

will provide each trainee with knowledge of the basic environmental requirements of most FERC certificates and the Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan (Plan) and the Wetland and Waterbody Construction and Mitigation Procedures (Procedures) and will address the following compliance topics:

- Preconstruction planning
- Post-certificate filings, including cultural resources requirements, implementation plan, threatened and endangered species
- Waterbody crossings
- Wetland construction
- Erosion control
- Residential construction
- Agricultural mitigation
- Variance procedures
- Right-of-way restoration and post-construction activities

In the morning before each day of the seminar begins, we will also offer an "early-bird" session on Pipeline Construction (Day 1) and Recent Changes to the FERC Plan and Procedures (Day 2) for those participants who feel they would benefit. Participants must register for these early-bird sessions when registering for the seminar. The Pipeline Construction session will be for those who are inexperienced in basic pipeline construction practices. The Recent Changes to the FERC Plan and Procedures session will be of special interest to those individuals who are familiar with the old versions of these documents which were dated December, 1994.

Registered participants will receive a certificate of attendance at the end of the session and an updated copy of the Natural Gas Pipeline Environmental Compliance Workbook.

The Post-Certificate Environmental Compliance Seminars will be held as shown on the attached table. More detailed information on these courses

will be posted on the Web site referenced above.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,
Deputy Secretary.

Schedule of Training Seminars (FY 2003)

Dates, Location, and Seminar (Day 1) (Days 2 & 3)

- January 28, 29–30, Houston, ER Preparation Compliance
- February 25, 26–27, Las Vegas, ER Preparation Compliance
- March 18, 19–20, Atlanta, ER Preparation Compliance
- April 22, 23–24, Pittsburgh, ER Preparation Compliance
- May 20, 21–22, Houston, ER Preparation Compliance

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RM98–1–000]

Regulations Governing Off-the-Record Communications; Public Notice

December 13, 2002.

This constitutes notice, in accordance with 18 CFR 385.2201(h), of the receipt of exempt and prohibited off-the-record communications.

Order No. 607 (64 FR 51222, September 22, 1999) requires Commission decisional employees, who make or receive an exempt or a prohibited off-the-record communication relevant to the merits of a contested on-the-record proceeding, to deliver a copy of the communication, if written, or a summary of the substance of any oral communication, to the Secretary.

Prohibited communications will be included in a public, non-decisional file

associated with, but not part of, the decisional record of the proceeding. Unless the Commission determines that the prohibited communication and any responses thereto should become part of the decisional record, the prohibited off-the-record communication will not be considered by the Commission in reaching its decision. Parties to a proceeding may seek the opportunity to respond to any facts or contentions made in a prohibited off-the-record communication, and may request that the Commission place the prohibited communication and responses thereto in the decisional record. The Commission will grant such requests only when it determines that fairness so requires. Any person identified below as having made a prohibited off-the-record communication should serve the document on all parties listed on the official service list for the applicable proceeding in accordance with Rule 2010, 18 CFR 385.2010.

Exempt off-the-record communications will be included in the decisional record of the proceeding, unless the communication was with a cooperating agency as described by 40 CFR 1501.6, made under 18 CFR 385.2201(e)(1)(v).

The following is a list of exempt and prohibited off-the-record communications recently received in the Office of the Secretary. These filings are available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "FERRIS" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For Assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll-free at (866) 208–3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502–8659.

EXEMPT

| Docket No. | Date filed | Presenter or requester |
|-------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. CP98–150–000 | 12–9–02 | MaryAlyce Daley. |
| 2. RP00–241–000 | 12–9–02 | Dr. Jan Meshkoff. |
| 3. RP00–241–00 | 12–9–02 | Lauri Rose. |
| 4. Project No. 1827–000 | 12–10–02 | Nancy Kochan. |
| 5 RP00–241–000 | 12–10–02 | William T. Bostcock, et al. *. |
| 6. CP02–396–000 | 12–12–02 | Edgar F. Scales. |
| 7. CP02–204–000 | 12–13–02 | Bryan Kelly. |

* One of a group of 88 "Citizen Letters" (form letters) filed in this docket.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-32020 Filed 12-18-02; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7423-9]

Solicitation Notice; Environmental Education Grants Program, Fiscal Year 2003

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 Appendices—Federal Forms and Instructions

Section I. Overview and Deadlines

A. Overview

Subject to Congressional action to appropriate funds for EPA's Environmental Education Grant Program, this document solicits grant proposals from education institutions, environmental and educational public agencies, and not-for-profit organizations to support environmental education projects. In recent years, EPA has traditionally received funding of approximately \$3 million annually for this grant program. At the time of issuance of this Solicitation Notice, future funding for the program is uncertain because the federal budget for 2003 is not yet final. However, EPA decided not to miss the annual grant cycle by failing to issue a Solicitation Notice. Since EPA cannot currently anticipate what the appropriation will or will not be, we are advising potential grant applicants to refer to our website closer to the application deadline to determine the status of funding for the program (www.epa.gov/enviroed). EPA reserves the right to reject all proposals and make no awards.

This solicitation notice contains all the information and forms necessary to prepare a proposal. If your project is selected as a finalist after the evaluation process is concluded, EPA will provide you with additional Federal forms needed to process your proposal. These grants require non-federal matching funds for at least 25% of the total cost of the project.

The Environmental Education Grants Program provides financial support for projects which design, demonstrate, or disseminate environmental education

practices, methods, or techniques, including assessing environmental and ecological conditions or specific environmental issues or problems. This program is authorized under section 6 of the National Environmental Education Act of 1990 (the Act) (Pub. L. 101-619).

B. Environmental Education Versus Environmental Information

Environmental Education: Increases public awareness and knowledge about environmental issues and provides the skills to make informed decisions and take responsible actions. It is based on objective and scientifically sound information. It does not advocate a particular viewpoint or course of action. It teaches individuals how to weigh various sides of an issue through critical thinking and it enhances their own problem-solving and decision making skills.

Environmental Information: Proposals that simply disseminate "information" will not be funded. These would be projects that provide facts or opinions about environmental issues or problems, but may not enhance critical-thinking, problem solving or decision-making skills. Although information is an essential element of any educational effort, environmental information is not, by itself, environmental education.

C. Due Date and Grant Schedule

(1) *Due Date*—February 14, 2003 is the *postmark* due date for an original proposal signed by an authorized representative, plus one copy to be mailed to EPA. Proposals mailed or sent after this date will not be considered for funding.

(2) *Rejection Letters*—EPA Headquarters and the 10 Regional Offices mail these letters at different times as determined by scheduling to accommodate review teams. Letters are usually sent within 6 months after submission of proposals.

(3) *Start Date for Projects*—September 1, 2003 is the *earliest* start date that applicants should plan on and enter on their application forms and timelines. Budget periods cannot exceed *one-year* for small grants of \$10,000 or less. EPA prefers a one-year budget period for larger grants, but will accept a budget period of up to two-years, if the project timeline clarifies that more than 12 months is necessary for full implementation of the project.

D. Addresses for Mailing Proposals

Proposals requesting over \$25,000 in Federal environmental education grant funds must be mailed to EPA Headquarters in Washington, DC; proposals requesting \$25,000 or less in

Federal funds must be mailed to the EPA Regional Office where the project takes place. The Headquarters address and the list of Regional Office mailing addresses by state are included at the end of this notice.

E. Dollar Limits Per Proposal

Each year, this program generates a great deal of public enthusiasm for developing environmental education projects. Consequently, EPA receives many more applications for these grants than can be supported with available funds. The competition for grants is intense, especially at Headquarters which usually receives over 250 proposals and is usually able to fund 10 to 15 grants or about 5% of the applicants. The EPA Regional Offices receive fewer applications and on average fund over 30% each year.

Grants in excess of \$100,000 are seldom awarded through this program. Although the Act sets a maximum limit of \$250,000 in environmental education grant funds for any one project, because of limited funds, EPA prefers to award smaller grants to more recipients. In summary, you will significantly increase your chance of being funded if your budget is competitive and you request \$5,000 or less from a Regional Office or \$100,000 or less from Headquarters.

Section II. Eligible Applicants and Activities

F. Eligible Applicants

Any local education agency, state education or environmental agency, college or university, not-for-profit organization as described in section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or noncommercial educational broadcasting entity may submit a proposal.

"Tribal education agencies" which may also apply include a school or community college which is controlled by an Indian tribe, band, or nation, which is recognized as eligible for special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians and which is not administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Tribal organizations do not qualify unless they meet this criteria or the not-for-profit criteria listed above. The terms for eligibility are defined in section 3 of the Act and 40 CFR 47.105.

Applicant organizations must be located in the United States and the majority of the educational activities must take place in the United States, Canada and/or Mexico. A teacher's school district, an educator's nonprofit organization, or a faculty member's