting programs. EPA is interested in creative approaches that both (1) achieve mandatory Federal and State standards and (2) encourage performance and address environmental issues above and beyond minimum requirements.

This solicitation begins the fourth State Innovation Grant competition. Of the 22 projects that have been awarded in the prior rounds (including those with pending awards) eleven (11) are for development of Environmental Results Programs, seven (7) relate to Environmental Management Systems and permitting, two (2) are to enhance Performance-Based Environmental Leadership programs, two (2) are for Watershed-based permitting, and one (1) is Information Technology for the application of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to a permitting process. For information on the prior solicitations and awards, please see highlights of previous awards in Attachment 3 of the solicitation, or see the EPA State Innovation Grants Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/innovation/stategrants>.

Dated: December 8, 2005.

Elizabeth Shaw,

Director, Office of Environmental Policy Innovation.

[FR Doc. E5-7775 Filed 12-22-05; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-8013-8]

Environmental Economics Research Strategy

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of availability of a final document.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is today

announcing the availability of its *Environmental Economics Research Strategy*, EPA/600/R-04/195. The *Environmental Economics Research Strategy* identifies and prioritizes environmental economics and decision science research that will be conducted over the next several years to improve the scientific foundation for EPA's decision-making and policy initiatives.

ADDRESSES: A limited number of copies of the Environmental Economics Research Strategy will be available from the National Service Center for Environmental Publications. Request a copy by telephoning 1-800-490-9198 or 513-489-8190 and providing the title and the EPA number for the document, EPA/600/R-04/195. Internet users may download a copy from the EPA's Office of Research and Development home page at <http://www.epa.gov/ord/html/documents/econresearch.pdf>. The strategy is also available on EPA's National Center for Environmental Economics home page at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/ee/epa/eed.nsf/webpages/homepage>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. William Wheeler, National Center for Environmental Research (8722F), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460, telephone: 202-343-9828; facsimile: 202-233-0678; E-mail: wheeler.william@epa.gov or Dr. Brian Heninger, National Center for Environmental Economics (1809T), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460, telephone: 202-566-2270; facsimile: 202-566-2338; E-mail: heninger.brian@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The *Environmental Economics Research Strategy* was developed to guide future environmental economics research at the Agency. This research strategy outlines EPA's effort to provide the necessary behavioral science foundation for making decisions and designing environmental policies at the least cost to American businesses and consumers. To be effective the Agency must understand how people and firms make decisions about and affect the environment, and, in turn, how the environment affects Americans' quality of life. The environmental economics research described in this strategy will become a cornerstone of the economic analyses that EPA needs to develop environmental policy.

The *Environmental Economics Research Strategy* was developed by a team from the National Center for Environmental Economics (NCEE) and the National Center for Environmental

Research (NCER) working with EPA program offices, the Office of Research and Development (ORD) laboratories and centers, and EPA regions. NCEE provides research support and economic guidance to EPA programs, and NCER manages an economics and decision sciences research grants program. The strategy identifies priorities and research gaps, evaluates research tools, sets strategic research objectives, and suggests responsibilities and sequences for conducting or sponsoring research. EPA programs, other Federal agencies, academics, states, local governments, and others can consult the strategy to understand what EPA has planned and the results the Agency expects.

The *Environmental Economics Research Strategy* is in two volumes; the first volume is the strategy itself outlined in four chapters, and the second volume contains seven appendices. Chapter 1 explains the background for developing the strategy. Chapter 2 reports the main findings from the needs assessment survey and workshop. Chapter 3 describes how EPA evaluated the remaining gaps in the research literature in priority economic research areas and developed strategic research goals to implement. Chapter 4 describes the research tools or approaches available to implement the strategy and how EPA plans to use these tools to generate and communicate needed research results. The appendices provide more detail on the needs assessment process and results, discuss the relationship of the strategy to other documents, compare the advantages of different research tools available to EPA, and present the external peer review comments and responses.

This *Environmental Economics Research Strategy* was subjected to external peer review by the Environmental Economics Advisory Committee of EPA's Science Advisory Board. The final strategy reflects the comments of both internal and external review.

Dated: December 19, 2005.

George Gray,

Assistant Administrator for Research and Development.

[FR Doc. E5-7780 Filed 12-22-05; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[Docket No. EPA-R04-SFUND-2005-0501; FRL-8014-4]

A&H Sales Superfund Site, Tampa, FL; Notice of Settlement

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of Settlement.

SUMMARY: Under section 122(h)(1) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), the United States Environmental Protection Agency has entered into a settlement for the reimbursement of past response costs with Finishmaster, Inc., concerning the A&H Sales Superfund Site located in Tampa, Florida.

DATES: The Agency will consider public comments on the settlement until January 23, 2006. The Agency will consider all comments received and may modify or withdraw its consent to the settlement if comments received disclose facts or considerations which indicate that the settlement is inappropriate, improper, or inadequate.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the proposed settlement are available from Ms. Paula V. Batchelor. Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-R04-SFUND-2005-0501 or Site name A&H Sales by one of the following methods:

- <http://www.regulations.gov>: Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.
- E-mail: Batchelor.Paula@epa.gov.
- Fax: 404/562-8842.

Mail: Ms. Paula V. Batchelor, U.S. EPA Region 4, WMD-SEIMB, 61 Forsyth Street, SW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303. "In addition, please mail a copy of your comments on the information collection provisions to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Attn: Desk Officer for EPA, 725 17th St. NW., Washington, DC 20503." *Instructions:* Direct your comments to Docket ID No. EPA-R04-SFUND-2005-0501. EPA's policy is that all comments received will be included in the public docket without change and may be made available online at <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided, unless the comment includes information claimed to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Do not submit information that you consider to be CBI or otherwise protected through <http://www.regulations.gov> or e-mail. The

www.regulations.gov Web site is an "anonymous access" system, which means EPA will not know your identity or contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment. If you send an e-mail comment directly to EPA without going through <http://www.regulations.gov> your e-mail address will be automatically captured and included as part of the comment that is placed in the public docket and made available on the Internet. If you submit an electronic comment, EPA recommends that you include your name and other contact information in the body of your comment and with any disk or CD-ROM you submit. 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. Electronic files should avoid the use of special characters, any form of encryption, and be free of any defects or viruses. For additional information about EPA's public docket visit the EPA Docket Center homepage at <http://www.epa.gov/epahome/dockets.htm>.

Docket: All documents in the docket are listed in the www.regulations.gov index. Although listed in the index, some information is not publicly available, e.g., CBI or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, will be publicly available only in hard copy. Publicly available docket materials are available either electronically in www.regulations.gov or in hard copy at the U.S. EPA Region 4 office located at 61 Forsyth Street, SW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Regional office is open from 7 a.m. until 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

Written comments may be submitted to Ms. Batchelor within 30 calendar days of the date of this publication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paula V. Batchelor at 404/562-8887.

Dated: December 14, 2005.

Rosalind H. Brown,

Chief, Superfund Enforcement & Information Management Branch, Waste Management Division.

[FR Doc. E5-7774 Filed 12-22-05; 8:45 am]

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