

USEPA Great Lakes National Program Office FY2005-2006 Funding Guidance

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Overview

Federal Agency Name: Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes National Program Office

Funding Opportunity Title: USEPA Great Lakes National Program Office FY2005-2006 Funding Guidance

Announcement Type: Initial Announcement

Funding Opportunity Number: GL2005-1

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 66.469

Dates: For further information, see Section IV. The deadline for submissions is 8:00 AM Central time, Tuesday morning, May 31, 2005. If you do not have the capability to submit electronically, please contact Michael Russ (312-886-4013 / russ.michael@epa.gov) for information on how you may apply under this announcement.

Funding Opportunity Description: A total estimated amount of up to \$4,692,000, for 40 to 100 projects, may be awarded under this announcement for furthering protection and cleanup of the Great Lakes ecosystem. Projects must address Pollution Prevention and Toxics Reduction; Habitat (Ecological) Protection and Restoration, including Habitat Conferences and Printing; Emerging or Strategic Issues, including Invasive Species; Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Priorities; or Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP) Priorities.

How to submit: Use PSS2005 software available from <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/2005guid/> . Go to this website and register with us now to keep informed about our funding process. See Section IV for further information on how to apply.

Changes from previous Funding Guidances include:

- Contaminated Sediments funding information is available from Marc Tuchman (312-353-1369 / tuchman.marc@epa.gov), not this Funding Guidance. For Great Lakes Legacy Act funding for Contaminated Sediments, contact Marc or see: <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/fund/qlf.html> .
- Apply in the “RAP Priority” topic for Habitat projects advancing de-listing in Areas of Concern.
- Apply in the Emerging or Strategic Issues topic for Invasive Species projects.
- EPA Order 5700.7 on Environmental Results in grants < <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700.7.pdf> > requires greater specificity for proposed environmental results. Applicants will be evaluated on their plans for measuring progress against outcomes and outputs. See Sections I and IV.
- The Specific Criteria for topic areas has been moved to Section V. Applicants should ensure their submission addresses both the Specific and General Criteria.
- Greater specificity from applicants regarding their administrative and programmatic capability to manage awards is required as a result of EPA Order 5700.8 < http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700_8.pdf > See Section V. See Section VI regarding additional requirements for non-profit applicants recommended for funding.
- Lake Team reviews, previously the third step of the GLNPO review process, will not be conducted due to EPA’s Policy for Competition of Assistance Agreements, Order 5700.5A1. < http://www.epa.gov/ogd/competition/5700_5A1.pdf >

I. Funding Opportunity Description.

Under this FY2005-2006 Funding Guidance, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA's) Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) is requesting Great Lakes project submissions addressing one or more of the following topics: Pollution Prevention and Toxics Reduction, Habitat (Ecological) Protection and Restoration, Emerging or Strategic Issues (including Invasive Species), Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Priorities, and Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP) Priorities.

This funding opportunity is issued pursuant to (i) §104 of the Clean Water Act, authorizing EPA to conduct and promote the coordination and acceleration of, research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of pollution and (ii) §118 of the Clean Water Act calling for the achievement of the goals in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the principal goal of that Agreement being the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Great Lakes basin. Projects funded under this solicitation will advance protection and restoration of the Great Lakes ecosystem in support of Goal 4 (Healthy Communities and Ecosystems), Objective 3 (Ecosystems), Subobjective 3 (Improve the Health of Great Lakes Ecosystems) of USEPA's Strategic Plan < <http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/plan/plan.htm> >.

In support of Subobjective 4.3.3, and consistent with EPA Order 5700.7 < <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700.7.pdf> > on environmental results, awards issued pursuant to the respective topics above will be expected to accomplish various environmental outcomes and include various environmental outputs. Each topic area includes a description of some of the possible environmental outcomes/outputs for that area, not all of which would be achievable within an assistance agreement funding period, and not all of which would necessarily result from each project selected.

Descriptions of each topic and priorities, Expected Outputs/Outcomes, Projects of Particular Interest, Examples, and estimated target amounts follow. Estimates of dollar amounts and numbers of projects are included as planning targets only. The actual amounts and numbers may differ substantially as described in Section II - Award Information. Amounts, Targets, and Number of Projects. In addition, EPA reserves the right to make no awards under this announcement.

Applicants will be required to categorize each of their project submissions into one of the topic areas described below. Submissions will be evaluated within the applicable topic areas. Section V identifies general criteria applicable to all submissions and Specific Criteria applicable to the respective topic areas.

A. Pollution Prevention and Toxics Reduction - GLNPO requests project submissions for pollution prevention, reduction, or elimination projects, with an emphasis on substances which are persistent and toxic, especially those which bioaccumulate, in the Great Lakes basin. Under

this topic area, an estimated \$500,000 is targeted for approximately 8-15 projects.

Expected Environmental Outcomes/Outputs. Will include among the following:

- Improved toxic source and emissions inventories.
- Removal/Reductions of toxic substances from the GL Basin.
- Adoption of innovative ideas such as green chemistry or engineering, and environmentally preferable purchasing.
- A better informed public about the health threats associated with toxic substances.
- Information to help target persistent toxic substances for pollution prevention and reduction activities.

Please note that projects addressing Pollutant-related Beneficial Use Impairments, including de-listing target development, should be submitted under Section I.D. - "RAP Priorities."

Projects of Particular Interest. We are particularly interested in the following projects:

1. Source characterization: Assessment of potential sources of persistent toxic substances.
2. Indicators of progress toward virtual elimination of persistent toxic substances.
3. Proper disposal of persistent toxic substances.
4. Foster adoption of innovative products that would reduce the use and release of persistent toxic substances and that are consistent with the principles of EPA's Environmentally-Preferable Purchasing Program (see <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/epp>).
5. Implementation of projects/actions delivering toxic reductions/pollution prevention in sectors targeted by the Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy (GLBTS). Expected environmental outcomes must be quantified.
6. Foster adoption of green technologies. In this context, green technology involves reducing or eliminating the use or generation of persistent toxic substances - including feedstocks, reagents, solvents, products and byproducts-during design, manufacture and use of chemical products and processes.
7. Outreach to achieve source reductions from targeted sectors or groups, e.g., designing a campaign for educating the XX industry on ways to reduce usage and releases of YY chemical.
8. Predictive emerging chemical screening/modeling studies to anticipate potential exposure and/or risk from emerging chemical threats in the basin, based on emissions, wastewater effluent discharge, or other potential sources of emerging chemicals to the basin, fate and transport properties, and known or estimated toxicological properties.

Following are the Pollution Prevention and Reduction Projects of Particular Interest for each Lake basin, as derived from Lakewide Management Plans:

- Lake Erie and St.Clair/Lake St. Clair/Detroit River basins. Projects addressing the chemicals associated with the beneficial use impairments as identified by the Lake Erie LaMP (PBT, mercury, PAHs, lead, chlordane, dioxins, DDE/DDT, mirex) with priority in the evaluation process given to projects involving PBT and mercury or which reduce the release of atrazine to the waters of Lake Erie.

- Lake Huron basin. Projects which:

- (a) address pollutants causing beneficial use impairments in Areas of Concern -- especially PBT, Chlordane, Dioxin, and Mercury -- but also including PAHs, heavy metals, and other compounds identified in the Saginaw River/Bay and St. Marys River RAPs.
- (b) demonstrate innovative approaches to address the long-range transport of atmospheric pollutants to Lake Huron.

- Lake Michigan Basin. Innovative projects which:

- (a) demonstrate innovative technologies for control of pollutant loadings through a watershed assessment plan.
- (b) address dioxin and other pollutants formed from "burning trash in barrels."
- (c) further agricultural clean sweep efforts.
- (d) collect and/or phase out PCB and Mercury, including urban clean sweeps.
- (e) prevent pollution from pesticides, including substitution or reduction projects, with high priority given to atrazine.
- (f) work to implement an impaired waters strategy or incremental steps toward virtual elimination of PCB and mercury, consistent with a traditional Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) approach for Lake Michigan.
- (g) enhance and/or utilize Lake Michigan LaMP 2004 watershed fact sheets.

- Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence River and Niagara River basins. Projects which:

- (a) address pollutants identified in the Lake Ontario LaMP Status Report 2004, Chapter 6 (PCBs, DDTs, mercury, mirex, dieldrin, and dioxins), and emerging toxics such as PBDE as well as projects along the Niagara River which address the priority toxics identified in the Niagara River Toxics Management Plan.
- (b) reduce mercury or other pollutants by building upon, or initiating projects similar in concept to auto mercury switch/ thermometer replacement; mercury collections from medical facilities; or electronic equipment collections.
- (c) reduce pesticides through clean sweeps.
- (d) demonstrate innovative technologies for control of pollutant loadings from the watershed.
- (e) promote household hazardous waste collection efforts that address bioaccumulative contaminants.
- (f) reduce PCBs from transformers.
- (g) address the source of PCB contamination in the 18-Mile Creek.

- Lake Superior Basin. Projects which characterize and reduce sources of Lake Superior critical pollutants in the Lake Superior Basin and otherwise address the main joint priorities of the Lake Superior Workgroup and the Lake Superior Forum. These include projects which:

- (a) address the mercury reduction commitments in the LaMP 2000, including basinwide mercury reduction projects (especially for the shipping industry and community collections); energy efficiency or alternative energy; and proactive mercury reductions at proposed new or expanded facilities in the basin.
- (b) enhance open burning outreach and education, provide incentives to not burn, identify and lower infrastructure barriers and assist local government restrictions on burning.

- (c) update in-basin inventories of mercury, PCBs, dioxin and hexachlorobenzene in preparation for the 2005 load reduction milestone reporting
- (d) otherwise address the chemicals identified as critical pollutants, including PCBs, dioxins, DDT and metabolites, toxaphene, chlordane, aldrin/dieldrin, mercury, hexachlorobenzene and octachlorostyrene, as well as PAHs, BHC, cadmium, and heptachlor.
- (e) demonstrate significant reductions of non-point loadings of critical and other pollutants originating from the development of previously undeveloped land such as new parking lots and highway construction.
- (f) address the long-range transport of atmospheric pollutants to Lake Superior.

Contacts: Ted Smith (312-353-6571 smith.edwin@epa.gov)

Further information: Please see <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/p2.html>

B. Habitat (Ecological) Protection and Restoration. GLNPO requests Great Lakes Habitat (ecological) Protection and Restoration project submissions. Under this topic, an estimated \$300,000 is targeted for approximately 14-21 projects.

Expected Environmental Outcomes/Outputs. Will include among the following:

- An improvement in the ecological integrity of the Great Lakes basin;
- An improvement in the quality and increase in the size of biologically diverse ecosystems;
- A greater understanding by those involved in managing and protecting ecosystems of ecosystem functions and processes;
- An increase in collaborative partnerships that leverage resources for protection and restoration activities;
- A greater awareness by the people of the Great Lakes basin of the inter-relatedness of ecosystem health and human health; and,
- An increase in the kinds and numbers of protection and restoration activities involving citizens that produce measurable benefits to ecosystem health.

Please note that:

- *projects addressing Habitat-related Beneficial Use Impairments for Areas of Concern should be submitted under Section I.D. - “RAP Priorities.”*
- *“Projects of Particular Interest” addressing Habitat Protection and Restoration for Lakes Huron and Ontario should be submitted under Section I.E. - LaMP Priorities.*

1. Basinwide/Regional Projects. An estimated amount of up to \$250,000 will be awarded for approximately 4-6 projects that are Great Lakes basinwide or regional in scope. Projects must be collaborative partnerships that demonstrate common goals and expected outcomes.

Examples. For reference, the type of projects which may be selected include:

- a. Multi-organizational, binational partnerships to protect or restore ecosystems that currently lack over-arching, strategic management.
- b. Projects addressing Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP) habitat priorities. The LaMPs are available from <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/gl2000/lamps/index.html> . For your reference, we include these examples of the type of projects which may be selected:
 - (i) In Lake Erie, refine or develop indicators for Lake Erie species and habitats, and implement the Lake Erie LaMP Habitat strategy.
 - (ii) In Lake Huron, restoration of natural tributary flows, increasing fish spawning habitats, protect and restore shorelines, quantify and prioritize coastal wetlands in Saginaw Bay, and assess and restore off-shore reef habitats.
 - (iii) In Lake Michigan, develop and implement a watershed-wide biodiversity recovery plan and a plan for species reliant on ground and surface water interaction, protect and restore fish spawning habitats and rare ecosystems, create a GIS layer of habitat and ground water/surface water exchange, and enhance and/or utilize Lake Michigan LaMP 2004 Watershed Fact Sheets.
 - (iv) In Lake Ontario, LaMP habitat priority projects other than those identified in Section I.E.4.

- (v) In Lake Superior, develop and field test a basin-wide herptile monitoring program, including a data repository process; develop and establish a land-use and land cover monitoring program; establish a pilot program for an ecological land-use decision process for local governments; restore tributary and embayment habitats to rehabilitate lake sturgeon, lake and brook trout and walleye; identify and quantify critical habitats for self-sustaining fish stocks; develop a pelagic and benthic fish monitoring program; and establish reference sites for representative ecosystems.

- 2. **Habitat (Ecological) Conferences and Printing.** An estimated amount of up to \$50,000 is targeted for approximately 10-15 conference/meeting or education material projects that address Great Lakes ecological protection and restoration issues, information and/or actions. Each project submission may be for up to \$5,000 and have a budget period of one year or less. Projects in excess of \$5,000 or having a longer budget period will be rejected for consideration under this topic, but may, at the discretion of GLNPO, be transferred to the general Habitat topic as a Basinwide/Regional project.

Contact: Karen Rodriguez, 312-353-2690, rodriguez.karen@epa.gov

C. Emerging or Strategic Issues. In order to better fulfill its mission under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement for the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem, GLNPO is requesting project submissions which identify and propose solutions/mitigation for Emerging or Strategic issues of Great Lakes Basin-wide applicability. An estimated amount from between \$0 - \$600,000 may be targeted for approximately 0 to 12 projects. The total budget for such projects cannot be determined at this time, and is largely contingent on the amount, if any, available after making provision for every-five-year expenditures for seaworthiness of the Lake Guardian. The amount of these expenditures may not be known until October, 2005, consequently decisions for this topic may be delayed until then. Of the total available estimated amount, \$100,000 would be targeted for Invasive Species.

We expect that Emerging or Strategic Issues projects would:

- not fit neatly under other existing GLNPO funding categories (i.e., Pollution Prevention, Habitat Protection and Restoration, or the specific projects requested for LaMP and RAP implementation) but might contain elements of one or more of those topics;
- address assessment, causes and/or effects of chemical or biological pollutants not in the regulatory "mainstream;"
- cut across or overlap two or more of the foregoing areas; or
- address some other unanticipated area.

Expected Environmental Outcomes/Outputs. Will include among the following:

- An improvement in the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Great Lakes basin.
- A greater understanding of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Great Lakes basin by those involved in its management.
- Increased protection of the biological integrity of the Great Lakes basin from aquatic and terrestrial invasive species.
- Increased protection of human health.

Examples. For reference, the type of projects which may be selected include:

1. Projects which address invasive (non-indigenous) aquatic and terrestrial species in the Great Lakes Basin with an emphasis on prevention or control. Projects may include:
 - a. development and demonstration of effective and innovative programs to prevent the introduction of new invasive species (aquatic or terrestrial) into the Great Lakes Basin or to control the spread of invasive species within and from the Great Lakes Basin.
 - b. documenting ecological impacts of invasive species on the Great Lakes Basin food web.
 - c. documenting the economic impacts or potential economic impacts of invasive species already in the Great Lakes Basin.
 - d. identification of chemical, physical, and biological conditions that promote the establishment of invasive species.
 - e. development of innovative education/outreach projects.
 - f. monitoring and followup on past invasive species controls.
2. Investigation of chemicals of potential environmental concern such as polybrominated flame

retardants, pharmaceuticals, and endocrine disruptors.

3. Documentation and investigation of causes and effects of observed changes in components of the Great Lakes ecosystem (for example, population estimates, nutrient loads; changes in lower food web assemblages, including Mysis, Diporeia, benthos and plankton; and effects of these changes on the lake fisheries).
4. Quantify and/or assess the connection between environmental contamination directly related to Great Lakes water quality and human health.
5. Social and economic issues affecting Great Lakes management and environmental decision-making.
6. Harnessing the innovation of market forces in environmental protection via air or water emissions trading.
7. Conferences, workshops, and meetings whose theme addresses strategically important issues under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA), the 2002 Great Lakes Strategy < <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/gls/index.html> > , and or the Great Lakes Executive Order < <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/collaboration/index.html> >.
8. Projects that facilitate linking Federal, State, Tribal, and/or local efforts to integrate and update strategic priorities and help align programs and actions needed to plan for and implement Great Lakes restoration progress.
9. Human health projects, including fish consumption outreach to minority and sensitive populations to increase the understanding of fish consumption advisories.

Contacts: General: Paul Horvatin (312-353-3612/ horvatin.paul@epa.gov) or Michael Russ (312-886-4013/ russ.michael@epa.gov)
Invasive Species: Marc Tuchman (312-353-1369/ tuchman.marc@epa.gov)

D. RAP Priorities - USEPA requests project submissions which advance Remedial Action Plan implementation and development. Under this topic, an estimated amount of \$2,440,000 is targeted for approximately 7-20 projects.

Funding for some RAP "program implementation awards for Great Lakes States" is not included in this Funding Guidance pursuant to a January 8, 2004 exemption from USEPA's Policy for Competition in Assistance Agreements. USEPA has contacted States separately to discuss assistance pursuant to this exemption, and plans to support enhanced RAP program management and implementation support.

During the evaluation process, applicable State environmental agencies may be asked whether they support projects being considered pursuant to this Section I. D. Applicants will be asked to document support from the applicable State environmental agency before an award will be issued.

USEPA has worked extensively with States, Tribes, and other partners in development and implementation of Remedial Action Plans. Information about Remedial Action Plans is available from: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/aoc/index.html>

A table showing the status of delisting targets for all US Areas of Concern (AOCs) is at: http://www.glc.org/spac/proceedings/documents/Delisting-targets_US-AOCs_000.xls

Expected Environmental Outcomes/Outputs. Will include among the following:

- Restoration of beneficial use(s) in an AOC, either on a subwatershed, river reach, or AOC wide basis.
- Collection of monitoring data allowing for an AOC redesignation into Recovery Stage.
- Collection of monitoring data allowing for the formal delisting of an AOC.
- Development of measurable delisting criteria for a State RAP program and/or the development of measurable delisting targets for beneficial use impairments in individual AOCs.
- Development and implementation of restoration projects in individual AOCs which address impaired beneficial uses.
- Reevaluation of exiting BUIs to determine if they are still applicable.
- Development of monitoring strategies to determine if restoration activities have achieved stated delisting targets.
- Delisting of Areas of Concern.

Projects of Particular Interest:

- 1. Setting RAP Delisting Criteria and Targets for US AOCs*.** Projects for setting RAP delisting criteria and targets of one or more of the US AOCs, including:
 - a. develop statewide delisting criteria
 - b. setting delisting targets for identified beneficial use impairments
 - c. re-evaluate beneficial use impairments and adjust remediation strategies and ecosystem restoration efforts as necessary for the elimination of impairments and AOC delisting

- d. formal delisting of individual AOCs which would include the development of delisting documents.

2. Projects Leading to Delisting of RAP Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) in the AOCs*.

Projects that result in measurable progress toward meeting BUI delisting targets, including coordination and implementation of remediation efforts as identified in the RAP.

- a. The project submission or the negotiated workplan for the implementation of actions leading to the delisting of an AOC must include a comprehensive, detailed schedule of actions that will achieve complete AOC delisting, ideally by a target date of 2010. The project submission, or the negotiated workplan will need to include:
 - i. for each BUI identified as impaired:
 - (A) detailed descriptions of all remedial and restoration actions required to delist a BUI;
 - (B) a cost estimate and schedule for each of these actions, including the identification of additional funding sources, as needed; and
 - (C) a detailed description and cost estimate of postremedial monitoring, as necessary, to satisfy delisting criteria.
 - ii. for BUIs of unknown status:
 - (A) a detailed description and cost estimate of the monitoring required to definitively determine the status of a BUI; and
 - (B) an outline of proposed remedial actions (as above) that would be required for BUI delisting should monitoring results indicate an impairment. Note that the Oswego AOC is not eligible for this topic of funding.
- b. Projects aimed at significantly contributing to the delisting of an AOC may include:
 - i. The implementation of restoration or remedial efforts that will lead to the delisting of an existing identified BUI. Projects of this type should also include post-remedial monitoring, as necessary, to satisfy delisting criteria for an individual BUI.
 - ii. Monitoring efforts aimed at evaluating the status of beneficial use impairments (BUIs) which require further assessment. (See <http://www.epa.gov/greatlakes/fund/2005guid/NYStateBUITable.pdf> for a table of BUIs that have been identified by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation as requiring further assessment.) These efforts should be sufficient in scope to lead to a definitive change in the use impairment status, for example from "unknown" to either "impaired", "unimpaired", or "attributable to sources outside the AOC".

3. AOC Post Remedial Monitoring*. Projects which develop post remedial monitoring plans for measuring the achievement of BUI delisting targets and for specific monitoring needs which cannot be supported by existing monitoring programs.

4. RAP Program Capacity/Coordination/Management for St. Lawrence Massena, Buffalo River, and/or the Rochester Embayment RAPs. An estimated amount of up to \$1.5 million has been targeted for approximately 1-3 projects over 5 years for the St. Lawrence Massena, Buffalo River, and/or the Rochester Embayment RAPs. The submission(s) for such

project(s) may request the cumulative total amount needed for work that would be done over a 5 year period to advance environmental protection by accelerating the process of delisting and restoring beneficial use impairments through the coordination, oversight, and management of one or more RAPs. If selected, funds may be awarded incrementally each year up to \$100,000, depending on EPA funds availability and program needs and priorities; EPA funding each year is not guaranteed. Following selection, if EPA decides to make incremental award(s), applicants would be asked to submit an annualized 5-year budget and budget detail narrative for the project, and a detailed workplan covering each of the 5 years. Please note that funds from this targeted amount could be combined with a project described in 5 below. Each project submission should address tasks associated with RAP development and implementation, including:

- a. development of periodic RAP status reports that describe and track remediation efforts aimed at eliminating beneficial use impairments identified for applicable RAP(s) and moving the AOC(s) towards delisting;
- b. organization of periodic meetings of the public advisory committees and distribution of meeting minutes to participants and State and Federal agencies;
- c. coordination of RAP activities with other Great Lakes programs such as the LaMPs;
- d. coordination of RAPs with related organizations such as the International Joint Commission (IJC), the Federal RAP Liaisons, USEPA/GLNPO, and the Great Lakes Commission;
- e. participation and co-operation with USEPA (GLNPO and Regional programs) and their agents on gathering, assessing, and summarizing RAP progress;
- f. periodic re-evaluation of beneficial use impairments and adjustment of remediation strategies and ecosystem restoration efforts as necessary for the elimination of impairments and AOC delisting; and
- g. other applicable activities described in paragraph 1, 2, and 3 above.

Contact Barbara Belasco (212-637-3848 / belasco.barbara@epa.gov) for additional information.

- 5. New York State AOC Delisting.** An estimated amount of up to \$600,000 is targeted for approximately 1-6 projects over 5 years combining some or all of the activities described in paragraph 1, 2, 3, and 4 above for projects that will either lead to, or significantly contribute to, the delisting of New York State AOCs by 2010, the delisting target specified in EPA's Great Lakes Strategy (see <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/gls/index.html>).

One such project would be an assessment of the Oswego River of the restoration of fish habitat and population just below the Varick Dam. The Varick Dam FERC re-license (November 2004) includes requirements of minimum flows necessary for the restoration of water in the area just below the dam in order to restore fish habitat and population. The project submission may be for a 2 year budget and 2 year workplan to cover the seasons important for fish spawning and population in 2006/2007. The project's final output would be a report describing if and when the fish habitat and populations are present after the change in flow regime at the dam.

- 6. Habitat Beneficial Use Impairments.** An estimated amount of up to \$250,000 is targeted for approximately 4-8 projects leading to delisting of one of the three habitat-related beneficial use impairments (BUIs)—Degraded Fish and Wildlife Populations, Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat, Degradation of Benthos. Projects must be collaborative partnerships that demonstrate common goals and expected outcomes. Project activities must be based on an ecological restoration approach and comprised of one or more of the following steps in the pathway to delisting (see <http://www.glc.org/spac/pdf/FishWildlifeBUI.pdf> for a draft document, "Pathway for Delisting Three Beneficial Use Impairments in Great Lakes Areas of Concern" detailing the pathway to delisting of the three BUIs):
- a. Articulation of a vision and goals for all habitats within the AOC that is accepted by the community.
 - b. An inventory and assessment of the plants, animals, and habitats currently in the AOC, as well as the problems that are causing the impairments to them and what is needed for them to recover.
 - c. A project design (target setting) for the entire AOC, including a detailed work plan to restore and manage all sites within the AOC as articulated in a vision and goals.
 - d. Implementation activities that will accomplish the goals and objectives according to an articulated project design.
 - e. Development of a monitoring and re-assessment plan that will keep track of each protected or restored site within the AOC over a long period of time.

Overall RAP Priorities Contact: Mark Elster (312-8863857 / elster.mark@epa.gov)

* A cumulative total of up to \$90,000 is targeted for 1-3 projects in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin pursuant to paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 of this Section I.D.

E. LaMP Priorities. USEPA is requesting submissions for projects which will further advance Lakewide Management Plan implementation and development. An estimated amount of \$852,000 is targeted for approximately 12-29 projects.

USEPA has worked extensively with States, Tribes, and other partners in development and implementation of the Lakewide Management Plans. The updated Lakewide Management Plans are available at: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/gl2000/lamps/index.html>

Funding for some LaMP "program implementation awards for Great Lakes States" is not included in this Funding Guidance pursuant to a January 8, 2004 exemption from USEPA's Policy for Competition in Assistance Agreements. USEPA has contacted the States separately to discuss assistance pursuant to this exemption.

See previous sections of this Funding Guidance for additional requests for projects supporting the LaMPs pertaining to Pollution Prevention and Reduction, Habitat, and Emerging or Strategic Issues. Each LaMP is different, requiring different funding mechanisms, not all of which are included in the Funding Guidance. LaMP activities are also supported by direct, non-competitive grants to States and Tribes, interagency agreements with other Federal agencies, and contractual funding.

Note that USEPA and Environment Canada have recently agreed to better coordinate ship- and land-based monitoring efforts for the Great Lakes. The objective of the coordination is to provide an intensive field sampling campaign for each Lake every five years. In 2005, USEPA will focus efforts in Lake Michigan, and in 2006, USEPA and Environment Canada will focus efforts on Lake Superior. Intensive monitoring for Lakes Huron, Ontario, and Erie would be done in 2007, 2008, and 2009, respectively.

Expected Environmental Outcomes/Outputs. Will include among the following:

- Reduction of releases of targeted persistent toxic substances to the Great Lakes basin.
- Protection, restoration and maintenance of high quality habitat in the Great Lakes basin, and the ecosystem processes which sustain them.
- A Great Lakes ecosystem which supports a diverse, healthy and sustainable wildlife community in the Great Lakes basin.
- Preservation of human health in the Great Lakes ecosystem.
- Human use of the Great Lakes ecosystem should be consistent with sustainability principles.
- Documented reductions in emissions of targeted critical pollutants through improved emissions inventories, tracking and reporting.
- Development and use of indicators to assess and report on ecosystem health.
- Progress toward improved indicators (i.e., increase in acres of wetlands restored, number of fish species rehabilitated)
- A report documenting the number of people reached, conferences or outreach meetings held to generate increased public awareness of critical Great Lakes human health and ecosystem issues.

Projects of Particular Interest. USEPA staff and LaMP partners have identified the following as Projects of Particular Interest:

1. Lake Erie LaMP Implementation projects. An estimated amount of \$70,000 is targeted for approximately 2-4 projects, including:

a. LaMP Implementation through Lake Erie Forum Stakeholders. An estimated amount of up to \$50,000 is targeted for approximately 1-3 projects for which the focus is on the implementation of high priority LaMP goals and commitments which will advance restoration of impaired beneficial uses. Projects should include (i) facilitation of the multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral, bi-national citizen group known as the Lake Erie Public Forum for the express purposes of gaining public participation in the LaMP process and increasing Forum and public participation in LaMP implementation activities and (ii) educational outreach using vehicles such as newsletters, web sites, and list serves.

b. Lake St. Clair Implementation Strategy. An estimated amount of up to \$20,000 is targeted for a project which would develop an implementation strategy for the Lake St. Clair Management Plan < <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/projectsandstudies/planningstudies/comprehensive%20management%20plan/index.cfm?> >. Contact: Rosanne Ellison (734-692-7689 / ellison.rosanne@epa.gov)

Lake Erie Contact: Daniel O'Riordan (312-886-7981 / oriordan.daniel@epa.gov). The LaMP is at: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/erie.html>

2. Lake Huron Basin “Protection and Restoration of Beneficial Uses” Projects totaling up to an estimated amount of \$100,000 targeting approximately 1-4 projects that (i) support domestic U.S. progress toward priorities established by the Lake Huron Binational Partnership in areas outside of Areas of Concern and (ii) establish or strengthen local partnerships by joint on-the-ground efforts that:

- a. restore fish and wildlife communities and their habitat (e.g., stream and shoreline restoration, fish passage/dam removal, etc.), and/or
- b. protect existing ecologically rich areas from future degradation.

Lake Huron projects must:

- Identify the Lake Huron Binational Partnership priority addressed.
- Describe involvement and coordination with local communities, organizations, and agencies. (Applicants will be asked to document support from the involved organization before an award will be issued.)
- Include as the expected environmental outcome matters such as acres of restored habitat and expected size of restored populations. Both restoration and protection projects should describe how resources will continue to be protected after the project ends (e.g., ongoing stewardship groups, volunteer monitoring/clean-ups, easements, zoning changes, etc.).

Contact: James Schardt (312-353-5085 / schardt.james@epa.gov). The Lake Huron

Binational Partnership is at: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/huron.html>

- 3. Lake Michigan LaMP Implementation.** An estimated amount of \$105,000 is targeted for approximately 1-3 projects, including:
- a. LaMP Implementation through Lake Michigan Forum Stakeholders.** An estimated amount of \$75,000 is targeted for approximately 1-3 projects the focus for which is the implementation of high priority LaMP goals and commitments which will advance restoration of impaired beneficial uses. Projects should include (i) facilitation of the multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral, citizen group known as the Lake Michigan Forum for the express purposes of gaining public participation in the LaMP process and increasing Forum and public participation in LaMP implementation activities and (ii) educational outreach using vehicles such as newsletters, web sites, and list serves.
 - b. LaMP Implementation through Monitoring Coordination.** An estimated amount of \$30,000 is targeted for a project to enhance Lake Michigan coordination, communication, and data management among agencies and other organizations that conduct or benefit from monitoring efforts in support of the Lake Michigan Lakewide Management Plan. The project should include facilitation of the multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral, multi-agency group known as the Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council.

Contact: Judy Beck (312-353-3849 / beck.judy@epa.gov). The LaMP is at: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/michigan.html>

4. Lake Ontario LaMP Implementation Projects.

- a. Lake Ontario Contaminant Source Trackdown.** An estimated amount of up to \$80,000 is targeted for approximately 1-3 projects. Sampling and analysis related to tracking down the sources of pollutants identified in the Lake Ontario LaMP Status Report 2004, Chapter 6, "Sources & Loads of Critical Pollutants" (see <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/lakeont/2004update/index.html>) or in an AOC or non-AOC area in the Lake Ontario basin. Of particular interest is the trackdown of sources of PCBs in 18 Mile Creek and Rochester AOCs.
- b. Lake Ontario PCB TMDL Development.** An estimated amount of up to \$100,000 is targeted for 1 project that will provide the technical support necessary to assist New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in the development of a lakewide TMDL for PCBs in Lake Ontario. This support is expected to include the following:
 - i. The analysis and modeling, as needed, of existing and readily available data and information. US EPA Region 2 and GLNPO have supported the development of a hydrophobic organic chemical mass balance and food chain bioaccumulation model, LOTOX2, for Lake Ontario. LOTOX2 has been calibrated and peer reviewed for total PCBs; the model code, the model documentation, and the peer review report can be obtained from US EPA Region 2.
 - ii. The development of reports that the State of New York may use to support TMDL

development, including the following regulatory requirements:

- (A) Identification of waterbody, the pollutant of concern, pollutant sources, and priority ranking.
- (B) Description of the applicable water quality standards and numeric water quality target.
- (C) Loading capacity, cause and effect relationship between numeric target and pollutant, and critical condition(s).
- (D) Load allocations
- (E) Wasteload allocations
- (F) Margin of safety
- (G) Seasonal variation
- (H) Reasonable assurance
- (I) Index of the administrative record

iii. The development of additional supporting information:

- (A) A system of environmental indicators to measure progress in terms of desired outcomes;
- (B) Actions to be implemented by other stakeholders; and
- (C) Data needs recommended for collection of new data and information.

c. Lake Ontario Tributary Load Monitoring. An estimated amount of up to \$100,000 is targeted for approximately 1-4 projects. To support the Lake Ontario mass balance model and to bring needed data to the Lake Ontario LaMP, information on tributary loadings from the Oswego, Genessee and Salmon Rivers and 18 Mile Creek is needed for 6 critical Lake Ontario pollutants (PCBs, Hg, dieldrin, DDT, mirex, dioxins/furans). Monitoring projects may include:

- i. the development of monitoring plans;
- ii. seasonal monitoring of Lake Ontario critical pollutants and tributary flows; and,
- iii. the calculation of seasonal and annual loadings of Lake Ontario critical pollutants.

d. Development of Lake Ontario Habitat Indicators. An estimated amount of up to \$50,000 is targeted for 1-2 projects. The Lake Ontario LaMP has adopted eleven ecosystem indicators thus far (see <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/lakeont/2004update/index.html>). The LaMP is interested in adopting additional indicators for habitat, for example, a coastal wetlands indicator. The indicators proposed need to be those for which a monitoring program is currently in place by an organization, so that past, current and future data will be available to the LaMP. The project should take maximum advantage of existing data, reports and studies; indicate the support of agencies or organizations involved in the relevant monitoring programs; and should include a public outreach component to inform/obtain comments from the public on the proposed indicators.

e. Mitigating Impacts of Lake Ontario Lake-Level Controls. An estimated amount of up to \$50,000 is targeted for 1-2 projects. Develop feasibility study to implement projects to

mitigate the impacts that artificial lake level controls have had on New York State coastal wetlands. Projects would evaluate the use of weirs or other approaches to restore the functionality of coastal wetlands that have been altered due to the decreased range of water levels experienced since lake level controls were put in place. Projects should have strong local government support and involve government environmental and natural resource agencies. The emphasis should be on project implementation. The final project deliverable will provide an assessment of the impacts and benefits related to the mitigation project as well as a detailed workplan and budget.

Contact: Barbara Belasco (212-637-3848 / belasco.barbara@epa.gov). The LaMP is at: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/ontario.html>

5. Lake Superior LaMP Implementation projects. An estimated amount of \$197,000 is targeted for approximately 3-5 projects.

a. LaMP Implementation through Forum Stakeholders. An estimated amount of \$75,000 is targeted for approximately 1-2 projects to implement high priority LaMP goals and commitments which will advance restoration of impaired beneficial uses such as the basinwide Mercury project, including the development of peer-to-peer program advising; human health outreach efforts; outreach on AOCs, and participation in monitoring efforts. Binational participation is required. Projects should include facilitation of multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral, citizen's groups or fora; public meetings held around the Basin for the express purpose of educating/ outreaching on specific issues of interest to the Lake stakeholder community; and other outreach such as newsletters, web sites, and e-mail lists.

b. Tribal LaMP Implementation. An estimated amount of \$82,000 is targeted for approximately 1-2 projects for LaMP implementation and coordination on behalf of Lake Superior Tribal interests, with emphasis on addressing LaMP commitments for reduction of critical pollutants, and implementing top habitat, terrestrial, and aquatics commitments of the LaMP. Projects should include active Tribal technical coordinating committee representation and participation; updating of websites; fish monitoring and assessment, tracking and updating of LaMP and RAP progress; RAP liaison work, and coordination of LaMP or RAP related monitoring.

c. Monitoring Energy Transfer. An estimated amount of \$40,000 is targeted for a project to support the Lake Superior Binational Program lake-wide effort to develop a monitoring program for benthos, phytoplankton, zooplankton, Mysis and Diporeia. Project should describe the energy transfer from these plants and animals to top fish predators.

Contact: Elizabeth LaPlante (312-353-2694 / laplante.elizabeth@epa.gov). The LaMP is at: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/lakesuperior/index.html>

II. Award Information

A total estimated amount of up to \$4,692,000, for 40 to 100 projects, may be awarded under this announcement for furthering protection and clean up of the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Amounts, Targets, and Number of Projects. Estimates of dollar amounts per topic and/or project area and numbers of projects are included as planning targets only. The actual amounts and numbers may differ substantially for many reasons, including: EPA's operating plan has not been developed and portions of the resources being allocated for the Funding Guidance have not been specified by Congress; the number and quality of meritorious, technically qualified project submissions is unknown; and EPA seeks a geographic balance among selected projects. EPA reserves the right to make no awards under this announcement. Information about the estimated number and amounts of awards for each topic is included in Section I.

Anticipated Start and End Dates. Most projects selected for funding will begin in September or October 2005; however, if an applicant is selected in June and immediately submits all required grants forms, it is possible that a project could begin as early as August. Except for New York RAP projects in Sections I.D.4 and 5, applicants should plan for projects to be completed within 2 years of their start dates. Applicants should also consider the Federal requirement that projects involving data use or collection require an approved Quality Assurance Project Plan prior to commencing environmental data collection - extra funds and extra time may be needed for its development.

Clarification/Revisions. Consistent with EPA's Policy for Competition of Assistance Agreements, EPA Order 5700.5A1 < http://www.epa.gov/ogd/competition/5700_5A1.pdf >, applicants may be contacted for clarification on certain portions of their project submissions and/or for the purpose of negotiating changes in project terms and amounts if appropriate.

Competition Policy Amendments for Additional Funding. Supplemental funding amendments to existing grants for the purpose of obtaining additional funding for additional work are subject to USEPA's Policy for Competition in Assistance Agreements < http://www.epa.gov/ogd/competition/5700_5A1.pdf >. Applicants interested in such an amendment should contact their project officers to discuss the need for including such a project request through the GLNPO Funding Guidance process described in this announcement.

Partial Funding. USEPA reserves the right to partially fund submissions by funding discrete activities, portions, or phases of the proposed project. If USEPA decides to partially fund the proposed project, it will do so in a manner that does not prejudice any applicants or affect the basis upon which the proposed project, or portion thereof, was evaluated and selected, and that maintains the integrity of the competition and the selection/evaluation process.

Previous success rate - for informational purposes only. In FY 2004, GLNPO notified potential applicants that it was seeking proposals for a total of \$3.78 million in the priority areas of: Contaminated Sediments; Pollution Prevention and Toxics Reduction; Habitat Protection and

Restoration; Invasive Species; Emerging or Strategic Issues; and LaMP/RAP priorities. In response, applicants submitted 265 proposals, seeking \$25 million. 77 projects totaling \$3.8 million were selected < <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/2004fund/yeslist.html> > . The "success rate" for proposals submitted in FY2004 was 29%, higher than success rates of recent years, which ranged from 14% in FY2000 to 27% in FY2003.

Type of Award. Successful applicants could be issued a grant, cooperative agreement, inter-agency agreement or such other funding instrument as may be most appropriate. If a cooperative agreement is to be awarded, EPA's involvement in carrying out the work with the applicant will be described in a selection letter, and identified in the terms and conditions of the award document.

III. Eligibility and Matching

Applicant Eligibility. State pollution control agencies, interstate agencies, and other public or nonprofit private agencies, institutions, and organizations are eligible; "for-profit" organizations are not. Since other federal agencies are public agencies or institutions, they are eligible to compete. An applicant's failure to meet eligibility criterion by the time of any award will preclude USEPA from making an award.

Eligible Activities. Assistance is available pursuant to Clean Water Act §104(b)(3) for activities impacting the Great Lakes Basin and in support of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. To be eligible for funding consideration, projects must address one or more of the following topics: Pollution Prevention and Toxics Reduction; Habitat (Ecological) Protection and Restoration, including Habitat Conferences and Printing; Emerging or Strategic Issues, including Invasive Species; Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Priorities; or Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP) Priorities.

Note that each Habitat Conference project may be for up to \$5,000 and have a budget period of one year or less. Project submissions in excess of \$5,000 or having a longer budget period will be rejected for consideration under the Habitat Conference topic (Section I.B.2), but may, at the discretion of GLNPO, be transferred to the general Habitat topic(Section I.B.1).

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance identifies this assistance as: 66.469, Great Lakes Program.

Ineligible Activities. Under this announcement, USEPA will not fund: "construction grant" projects; basic research; land acquisition; or projects the principal purpose for which is general operating support. Education/outreach or conferences are only eligible activities when integrated within a larger project or as specifically requested in the respective funding categories described in Section I.

Match. A match is not required, but cost-leveraging is one of the equally weighted criteria in Section V which will be considered by reviewers during evaluations.

IV. Application and Submission

Getting Started. Register now at < <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/2005guid/register.html> > so that we can update you on our funding process, including any changes to deadlines and the schedule for a proposed public conference call to discuss Funding Guidance questions . The 4 steps for project submission are:

1. Get the free PSS2005 software
< <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/2005guid/pss2005/index.html> >
2. Read and follow instructions.
3. Enter and edit your project submission.
4. Complete and submit your project submission.

Developing Project Submissions. Submissions must be developed using the GLNPO Submission System (PSS2005) available from:
< <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/2005guid/pss2005/index.html> > . Please read the instructions for getting started and for using PSS2005. **Be sure to address all applicable general and specific criteria.**

Examples from Previous Years. When developing project submissions, you may look at submissions of successful projects from previous years, available at
< <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/fund/modelsubmis.html> > . Note, however, that there are several new requirements this year which are not addressed in these prior submissions.

Format. PSS2005 generates the correct format. For your convenience, a one-page summary of the information needed for submissions is included at the end of this section, allowing you to see our requirements, compose your work off line, then copy and paste it into the program. **Be sure to address all applicable general and specific criteria - do not just fill in the blanks.** For planning purposes, assume that your submission will be about five pages. If yours is longer and PSS2005 accepts it, we will too.

Submission. Electronic submissions are required. **Did you address all applicable general and specific criteria?** Attach a copy of the data file, "APL2005.TPS," from the C:\PSS2005 subdirectory and e-mail it to: glnpo.funding@epa.gov . If sending a disk, include the "APL2005.TPS" file, and mail it to:

USEPA - GLNPO (G-17J)
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590
Attention: Lawrence Brail

If you do not have the capability to submit electronically, please contact Michael Russ (312-886-4013 / russ.michael@epa.gov) for information on how you may still apply under this announcement.

Technical Difficulties. We encourage you to call Tony Kizlauskas (312- 353-8773) or Pranas Pranckevicius (312-353-3437) for technical assistance or if you do not have access to a PC.

PSS2005 does not work on Macintosh computers.

Deadline. Submissions are due by 8:00 AM Central time, Tuesday, May 31, 2005. GLNPO will determine timeliness by reviewing the date and time of receipt by glnpofunding@epa.gov or GLNPO's front office, as applicable. However, APPLICANTS MUST CHECK THE POSTING at <http://www.epa.gov/glppo/fund/glf.html> to verify our receipt. PROJECTS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN POSTED TO THIS LIST WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF THE DEADLINE SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE MISSED THE DEADLINE. Absent compelling circumstances which justify the acceptance of a late submission and that do not affect the integrity of the competition, late submissions will not be reviewed or considered.

Funding Restrictions: See Eligibility - Ineligible Activities.

Confidentiality. In accordance with 40 CFR 2.203, applicants may claim all or a portion of their project submission as confidential business information. EPA will evaluate confidentiality claims in accordance with 40 CFR Part 2. Applicants must clearly mark submissions or portions thereof they claim as confidential. If no claim of confidentiality is made, EPA is not required to make the inquiry to the applicant otherwise required by 40 CFR 2.204(c)(2) prior to disclosure. Note that under Public Law No. 105-277, data produced under an award is subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

Multiple Project Submissions. If your organization submits more than one project in a topic area and chooses to prioritize them, please use PSS2005 to identify an overall contact (including phone, e-mail, and address) and send a single, coordinated submittal. Prioritization information could, instead, be sent by e-mail directly to brail.lawrence@epa.gov. Individuals from the following organizations are their organizations' contacts for submitting multiple projects.

- Illinois EPA: Tammy Mitchell (217-524-2292)
- Indiana DEM: Alex da Silva (219-757-0265)
- Indiana DNR: Michael Molnar (317-233-0132)
- Michigan DEQ: Rick Hobrle (517-335-4173)
- Minnesota PCA: Pat Carey (218-723-4744)
- Minnesota DNR: Pat Collins (218-834-6612)
- New York State DEC: Donald Zelazny (716-851-7220)
- Ohio EPA: Julie Letterhos (614-644-2871)
- Pennsylvania DEP: Lori Boughton (814-332-6155)
- Wisconsin DNR: Kim Walz (608-264-9220)
- Army Corps of Engineers: Jan Miller (312-353-6354)
- Great Lakes Commission: Tom Crane (734-971-9135)
- TNC: Lois Morrison (312-759-8017)

Summary of PSS2005 Fields and Project Information Requirements

(Tabs refer to data entry in the Electronic Submission System)

APPLICANT INFORMATION (TAB 1)

Applicant Information. Business Mailing and Contact information. DUNS number if Applicant Organization has one.

Type of Organization. Choose from: State; Interstate Agency or Commission; Sub-state or special purpose district; County; Municipality; Federal Agency; College or University; Tribal Organization; Federally funded research and development center; or Other.

Programmatic Capability. Address the Programmatic Capability criteria of Section V.(D). (4,500 character limit)

PROJECT SUMMARY INFORMATION (TAB 2)

Project Title. 60 character limit.

Brief Project Description. Summarize the project in a manner understandable to the public. Include environmental KEY TERMS that could be used as search terms (e.g., water quality, toxins, mercury, etc.). Do not use acronyms. Should project be selected and a grant awarded, this description may be posted to the EPA web. (595 character limit)

Duration. Specify project duration, from 0.5 years up to 2 years; however, New York RAP projects described in Sections I.D.4 and I.D.5 may specify up to 5 years.

Topic. Choose one: Pollution Prevention and Toxics Reduction; Habitat Protection and Restoration; Habitat Conferences and Printing; Emerging or Strategic Issues, including Invasive Species; Remedial Action Plan Priorities; or Lakewide Management Plan Priorities. Do not submit the same project to multiple topics.

Priority Within Topic. Option to prioritize projects if multiple projects are being submitted within the same topic by the same organization.

GEOGRAPHIC APPLICABILITY (TAB 3)

Applicable State. Great Lakes State(s) which would be most impacted by this project.

Applicable Lake Basin. Great Lakes Basin(s) which would be most impacted by this project.

Applicable Geographic Initiative. If applicable, geographic initiative which would be most impacted by this project: Greater Chicago, Northeast Ohio, NW Indiana, Southeast Michigan, or Lake St. Clair.

Applicable Areas of Concern. Identify primary affected Area of Concern and Other Affected AOCs.

Project Location. Applicable zip code for PROJECT. As applicable, enter City, County, or State(s).

PROBLEM, WORK, RESULTS (TAB 4)

Problem Statement. Describe the issue that will be addressed and its relevance to the Great Lakes, particularly to needs and priorities in Subobjective 4.3.3 (Improve the Health of Great Lakes Ecosystems) of USEPA's Strategic Plan; Great Lakes Strategy 2002, LaMPs and RAPs. (4,500 character limit)

Proposed Work. Describe what will be done and how. Many of the criteria will be addressed here. (11,000 character limit)

Environmental Results. Describe anticipated environmental outputs and outcomes and their linkages to the problem statement. (See Outcomes/Outputs described in Section 1 and Environmental Results Order 5700.7 at <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700.7.pdf>) Specify affected pollutants, industry sectors, economic impacts, habitats, and/or species. As applicable for the topic, estimate chemicals to be "collected or prevented;" the number of acres of aquatic, wetland, riverine, and terrestrial Great Lakes habitat to be positively impacted; and proposed progress toward delisting and toward restoration of beneficial use impairments. (5,000 character limit)

Measuring Progress. Describe your plan for measuring progress toward achieving outputs and outcomes. See Environmental Results Order 5700.7 at <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700.7.pdf> (5,000 character limit)

Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs). If project impacts AOCs, identify BUIs project will address.

PROJECT MILESTONES (TAB 5)

Milestones. Specify up to 8 milestones and/or final products and projected due dates, including Project Start and End. Projects selected in June could begin in August; however, most begin in September or October.

EDUCATION / COLLABORATION (TAB 6)

Education/Outreach Component. Identify whether project includes an education/outreach component. If applicable, describe the target audience and how that group would be impacted by the project. (2,000 character limit)

Collaboration/Community-based Support. Describe plans and status of collaboration amongst the public, private, and independent sectors. Evidence of support will be requested later. (2,000 character limit)

PROJECT BUDGET (TAB 7)

Budget. Specify how the total of USEPA funds and Applicant matching funds will be used for: personnel/salaries, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, contract costs, and other costs. Include narrative descriptions for costs you identify as "contract" or "other". You may include a separate line for indirect costs if your organization has in place (or will negotiate) an "indirect cost rate" from a cognizant Federal agency. Budget should represent the total which would be requested from USEPA for the project's duration. Except for incremental awards, funding will generally be awarded as a "lump sum." Funding is not assured for subsequent years for any project.

OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING (TAB 8)

Other Funding. If others are expected to contribute funds to your Project, list Name(s) of Providers, Amounts Provided, and Commitments made by each. (2,000 character limit)

V. Application Review

Criteria. Projects will be evaluated based on (i) the General Criteria specified below and (ii) the Specific Criteria identified below that apply to the topic area to which the project relates. All criteria are weighted equally.

General Criteria. The General Criteria are:

A. Rationale/Relevance/Bias for Action: Potential, whether direct or indirect, to protect and/or restore the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem, to address issues most relevant to Great Lakes policymakers in a value-adding way or to result in practical activities which promise measurable progress to protect and/or restore the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem.

B. Scientific/Professional Merit: Soundness of technical approach, including design, objectives, and scientific viability of the project.

C. Innovation: Demonstration of new techniques or approaches or which build upon prior efforts in value-adding ways, rather than duplicating prior efforts.

D. Programmatic Capability: The technical capability of the applicant to successfully carry out a project taking into account such factors as the applicant's (1) past performance in successfully completing projects similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project, (2) history of meeting reporting requirements on prior or current assistance agreements and submitting acceptable final technical reports and applicable closeout documentation, (3) organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the project, and (4) staff expertise/ qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources of the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the project. (Refer also to EPA Order 5700.8 < http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700_8.pdf >.) For projects involving use or collection of environmental data, the applicant's timely compliance with current American National Standard Specifications and Guidelines for Quality Systems for Environmental Data Collection and Environmental Technology Programs, ANSI/ASQC E4-1994 will be considered. In addition to information provided by the applicant, in its submission, EPA may consider information from other sources including Agency files. If an applicant does not have any past performance and/or reporting history (items "1" and "2" above) it will receive a neutral evaluation for those elements of programmatic capability.

E. Stakeholders: Involvement and appropriateness of partners and customers, for instance government agencies, community groups, businesses, or stakeholders for Lakewide Management and Remedial Action Plans.

F. Geographic Scope: Appropriateness of the project scope and its location. Support from LaMP and/or RAP committees and the applicable State environmental agency will be considered.

G. Education/Outreach: Effectiveness of education/outreach and plans to disseminate project results.

H. Measuring Progress. Effectiveness and sufficiency of the applicant’s plan for tracking and measuring its progress toward achieving environmental outputs and outcomes.

I. Appropriate Budget. Reasonableness and appropriateness of the proposed budget for the level of work proposed and with the expected benefits to be achieved.

J. Leveraging: Extent the applicant demonstrates (1) how they will coordinate the use of EPA funding with other Federal and/or non Federal sources of funds to leverage additional resources to carry out the proposed project(s) and/or (2) that EPA funding will complement activities relevant to the proposed project(s) carried out by the applicant with other sources of funds or resources. Applicants may use their own funds or other resources for a voluntary match or cost share if the standards at 40 CFR 30.23 or 40 CFR 31.24, as applicable, are met. Only eligible and allowable costs may be used for matches or cost shares. Other Federal grants may not be used as matches or cost shares without specific statutory authority (e.g. HUD’s Community Development Block Grants). The submittal must describe how the applicant will obtain the leveraged resources and what role EPA funding will play in the overall project.

K. GLNPO Mission. Extent to which project is aligned with GLNPO's mission, as opposed to alignment with the mission of other funding sources from which the project’s funding could reasonably be expected.

Specific Criteria. Following are the Specific Criteria applicable to the respective topics. While projects will generally be evaluated against the Specific Criteria for the topic originally selected by the applicant, in some cases a project may be evaluated against the Specific Criteria of a different topic if the project is more appropriately aligned with that topic and the applicant concurs with this assessment. Where “Projects of Particular Interest” have been identified within a topic, the Specific Criteria give weight to such projects. No special weight is given to projects identified in Section I as “Examples.”

A. Pollution Prevention and Reduction.

- Potential to remove AOC beneficial use impairments over the next 1-5 years.
- Potential reductions of pollutants in the environment.
- Jointly targets common goals under the Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy and the LaMPs.
- Whether project is a Project of Particular Interest.

B1. Habitat (Ecological) Protection and Restoration.

- Potential to remove AOC beneficial use impairments over the next 1-5 years.
- Biological importance on a regional, basinwide or global scale.
- Protects or restores a significant number of aquatic or terrestrial habitat acres.
- Adds to the knowledge base of a particular ecosystem, habitat, or species.
- Results in the formation or enhancement of a multi-organizational or binational partnership.

B2. Habitat (Ecosystem) Conferences and Printing.

- Includes participants from as wide a variety of agencies and organizations as appropriate.
- Availability of results to the appropriate audience in a timely manner.
- Potential to advance partnerships and community involvement.

C. Emerging or Strategic Issues.

- Strategic importance and timeliness.
- Potential to further the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.
- Potential to achieve progress under the Great Lakes Strategy.
- Potential to achieve progress under Executive Order 13340 and the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration.
- Transferability across the Great Lakes Basin and beyond.

D. RAP Priorities.

- Potential to remove AOC beneficial use impairments over the next 1-5 years.
- How well the project addresses priority environmental needs and priorities identified in a Remedial Action Plan. RAP Projects should be within the identified boundaries of the AOC and will be favored if they have been identified in the RAPs as needed to remove Beneficial Use Impairments. During the evaluation process, applicable State environmental agencies may be asked whether they support the project.
- Project consistency with RAP and/or Great Lakes Strategy timelines.
- Evidence of previous successful coordination and collaboration with other organizations involved with the applicable RAP.
- Evidence of community based support, including monetary contributions, steering committee resolutions, adoption of goals and objectives, etc.
- For Habitat BUI projects: follows guidelines outlined in the "Pathway" < <http://www.glc.org/spac/pdf/FishWildlifeBUI.pdf> > document.
- Whether project is a Project of Particular Interest.

E. LaMP Priorities.

- Potential to remove LaMP beneficial use impairments over the next 1-5 years.
- How well the project addresses priority environmental needs and priorities identified in the respective LaMP or Lake Huron Initiative. During the evaluation process, applicable State environmental agencies may be asked whether they support the project.
- Project consistency with LaMP, Lake Huron Initiative, and/or Great Lakes Strategy time lines.
- Evidence of previous successful coordination and collaboration with other organizations involved with the applicable LaMP or Lake Huron Initiative.
- Evidence of community based support, including monetary contributions, steering committee resolutions, adoption of goals and objectives, etc.
- Whether project is a Project of Particular Interest.

Review and Selection Process. Selection recommendations will be based on an evaluation of projects against the General Criteria and the applicable Specific Criteria. For applicants that submit more than one project within a topic, recommendations will take into account an applicant's prioritization of its projects (see Section IV, Multiple Project Submissions) and will not penalize the applicant for submitting more than one project within a topic area.

Specific and General Criteria will be evaluated in an extensive review process:

- USEPA will screen submissions upon receipt for eligibility, for conformance to the announcement provisions, and to make sure that proposed projects are aligned with the appropriate topic area. As mentioned above (see “Specific Criteria”), if the project is not aligned with the appropriate topic area, and with the applicant’s approval, the project will be evaluated under the specific criteria of another topic.
- At least three USEPA reviewers will independently evaluate each project against both the general and the applicable specific criteria.
- The reviewers’ evaluation sheets will be forwarded to the applicable review team leaders. For each topic, the respective review team leader will prepare a spreadsheet compiling the results of the individual evaluations.
- USEPA technical review teams for each topic area will then be convened to discuss the projects and the evaluations, using the spreadsheet as a tool to develop selection recommendations. The technical review teams will be composed of all available reviewers who have reviewed any of the proposals for each topic.
- Each technical review team will then develop a recommended list of projects for funding to present to USEPA management (USEPA GLNPO or Region 2, as applicable). In developing recommendations, the Habitat evaluation process will seek to achieve a balance between basinwide and regional projects.
- Each technical review team will discuss its list of recommended projects with management. In making the final selection recommendations, in addition to considering the evaluation of the proposed project against the general and applicable specific criteria, management may also consider the geographic distribution of projects and funds, selecting technically sound projects across the basin at both a geographic and institutional level to achieve a reasonable balance of funding by Lake, applicant type, and the State of project location or impact.
- Management will select projects for funding consideration, and all applicants will be notified of the projects that have been selected.
- Applicants for the projects that have been selected will be asked to submit detailed final Proposals along with the SF-424 and attendant documentation for Federal assistance (Application Packages).
- Final decisions will be based upon the completed final proposals and application packages.

Schedule.

Conference Call(s) for Public Questions* 1:00 PM Central Time, Tuesday, May 3
Deadline for Submissions 8:00 AM Central Time, Tuesday, May 31
Reviews through June 24
Applicants Notified June 27
Application Packages due through July 22
Final Decisions/Awards June-September 30

* GLNPO proposes to host a public conference call during which applicants can ask any questions about the Funding Guidance. The conference will be broadcasted live and will be archived for future playback. You will need the following information to participate in the call:

Date: May 03, 2005
Time: 1:00 PM CST
Topic: Public call: Great Lakes Guidance.
Call Leader: USEPA GLNPO
US/Canada Dial-In Number: (866) 299-3188
International Dial-In Number: (706) 758-1822
Conference Code: 17023

Further details about this call will be available on the Great Lakes Funding Guidance web site:
<http://epa.gov/glnpo/fund/2005guid/index.html>

If you register at <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/maillist/index.html> we will send you any updates to GLNPO funding information.

VI. Award Administration

Notification: We will confirm submission receipt within: (i) one week for E-Mail submissions or (ii) two weeks for regular mail. Shortly after the deadline, we will post project information (including Applicant, Title, and GLNPO identification number) at: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/ghf.html> . ALL APPLICANTS SHOULD CHECK THIS POSTING TO VERIFY THAT THEIR SUBMISSIONS HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN GLNPO'S DATABASE. Contact brail.lawrence@epa.gov if you do not receive a confirmation or if your project is not posted. GLNPO will contact all Applicants to tell them whether or not they will be asked to submit Application Packages.

Pre-award Review for Administrative Capability. Non-profit applicants that are recommended for funding will be subject to pre-award administrative capability reviews consistent with paragraphs 8.b, 8.c, and 9.d of EPA Order 5700.8 < http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700_8.pdf > and may be required to fill out and document an "Administrative Capability" form.

Issuance of Awards. USEPA reserves the right to negotiate appropriate changes in projects (that do not affect the integrity of the competition) before making final decisions and awards and reserves the right to reject all Projects or applications and make no awards. USEPA has 60 days to issue an award following receipt of the complete, fundable Application Package. Final funding decisions are based upon the Application Packages.

Administrative and Reporting Requirements. The successful applicant will be required to adhere to the Federal grants requirements, particularly those found in applicable OMB circulars on Cost Principles (A-21, A-87, or A-122), Administrative Requirements (A-102 or 110), and Audit Requirements (A-133) available from < <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/> >. This includes government-wide requirements pertaining to accounting standards, lobbying, minority or woman business enterprise, publication, meetings, construction, and disposition of property. EPA regulations governing assistance programs and recipients are codified in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Those requirements, GLNPO-specific requirements currently in effect, and the application materials that will be needed by applicants ultimately selected in this process can be found at < <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/fund/projreqs.html> > and < <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/fund/appforms.html> >. The successful Federal applicant will be required to comply with the OMB Circular and appropriate sections of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations determined applicable by GLNPO. This determination will be embodied in the terms and conditions of an interagency agreement. Please note that as of the date of this announcement, the information on the GLNPO website has not yet been revised to address all EPA requirements announced in fiscal year 2005.

Grants Servicing Intermediary. GLNPO will select the successful Ecological Protection and Restoration and Invasive Species projects; however, most of these projects are expected to be issued and administered as sub-grants through an award to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Ecological Protection and Restoration, Invasive Species, and other grants may be

issued as sub-awards through a cooperative agreement with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). NFWF is the intermediary organization selected by GLNPO in 2003 to make and administer grant sub-awards to eligible organizations (same as above) engaged in ecological protection and restoration activities. Sub-awards administered by NFWF may support investigations, experiments, surveys, studies, training, research, and demonstrations (as allowed by Section 104(b)(3) of the Clean Water Act) to work towards the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes basin ecosystem.

Dispute Resolution Process. Assistance agreement competition-related disputes involving any applicant, including Federal applicants, will be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures published in 70 FR (Federal Register) 3629, 3630 (January 26, 2005) which can be found at <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-1371.htm>. Copies of these procedures may also be requested by contacting russ.michael@epa.gov

VII. Agency Contact(s)

Contacts are identified in Section I for each funding topic. Contacts may provide appropriate assistance to help potential applicants determine whether the applicant itself or the applicant's proposed project is eligible for funding, to assist with administrative issues relating to submission, and to respond to requests for clarification of the announcement. Potential Applicants are solely responsible for the content of their submissions.

General Contact: Michael Russ (312-886-4013) / russ.michael@epa.gov
Technical Difficulties: Tony Kizlauskas (312- 353-8773 / kizlauskas.anthony) or
Pranas Pranckevicius (312-353-3437 /pranckevicius.pranas@epa.gov)

VIII. Other Information

About GLNPO. USEPA's Great Lakes National Program Office brings together Federal, state, tribal, local, and industry partners in an integrated, ecosystem approach to protect, maintain, and restore the chemical, biological, and physical integrity of the Great Lakes. The program coordinates international commitments under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement; monitors Lake ecosystem indicators; manages and provides public access to Great Lakes data; helps communities address contaminated sediments in their harbors; supports local protection and restoration of important habitats; promotes pollution prevention through activities and projects such as the Canada-U.S. Binational Toxics Strategy (GLBTS); explores emerging or strategic Great Lakes issues; and provides assistance for development and implementation of Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs) and of community-based Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) for Areas of Concern. GLNPO, located in Chicago, Illinois, has a staff of about 52 and an annual budget of about \$20 million, buttressed in 2005 by \$22.5 million in new funding for the Great Lakes Legacy Act. The 780 GLNPO projects totaling \$70 million funded between 1993 and

2003 are summarized at <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/> .

Development of this Funding Guidance. The work, strategic thinking, and relationships with partners in the Great Lakes Executive Order and the related Regional Collaboration, the 2002 Great Lakes Strategy and the Lakewide Management Plans were used to help formulate priorities and criteria for this Funding Guidance. The Strategy was developed cooperatively by the Federal, State, and Tribal members of the U.S. Policy Committee, with the consultation of the Great Lakes public. It describes objectives, measures, and activities by State, Tribal, and Federal partners working together to protect and restore the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem. See: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/gls/index.html> Management Plans for each of the Great Lakes have been developed and are updated biennially in cooperation with Federal, State, Tribal, and local partners. Each Lake plan is a plan of action to assess, restore, protect and monitor the ecosystem health of a Great Lake. It is used to coordinate the work of all the government, tribal, and non-government partners working to improve the Lake ecosystem. Specific project priorities of the LaMPs are included in this Funding Guidance. The LaMPs can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/gl2000/lamps/index.html> General funding priorities and targets were derived from the USEPA' budget submitted to Congress for approval, but not yet finalized. Development of that budget began in 2003. GLNPO seeks to maximize funding available for Great Lakes projects; consequently, funding will be derived from whatever source may become available during the year.

Fish Monitoring Request for Proposals. A Request for Proposals for the Great Lakes National Program Office fish monitoring program is expected to be issued in the Spring of 2005. The Request is expected to provide for awards over a five year period. The Request for Proposals will be available from <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/fund/glf.html> Contact Elizabeth Murphy (312-353-4227 / murphy.elizabeth@epa.gov) for additional information.

Other Funding Opportunities. In some cases, projects submitted under this announcement may also be considered for funding under other funding opportunities from other organizations. If GLNPO is aware of such situations, it may notify applicants of them so they can contact those organizations to learn more about those funding opportunities.

