REQUEST FOR INITIAL PROPOSAL (RFIP) FOR AWARD OF A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

OVERVIEW INFORMATION

Funding Agency: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Laboratory: National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory

Division: Atlantic Ecology Division (AED)

Funding Opportunity Title:
EPA New England Regional Applied Research Effort Program (**RARE**): Nitrogen Attenuation Research in the Connecticut River Watershed

Announcement Type: Initial Announcement

Funding Opportunity Number:
EPA/ORD/NHEERL/AED/04-02

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:
CFDA number is 66.510: Surveys, studies, investigations and special purpose grants within the Office of Research and Development

Action Dates: (RFIP issued: June 4, 2004
(Final date to submit technical questions: July 6, 2004)
(Proposals due: August 3, 2004)

Executive Summary:

Over 40% of the estuaries in the U.S. are degraded from eutrophication, with particularly severe problems in New England. Eutrophication in Long Island Sound (LIS) has lead to chronic hypoxia and resulted in the violation of water quality standards for dissolved oxygen; the primary pollutant causing the low dissolved oxygen condition in LIS is nitrogen. In 2001, EPA approved the LIS Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for dissolved oxygen, which specifies the maximum amount of nitrogen that can be discharged to LIS without violating water quality standards for dissolved oxygen. The Connecticut River delivers an estimated 12,542.9 tons of total nitrogen to LIS, with terrestrial sources originating in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire. In order to develop scientifically defensible nitrogen load allocations for the Connecticut River Watershed, more precise rate estimates for nitrogen transport and loss are needed. Furthermore, understanding the transport and loss mechanisms of nitrogen is vital to the development of effective reduction strategies for sources responsible for nitrogen delivery to LIS. The goal of this research project is to improve the understanding of nitrogen cycling in the Connecticut River Watershed and determine where nitrogen attenuation is occurring and by how much. This research will also help EPA and States with the general development of TMDLs for nitrogen, as well as help States adopt more appropriate nutrient criteria on which TMDLs are based.

Anticipated Funding: Not to exceed approximately $100,000 per year renewable for one year.

Eligible Applicants: States, territories and possessions, and Tribal nations of the United States, including the District of Columbia, public and private universities and colleges, hospitals, laboratories, State and local government departments, other public or private nonprofit institutions, and in some cases, individuals who have demonstrated unusually high scientific ability.

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FULL TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Title of Assistance Opportunity:

EPA New England Regional Applied Research Effort Program (RARE): Nitrogen Attenuation Research in the Connecticut River Watershed

Background:

Nitrogen input to terrestrial systems doubled in the latter half of the 20th century. In consequence, nitrogen flows have increased markedly in many rivers, resulting in greater flux of nitrogen to coastal waters' (referenced included at the end of the document). Increased nitrogen loading has caused eutrophication (overgrowth/decay of aquatic plants, resulting in depletion of dissolved oxygen) in over 40% of the estuaries in the U.S., with particularly severe problems in New England. Eutrophication in Long Island Sound (LIS) has resulted in chronic hypoxia and the violation of water quality standards for dissolved oxygen, with oxygen levels often falling below 1 or 2 mg/L. Nitrogen has been shown to be the primary pollutant causing hypoxia in LIS.

Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires States to identify and list waters that do not meet applicable water quality standards. The CWA also requires that TMDLs be developed for each pollutant of an impaired waterbody. A TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards, and an allocation of that amount to the pollutant's sources. TMDLs must consider all sources of pollutants, whether point or nonpoint; the calculation must also include a margin of safety, which reflects scientific uncertainty, as well as accounts for the effects of seasonal variation. TMDLs also identify pollutant reduction goals necessary to improve impaired waters. In 2001, EPA approved the LIS TMDL for dissolved oxygen, which was jointly submitted by Connecticut and New York. The TMDL specifies the maximum amount of nitrogen that can be discharged to LIS without violating water quality standards for dissolved oxygen.

Reducing tributary loading from the Connecticut River is among the required nitrogen reduction goals specified in the LIS TMDL. The Connecticut River is the longest river in New England, flowing south from the Connecticut Lakes in northern New Hampshire, along the border between New Hamphire and Vermont, through central Massachusetts and Connecticut, and draining into Long Island Sound. It has a total length of 405 miles and a four State drainage basin extending over 11,250 mi^2. The Connecticut River delivers an estimated 12,542.9 tons of total nitrogen to LIS, with terrestrial sources originating in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire. Through a cooperative effort, EPA, the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC), Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont are developing a Total Nitrogen Reduction Strategy (and implementation plan) for the Upper Connecticut River Basin to comply with the LIS TMDL and meet water quality goals for LIS.

In order to develop scientifically defensible nitrogen load allocations (that upstream States will buy into) for large multi-State watersheds, such as the Connecticut River Watershed, more precise rate estimates for nitrogen attenuation (in-stream loss) are needed. In response to this research need, a small technical advisory committee (the Committee) was established to develop and implement a nitrogen attenuation study in the Connecticut River Watershed. The Committee is currently conducting a detailed literature review and is in the process of developing several white papers. The white papers will summarize key findings from the literature, including the range of preliminary estimates for nitrogen loss rates in large watersheds and the various research methods previously used to determine nitrogen loss. Information and recommendations from the Committee will guide the establishment of the detailed monitoring and modeling study design. The Committee is also organizing a technical workshop on nitrogen attenuation, where technical experts will be invited to offer their knowledge and experience on the research topic (nitrogen attenuation), as well as provide input on the proposed study design for the nitrogen attenuation study in the

Connecticut River Watershed. Following the workshop, the Committee will identify the most suitable research approach and finalize the details of the study design.

The goal of this research is to improve the understanding of nitrogen cycling (transport and loss) and develop more precise rates for nitrogen attenuation (in-stream loss) in the Connecticut River Watershed. This will be accomplished using one or both of the following methods: 1) Mass balance calculations and nitrogen transformation processes; and/or 2) Isotope tracing of nitrogen. This proposed research will improve understanding of nitrogen impacts in large watersheds, which is a high priority for both EPA and States, and allow for the development of more effective management strategies for nutrient-related impairments in New England waterbodies. Specifically, this research will be of significant use for calculating TMDLs for nitrogen and developing appropriate nutrient criteria (for adoption into State water quality standards) on which TMDLs are based. The additional increases in nitrogen sources anticipated to occur during the early 21st century (on account of population growth and economic development) will present significant challenges to addressing nutrient-impaired waters in the future, and underscore the need for research on nitrogen attenuation. Technical reference documents related to this research are listed at the end of this document.

The benefits and outcomes expected from this proposed research are:

1. More precise estimates for nitrogen attenuation in the Connecticut River Watershed, which will assist in the refinement of nitrogen load allocations in the LIS TMDL, including the allocation of nitrogen loading in the Connecticut River Watershed to the States of Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire. This information will also help with the development of nitrogen reduction strategies (e.g., point source trading, wastewater treatment plant upgrades, etc.) and the selection of sources in which to target reduction efforts.

2. Much needed data to assist EPA and the States in the development of nutrient criteria for nitrogen for rivers and streams, including information on the cumulative impacts of nitrogen on water quality in large watersheds, where consideration of downstream effects is of concern.

3. Improved understanding of nitrogen cycling in large (and small) river systems, which will further the development of scientifically defensible nitrogen load allocations for impaired waters (as required by Section 303(d) of federal Clean Water). The results of this research study will help reduce TMDL uncertainty and lower the risk of inadequately characterizing the margin of safety.

Funding Priorities/Focus:

The purpose of this RFIP is to solicit proposals for a cooperative agreement to create a partnership with the EPA Atlantic Ecology Division (AED) in Narragansett, RI to support and provide technical assistance for the following tasks:

Task 1. Study Design and Project Support - Information and recommendations from the Committee will guide the enhancement of the detailed monitoring and modeling study design. The final research approach will involve one (or a combination) of the following two methods:

1) Mass Balance Calculations and Nitrogen Transformation Processes: A nitrogen mass balance will be conducted for select reaches in the Connecticut River and tributaries. Sites will be chosen to represent (to the extent possible) the range of different watershed characteristics and stream conditions typical of the Connecticut River Watershed, including drainage area, reach length, latitude, channel depth, channel width, stream velocity, stream gradient, tree cover, streambed sediment, surrounding land use, and point source inputs.

Both a water and chemical (nitrogen) balance will be calculated by quantifying inflows and outflows to the selected reaches. Surface and ground water samples (seepage and hyporheic zone) will be collected to determine or predict the expected nitrogen load in the river reaches. If the calculated load (surface water and ground water inputs) is less than the observed load, transformation processes will be studied.

The potential effects of organic carbon and temperature on denitrification rates in riverbed sediments will be determined through further analysis. The acetylene block technique will be considered in order to quantify nitrous oxide (N_20) production (gaseous state), as the technique has demonstrated the ability to measure denitrification rates". The effects of organic carbon concentrations and type on N_20 production rates will also be studied. Furthermore, seasonal sampling will be conducted to determine the effects of temperature on denitrification processes.

Mass balance results will indicate if the measured load in the river reach is accounted for from both surface water and ground water inputs. If the measured load is less than the expected load (load calculated assuming no loss of nitrogen) then it would suggest that the net load to the river is being reduced. Further characterizing the denitrification potential (e.g., river sediments, microbial activity, etc.) will provide information on the characteristics of a river reach that influence nitrogen loss; and/or

2) Isotope Tracing of Nitrogen: Nitrogen isotope ratio measurements have been used to identify nitrogen sources and describe nitrogen transformations in aquatic environments. The technique involves determining the $^{15}N/^{14}N$ ratio of nitrogen in nitrate ($\delta^{15}N$ of NO_{3-}) and $^{18}O/^{16}O$ ratio of the oxygen contained within the nitrate ($\delta^{18}O$). The ratio of these two isotopes can be compared to known isotopic compositional ranges for sources of nitrate, including natural soil nitrate and ammonium fertilizers, sewage and animal wastes, and atmospheric sources". Deviations from these ranges, which indicate enrichment in $\delta^{15}N$ of NO_{3-}, may indicate the presence of additional processes, including denitrification, as well as mixing of different sources of nitrogen.

The Committee will provide input to the applicant regarding the workplan approach. The Committee will assist in review of the applicant's workplan, as well as review the QAPP, project reports, and presentations. Regularly scheduled Committee meetings will be established in order to track progress and identify/address potential problems. The Applicant shall attend these local meetings to discuss progress and present findings.

Task 2. Quality Assurance Project Plan Preparation - Following selection of the most suitable approach and finalization of the detailed workplan, a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) will be developed. The QAPP should follow EPA's guidance as presented in the Region 1 - EPA New England Compendium of Quality Assurance Project Plan Requirements and Guidance and EPA's national guidance documents, EPA QA/G-5 and EPA QA /G-5M. Following approval of the QAPP by the Committee and the EPA Quality Assurance Unit, sample collection will begin.

Task 3. Data Collection - Data collection will be conducted over the course of twelve months. A database will be developed and maintained for the dataset; upon completion of sampling, the database will be finalized. A data synthesis report, as discussed in Task 6, will be developed, summarizing the major findings of the data collection effort.

Task 4. Data Analysis - The results of Phase 2 (Tasks 2 and 3) will be used to develop more precise estimates for in-stream nitrogen attenuation rates for the Connecticut River Watershed. A number of different deterministic modeling approaches are being considered and will be decided upon by the Committee. Upon completion of modeling and data analyses, a final technical report will be developed by the Applicant, summarizing the data collection effort and results of the modeling analyses and presenting the estimates for nitrogen attenuation rates for the Connecticut River Watershed. A technical symposium will be scheduled to present the research findings and potential implications.

Task 5. Project Outcomes and Deliverables (reporting requirements) -

1. A carefully planned (monitoring and modeling) study design for investigating in-stream nitrogen attenuation in large watersheds. Although the design will be catered to the Connecticut River Watershed, the fundamental principles and study methods will be applicable to different basins.

2. An extensive water quality data set of nutrient-related parameters for the entire Connecticut River Watershed, both the mainstem river and various tributaries within each of the four States.
3. A data synthesis report (digital and paper format), summarizing the major findings of the data collection effort.
4. More precise estimates for in-stream nitrogen attenuation rates for the Connecticut River Watershed.
5. A final technical report (digital and paper format), summarizing the data collection effort and results, the results of the modeling analyses, and the estimates for in-stream nitrogen attenuation rates for the Connecticut River Watershed.
6. A technical symposium to present the findings of the research study and potential implications.
7. The results of this project will also be presented at professional conferences and serve as the basis for one or more professional journal articles; however, it is likely that these activities will occur following the completion of Phase 3.

The proposed research will start following completion of funding arrangements by ORD and will be conducted over a period of 21months. The following is a schedule for the proposed research, which includes interim milestones (identified as number of months following project start date):

PHASE 1	
Complete Study Design/Project Workplan	Month 1
PHASE 2	
Complete QAPP & Initiate Data Collection	Month 3
Complete Data Collection	Month 15
Data Synthesis Report & Database Development	Month 18
PHASE 3	
Complete Modeling Analyses	Month 19
Final Technical Report & Symposium	Month 21

GPRA Goals, Objectives:

The following EPA GPRA categories apply to this cooperative agreement:

Goal 2: Clean and Safe Water

Objective 2.3: Science/Research

Objective 2.3.2: Research

This cooperative agreement will also apply to

Sub-objective 2.2.1: Improve Water Quality on a Watershed Basis

Sub-objective 2.2.2: Improve Coastal and Ocean Waters

Statutory Authority for Award of Assistance:

This research is authorized under the Clean Water Act, Section 104, as amended; Public Law 95-217, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.

II. Award Information

Amount and Range of Individual Award: One award for two years, not to exceed $100,000.

Number of Awards: One award for two years.

Funding: The EPA is expected to fund this award over a period of two years. Funding of the award is estimated to be approximately $100,000.

Project Period: August 1, 2004 to July 31, 2006.

Supplemental Applications: Applications for supplemental awards of existing EPA assistance agreements will not be eligible to compete for this assistance opportunity.

Type of Award: The Agency anticipates the award of a cooperative agreement.

Anticipated Federal Involvement:

EPA and the Project Officer for this assistance agreement anticipate substantial involvement in the implementation of all of the program tasks. Meetings, conference calls and email communications will be undertaken between ORD and Regional science and policy professionals and the cooperative agreement recipient to facilitate study design, project planning, data collection, database synthesis and development, and modeling phases of the research.

III. Eligibility Information

Eligible Applicants: Programs under CFDA 66.510 are available to each State, territory and possession, and Tribal nation of the U.S., including the District of Columbia, for public and private State universities and colleges, hospitals, laboratories, State and local government departments, other public or private nonprofit institutions, and in some cases, individuals who have demonstrated unusually high scientific ability.

Cost Sharing Requirements: None.

Other Eligibility Criteria:

Eligible nonprofit organizations include any organizations that meet the definition of nonprofit in OMB Circular A-122. However, nonprofit organizations described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in lobbying activities as defined in Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 are not eligible to apply. Universities and educational institutions must be subject to OMB Circular A-21.

Groups of two or more eligible applicants may choose to form a coalition and submit a single application for this assistance agreement. Coalitions must identify which eligible organization will be the recipient of the assistance agreement, and which eligible organizations(s) will be subawardees of the recipient. Sub awards must be consistent with the definition of that term in 40 CFR 30.2(ff). The recipient must administer the assistance agreement, is accountable to EPA for proper expenditure of the funds, and will be the point of contact for the coalition. As provided in 40 CFR 30.2(gg), sub recipients are accountable to the recipient for proper use of EPA funding.

Coalitions may not include for profit organizations that will provide services or products to the successful applicant. For profit organizations are not eligible for sub awards. Any contracts for services or products funded with EPA financial assistance must be awarded under the competitive procurement procedures of 40 CFR Part 30. The regulations also contain limitations on consultant compensation. Applicants are not required to identify contractors or consultants in the proposal. Moreover, the fact a successful applicant has named a specific contractor or consultant in the proposal EPA approves does not relieve it of its obligations to comply with competitive procurement requirements or consultant compensation limitations.

Applications will be reviewed for eligibility during the Administrative and Relevance Reviews. These reviews may have the effect of making a proposal ineligible for award. The Administrative Review and Relevance Review factors are as follows:

Administrative Review: All initial proposals will be subject to an administrative review to ensure that they conform to the requirements of this RFIP. EPA may reject any applications that fail to conform substantially to the requirements of this RFIP.

Relevance Review: Initial proposals that are found administratively acceptable will be subjected to a review for relevancy to EPA's mission to support advancement of environmental science. Only initial proposals that meet the administrative and relevance reviews will be subject to the technical review and be eligible for award.

Technical Review: Initial proposals that are found administratively acceptable and relevant shall be reviewed for technical merit against the specific criteria.

Initial proposals from ineligible applicants deemed ineligible for award or that fail to meet either the administrative, relevance, or technical review, will be returned without further review.

IV. Application and Submission Information

Address to Request Application Package: James S. Latimer, US EPA, Office of Research and Development, NHEERL, Atlantic Ecology Division, 27 Tarzwell Drive, Narragansett, RI or latimer.jim@epa.gov.

Application information is also available from the EPA/ORD/NHEERL website at http://www.epa.gov/nheerl/ under the heading Assistance Opportunities. This document, and any subsequent amendments, constitutes the entire Request for Initial Proposal.

Content and Form of Application Submission: At a minimum, the initial proposal shall consist of the following items:

1. A cover sheet that identifies the RFIP title and identification number, name and address of applicant, point of contact, telephone number, e-mail address for the applicant, applicant's DUNS number (see Section VIII), and the date of the submission.

2. Technical proposal that discusses the approach to accomplishing the goals stated under Funding Priorities/Focus, the capabilities (in terms of personnel and facilities) of the applicant to complete the work, the expected results from this work, how the work will advance and stimulate the public need, and how the results will be made available to the public and government. In addition, in developing the technical proposal, the applicant should focus on the evaluation criteria set forth in Section V and include in the proposal sufficient information to address each of the criteria in the order listed.

The page limitation of the technical proposal is 10 double-sided pages (20 pages total) with a minimum font size of 12. This page limitation should include all text, tables, figures, references, attachments, and appendices. In addition, a 2-page curriculum vita should be included for the program director and any other key personnel identified in the proposal.

3. A budget estimate for the project that is broken down into direct labor, fringe benefits, equipment, travel, other direct costs and overhead with summaries for each year and the total for the entire project. Indicate any proposed cost sharing (not required).

Initial proposals should be submitted in the original with 3 copies and should be double-sided.

Submission Date, Time, and Location: To be considered timely, initial proposals must be received by 4:00 pm local time August 3, 2004 from the U.S. Postal Service or other commercial delivery service. Proposals should be submitted to James S. Latimer, US Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development, NHEERL, Atlantic Ecology Division, 27 Tarzwell Drive, Narragansett, RI 02882. Initial proposals received after the deadline will not be considered and will be returned to the submitter. Applicants that submit proposals by hand should request a receipt from the security guard at the main entrance of the EPA facility.

Intergovernmental Review: This assistance opportunity is subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs." Applicants should contact their State's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to find out how to comply with the State's process. The names and addresses of the SPOC's are listed in the Office of Management and Budget's home page at: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html.

Funding Restrictions: Funding of the first year of the award is expected to be at $100,000. Additional funding is not expected.

Amendments: Amendments will be posted on this website and the due date for initial proposals will be extended if deemed appropriate.

Other Submission Requirements: None.

V. Application Review Information

Administrative Review: All initial proposals will be subject to an administrative review to ensure that they conform to the requirements of this RFIP. EPA may reject any application that fails to conform substantially to the requirements of this RFIP.

Relevance Review: Initial proposals that are found administratively acceptable will be subjected to a review for relevancy to EPA's mission to support advancement of environmental science. Only initial proposals that meet the administrative review and relevance review will be subject to the technical review and be eligible for award. Initial proposals from ineligible applicants deemed ineligible for award or that fail to meet either the administrative review or relevance review, will be returned without further review.

Examples of relevancy issues that make proposal ineligible include:

1. Proposal is deficient technically with no chance for consideration.
2. Proposal fails to advance the objectives stated in the solicitation even if successfully performed.
3. Proposal essentially duplicates work already completed or underway.
4. Proposal fails to demonstrate a public purpose of support and stimulation; i.e., it implies the primary purpose is to provide direct support to the Federal government.

Criteria for Technical Review: Initial proposals that are found administratively acceptable and relevant shall be reviewed for technical merit against the following criteria.

1. Technical approach for addressing the RFIP proposed activities. (30%)

2. Qualification of the proposed key personnel. Applicants should identify key personnel and their proposed time commitment to this assistance agreement. (25%)

3. Institutional capability including longstanding ability (a) to assist the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont in coordinating activities that allow cooperation among the states for this research project, (b) to draw on New England state and scientific expertise in prioritizing research tasks, (c) to draw on the expertise of the USGS, New England region EPA for activities related to this research, (d) to draw on prior knowledge of the USGS regarding CT river research and management, (e) to produce a Quality Assurance Project Plan. (25%)

4. Past Performance. Demonstrate longstanding ability (a) to conduct multi-faceted field programs through cooperation with states of MA, CT, NH, and VT and the USGS, (b) to plan and execute forums of scientists and state representatives to prioritize and review research findings related to CT river scientific and policy issues, (c) to apply previous knowledge related directly to CT River and the Long Island Sound TMDL scientific and policy issues. In summary, the applicant must demonstrate a record of performance in projects of similar size, relevance, and scope to this agreement. (20%)

Review and Selection Process:

Evaluation Process: The administrative and relevancy reviews will be conducted by EPA personnel who are not a part of the technical review panel. The review of the technical criteria will be conducted by a technical review panel; technical review panel shall consist of at least one internal EPA reviewer and at least two non-EPA reviewers who are able to demonstrate technical expertise in the areas related to the RFIP and a lack of any conflict of interest.

Source Selection: A preliminary selection of the applicant for award will be made based upon the rankings of the technical review panel and the other factors discussed above. The Decision Official is an Office of Research and Development (ORD) manager who will preliminarily select which applicant should receive the award.

Full Application: The applicant selected for award will be requested to submit a full, detailed application in accordance with the guidance provided by EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment (http://www.epa.gov/ogd/). After receipt of the full application, EPA may negotiate changes to the proposal with the selected applicant.

Rejection Factors: Applications may be rejected because they fail to comply with the administrative requirements of the RFIP, they are found to lack relevancy, they are judged technically unacceptable, or they are not deemed suitable for award due to other factors (if identified). EPA reserves the right to reject all proposals or applications and make no awards.

Disputes: Disputes will be resolved pursuant to the process described in 40 CFR 30.63 and Part 31, subpart F.

Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates: The anticipated announcement date is June 2004. The anticipated award date is August 2004.

VI. Award Administration Information

Award Notices: Notice of award will be made in writing by an official in the EPA Grants Administration Division. Preliminary selection by the Decision Official in the Office of Research and Development does not guarantee an award will be made. Applicants are cautioned that only a grants officer can bind the Government to the expenditure of funds. No commitment on the part of EPA should be inferred from technical or budgetary discussions with an EPA Program Official. A Principal Investigator or organization that makes financial or personnel commitments in the absence of a grant or cooperative agreement signed by the EPA Grants Award Official does so at their own risk.

EPA will promptly notify in writing (postal or email) those applicants whose proposal has not been selected for award. An unsuccessful applicant may request a debriefing to better understand the evaluated strengths and weaknesses of its proposal and the reason it was not selected for award.

Administrative and National Policy Requirements:

Regulations and OMB Coverage:

Grants and agreements with institutions of higher education, hospitals, and other non-profit organizations are subject to 40 CFR Parts 30 and 40 and OMB Circular A-122 for non-profits and A-21 for institutions of higher learning.

Grants and agreements with state, local, and tribal governments are subject to 40 CFR Parts 31 and 40 and OMB Circular A-87.

Programmatic Terms and Conditions: Terms and conditions will be negotiated with the selected recipient covering the following requirements:

To further the assistance-agreement objectives of public support and stimulation, applicants must agree to make methods, models, and data resulting from this agreement accessible to the public and to EPA researchers.

Reporting:

The following reports will be completed for this project and submitted to the Project Officer.

1. A data synthesis report (digital and paper format), summarizing the major findings of the data collection effort (due in month 18)
2. A final technical report (digital and paper format), summarizing the data collection effort and results, the results of the modeling analyses, and the estimates for in-stream nitrogen attenuation rates for the Connecticut River Watershed (due in month 21)

VII. Agency Contact

The primary agency contact for this RFIP is Dr. James S. Latimer at:

US Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Research and Development
NHEERL, Atlantic Ecology Division
27 Tarzwell Drive, Narragansett, RI 02882

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If unable to reach Dr. Latimer, contact Ms. Margaret Mann at:

Telephone: 919-541-4896
Telefax: 919-541-2581
E-mail: mann.margaret@epa.gov

VIII. Other Information

Questions: Questions should be submitted in writing to Jim Latimer. Do not attempt to seek information regarding this RFIP from any source other than those identified in Section VII as the information provided may or may not be accurate. Questions that are considered significant will be answered via an amendment to this RFIP.

Confidential Information: Clearly mark information considered to be confidential. EPA will make final confidentially decisions in accordance with Agency regulations at 40 CFR, Part 2, Subpart B. As noted above, initial proposals for research and demonstration projects will be provided to at least two non-EPA consultants for technical review. All reviewers will be required to sign confidentiality agreements certifying they will keep all deliberations confidential, and they will not copy any portions of any material provided by EPA for review, and they will return all material to EPA upon request. If you are unwilling to allow non-EPA consultants to review your proposal, please advise us of your decision in a cover letter to your proposal.

DUNS Number: Grant applicants are required to provide a Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number when applying for Federal grants or cooperative agreements.

OMB has determined that there is a need for improved statistical reporting of Federal grants and cooperative agreements. Use of the DUNS number government-wide will provide a means to identify entities receiving those awards and their business relationships. The identifier will be used for tracking purposes, and to validate address and point of contact information.

A DUNS number will be required whether an applicant is submitting a paper application or using the government-wide electronic portal (Grants.gov). The DUNS number will supplement other identifiers required by statute or regulation, such as tax identification numbers. Organizations can receive a DUNS number in one day, at no cost, by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line at 1-866-705-5711. Individuals who would personally receive a grant or cooperative agreement award from the Federal government apart from any business or non-profit organization they may operate are exempt from this requirement. The website where an organization can obtain a DUNS number is: http://www.dnb.com. This takes 30 business days and there is no cost unless the organization requests expedited (1-day) processing, which includes a fee of $40.