

U.S. EPA Region 7, Chemical Risk Information Branch-2009 Chemical
Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (CEPP) Technical Assistance
Grants
Request for Proposals (RFP) FY 2009

AGENCY NAME: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7, Air & Waste
Management Division (AWMD)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NAME: Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention
(CEPP) Technical Assistance Grants Program

RFP NO: EPA-R7AWMD-09-003

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA) NO: 66.810-
Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (CEPP) Technical Assistance Grants
Program

PROPOSAL DUE DATE: June 12, 2009 at 5:00pm CDT.

**Proposals received at EPA Region 7 or through Grants.gov after the Due
Date and Time will not be reviewed (See Sections III and IV).**

SUMMARY

EPA Region 7 is soliciting proposals for which undertake the implementation of the chemical accident prevention, preparedness, and response requirements under Sections 112(r) of the Clean Air Act (CAA). While this year's grant program will primarily fund projects addressing prevention program implementation and emergency coordination with emergency responders, Region 7 continues to support other local efforts by providing guidance, technical assistance, and training. The amount of funding for this grant program is limited and will be used for chemical accident preparedness and prevention.

Please keep in mind that this opportunity is for a one-time project demonstration and not on-going general activities. The total estimated funding for this competitive opportunity is up to \$75,000.00 and awarding up to four (4) projects from this announcement.

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

In 1990, Congress amended the Clean Air Act (CAA) to include new provisions for preventing of chemical accidents. The accidental release prevention provisions in CAA Section 112(r) require EPA to establish a list of regulated substances and thresholds, and to issue accident prevention regulations that require chemical facilities to develop risk management plans (RMPs).

The Risk Management Program requirements apply to facilities that have more than the threshold quantity of a regulated substance in a process. Each of these facilities must develop an off-site consequence analysis, a five-year accident history, an accident prevention program, and a site-specific emergency response program. Each facility also must submit a summary of the risk management program called a risk management plan (RMP). Approximately one-third of the existing RMPs will require the 5-year update prior to June 21, 2009. Starting in early 2009, the RMP Reporting Center will start receiving RMPs electronically.

A. PROJECT GOAL

This year, the Region 7 CEPP grant program is available to Tribes, State and local agencies seeking to help improve chemical accident prevention, preparedness, and response requirements of the Risk Management Program (RMP) under Section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act (40 CFR Part 68). EPA recognizes that chemical safety is a local issue subject to local circumstances and so are understanding chemical risks and taking appropriate prevention and preparedness steps. We therefore strongly encourage Tribes, State or local agencies to seek delegation for implementation of the Risk Management Program. Where a State or local agency does not choose to implement the program, the corresponding EPA Regional Office must assume this responsibility. Implementation activities include outreach, technical assistance, training, reviews of RMPs, audits of RMPs, and inspection of risk management program facilities.

The following list contains examples of activities that we will consider for funding:

- Projects that conduct outreach to RMP regulated community on update/correction procedures and requirements of the new CDX/RMP web electronic reporting.
- Projects that conduct on-site audits of RMP facilities in an effort to increase compliance.
- Projects that focus on “high risk” facilities based on OCA data (25 or more mile radius, more than 100,000 populations) more than 10,000 times the threshold quantity, multiple accidents in 5 year accident history, Warton School Hazard Index rating of 25 or greater.
- Projects that focus on analysis of Federal/state /local databases (EPCRA- 313,TRI, EPCRA- 312, Tier II, State fertilizer, water treatment, air permits, pressure vessel, and release reports) to locate RMP non-filers.
- Assist small businesses in submittal of 5 year RMP updates or make corrections.
- Projects to improve accident prevention and response at facilities that use anhydrous ammonia for refrigeration or retail agricultural fertilizer facilities.
- Developing a comprehensive implementation strategy for all or part of an accidental release prevention program which includes: integration of CAA Section 112(r) with other State and local programs; information management; and enforcement approaches.
- Proposal that include an incremental approach to implementing a CAA Section 112(r) program. More comprehensive programs may qualify for more funding.

- Develop and maintain an electronic data system to track hazardous chemicals and provide vital information to LEPCs and TERCs regarding RMP regulated facilities and to assist in emergency preparedness and planning.
- Projects that focus on the reduction of accidents and/or the consequences of accidents at RMP facilities by reducing injuries, fatalities, and property damage from RMP processes.
- Projects that focus on RMP accident reporting to determine if accidents have been reported correctly and those facilities made changes to prevent the re-occurrence of accidents.
- Projects that work the RMP facilities to reduce the vulnerability zones surrounding RMP facilities in the event of a worst case or alternative case release.
- Projects that work with LEPCs to incorporate RMP data and specifically Off-Site consequence analysis data into the EPCRA community emergency preparedness plan.
- Projects that reduce a chemical risks at RMP facilities to protect human health, communities, and the environment through facility risk-reduction effort and building community preparedness and response capabilities.
- Projects that work with owner/operator to deregister closed facilities from the system/database so emergency planners/responders have the current information.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS

Pursuant to EPA Order 5700.7, “Environmental Results under EPA Assistance Agreements,” EPA requires that all grant recipients adequately address environmental outputs and outcomes. Outputs and outcomes differ both in their nature and in how they are measured. Applicants *must* discuss environmental outputs and outcomes in their work plan.

Outputs: The term “output” means an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work products related to an environmental goal and objective, that will be produced or provided over a period of time or by a specified date. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative but must be measurable during an assistance agreement funding period.

Examples of outputs from the projects funded under this solicitation may include - but are not limited to the following: number of regulated facilities educated in risk management reduction and prevention; number of compliance assistance visits conducted and analysis of facilities that have not complied Risk Management Program requirements.

Outcomes: The term “outcome” means the result, effect or consequence that will occur from carrying out an environmental program or activity that is related to an environmental or programmatic goal or objective. Outcomes may be environmental, behavioral, or health-related, but “must be quantitative”. They may not necessarily be achievable within an assistance agreement funding period.

Examples of environmental outcomes from the projects to be funded under this announcement may include - but are not limited to the following: Noncompliance facilities would come into compliance with RMP regulations; deregistration of those facilities no longer in service. Associated benchmarks would also be established to understand baseline conditions; fewer accidental chemical releases; and a decrease in fatalities, injuries as a result of increased focus on understanding of the environmental effectiveness of the demonstrated project.

All applicants are required to link their projects to environmental results. Environmental results are used as a way to gauge a project's performance using output and outcome measures. The term "output" means an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work product that is related to an environmental goal or objective, that will be produced or provided over a period of time or by a specific date. The term "outcome" means an environmental result, effect or consequence that will occur from carrying out an environmental program or activity that is related to an environmental or programmatic goal or objective.

Environmental results not only assess the success of an applicant's project, they also gauge the effectiveness of EPA's programs by ensuring that EPA's limited resources are used to further the Agency's Strategic Goals. For more information on EPA's Strategic Plan go to: <http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/plan/plan.htm>. The Strategic Goal for the Chemical Accident Prevention, Preparedness and Response Grant Program is:

- **Goal No. 4** - Healthy Communities and Ecosystems (www.epa.gov/ocfo/plan/2006/goal_4.1pdf)
- **Objective 4.1.2** – Reduce Chemical Risks at Facilities and in Communities.

Therefore, all proposed projects must demonstrate how they will result in Reducing Risks at Facilities.

II. AWARD INFORMATION

A. AMOUNT OF FUNDING AVAILABLE

The total estimated funding for this competitive opportunity is \$75,000.00. EPA anticipates awarding up to four (4) projects from this announcement, subject to availability of funds and the quality of proposals received.

B. FUNDING TYPE

A grant is an assistance agreement that is used when the recipient is responsible for project performance with little Agency involvement. For such projects, EPA will closely monitor performance by reviewing and approving quarterly reports to determine that work plan objectives are being accomplished in the manner and timeframe stated in the work plan, and approve any proposed changes to the work plan and/or budget.

It is anticipated that the grant awarded under this announcement will have a one to two-year project period. The project period for the grant under this announcement will be limited to two years.

EPA reserves the right to reject all proposals and make no awards under this announcement..

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

States, Indian Tribes and local governments/agencies are eligible to apply. As stated below, projects must be performed within one or more of the states of EPA Region 7 specifically Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and/or Nebraska to be eligible to apply for funding.

The EPA will consider only one proposal per applicant per project. Applicants may submit more than one proposal if the proposals are for separate and distinct projects or activities. Applicants who have an existing agreement under this program are eligible to compete with proposals for new awards.

B. COST SHARING/MATCH REQUIREMENTS

There are no cost-share requirements for these projects. All grants are subject to Federal audit.

C. THRESHOLD ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Preliminary Eligibility Screening Requirements

To be eligible for funding, applicant *must meet* all of the following criteria; failure to address or meet these criteria will result in the proposal being disqualified for funding consideration. Any applicant deemed ineligible will be notified within 15 calendar days of the decision:

1. Projects must occur within one or more of the following EPA Region 7 states: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and/or Nebraska
2. The applicant must be an eligible applicant in accordance with Section III.A.
3. a. Proposals must substantially comply with the proposal submission instructions and requirements set forth in Section IV of this announcement or else they will be rejected. Where a page limit is expressed in Section IV with respect to the narrative workplan, pages in excess of the page limitation will not be reviewed. Note: **If a single spaced narrative workplan is submitted, it will only be reviewed up to the equivalent of the 12 page double spaced page limit for proposals specified in Section IV.**

b. In addition, proposals must be received by the EPA or received through www.grants.gov, as specified in Section IV of this announcement, on or before the proposal submission deadline published in Section IV of this announcement. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their proposal reaches the designated person/office specified in Section IV of the announcement by the submission deadline.

c. Proposals received after the submission deadline will be considered late and returned to the sender without further consideration unless the applicant can clearly demonstrate that it was late due to EPA mishandling. For hard copy submissions, where Section IV requires proposal receipt by a specific person/office by the submission deadline, receipt by an agency mailroom is not sufficient. Applicants should confirm receipt of their proposal with Tina Lowery as soon as possible after the submission deadline—failure to do so may result in your proposal not being reviewed. Tina Lowery, at 913-551-7964, or email: lowery.tina@epa.gov.

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. REQUEST FOR APPLICATION PACKAGES

Proposal packages should be prepared as described below. Blank application forms can be obtained at the following internet address: www.epa.gov/region07/economics/appforms.htm

B. CONTENT AND FORMAT OF PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Proposals, prepared as described below, must be typewritten. The Narrative Workplan **described below, must be limited to no more than twelve (12) double spaced pages**, including the cover page—excess pages will not be reviewed. The SF 424, SF 424A, Budget Narrative, resumes, and other supporting documentation such as letters of support submitted with the workplan will not count toward the twelve page limit. All workplans must be formatted for and placed on 8.5” x 11” paper using no smaller than 11 point Times New Roman font with 1” margins. One side of a sheet of paper is considered one page. The full proposal package as described below and all attachments must be submitted as Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat file. Please do not zip the file, or otherwise use a file compression utility.

It is recommended that confidential business information not be included in your proposal.

C. PROPOSAL CONTENTS

Each eligible proposal will be evaluated and ranked by a selected panel of EPA reviewers based on the evaluation criteria and weights listed and described in Section V of this solicitation. The evaluation criteria should be used as a guide for organizing, preparing, and completing the work plan. Each proposal must consist of the following elements:

1. Standard Form SF 424 - Application for Federal Assistance:

Be sure to include the organization fax number and email address in Block 5 of the Standard Form SF 424.

2. Standard Form SF 424A – Budget Information:

Use budget amounts for the entire project in Sections A, B, C and D including both federal and any non-federal match.

3. Narrative Workplan including the following elements (subject to the 12 page limit):

a. Cover Page: Include the following information:

i. Project Title:

ii. Project Manager:

Identify who will serve as the principal party responsible for accomplishing the activities outlined in the work plan, including phone number and email address.

iii. Total Project Cost:

Specify total amount requested from EPA, as well as any resources or funding from any other source that may be contributing support.

iv. Project Period:

Provide anticipated beginning and ending dates. The project period for the grant under this announcement will be limited to two years.

b. Executive Summary:

The Executive Summary is a stand-alone document, and should not exceed one (1) page, containing a summary of what is proposed and what you expect to accomplish regarding measuring or movement toward achieving project goals. This summary should identify the measurable environmental results. (See Section I.D. for more information about environmental results.)

c. Proposed Work Plan - includes Parts 1-8 below: The proposed work plan should specifically address the information below and each of the evaluation criteria identified in Section V.A. of this RFP entitled Selection Criteria.

i. Project Description

Provide a brief project description that describes the tasks and activities that will be conducted as they relate to the program priority areas and your stated objectives and the funding opportunity description in Section I. Provide a timeline or schedule of anticipated target dates and milestones to achieve specific tasks and accomplishments during the budget and project period.

ii. Specific Environmental Outputs

Identify the specific outputs (activities or deliverables) that are expected to be accomplished by the project during the project period. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative, but must be measurable during the funding period. Examples of outputs from the projects funded under this solicitation may include – but are not limited to the following: increased use of best management practices in the watershed and/or the critical areas are identified to target best management practices in a watershed.

iii. Specific Environmental Outcomes

Specify the expected quantitative or qualitative outcomes of the project, which will include the type of measurement and how you will measure and evaluate the

results of your project. Examples of environmental outcomes from the projects to be funded under this announcement may include – but are not limited to the following: water quality improvements with decreased levels of pollutants and/or stakeholders recognize the critical areas in the watershed for implementation of best management practices.

iv. Tracking Plan

Provide a plan for tracking and measuring your progress towards achieving the expected project outputs/outcomes including those discussed in Section I of this announcement.

v. Milestones Chart

Chart of expected accomplishments and activity completion dates, as applicable.

vi. Environmental Results Past Performance

Submit a list of federally funded assistance agreements (assistance agreements include Federal grants and cooperative agreements but not Federal contracts) that your organization performed within the last three years (no more than 5, and preferably EPA agreements), and describe how you documented and/or reported on whether you were making progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outputs and outcomes) under those agreements. If you were not making progress, please indicate whether, and how, you documented why not. In evaluating applicants under this factor in Section V, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current and prior Federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available environmental results past performance information, please indicate this in the proposal and you will receive a neutral score for this factor under Section V.

vii. Programmatic Capability: Submit a list of federally funded assistance agreements (assistance agreements include Federal grants and cooperative agreements but not Federal contracts) similar in size, scope and relevance to the proposed project that your organization performed within the last three years (no more than 5, and preferably EPA agreements) and describe (i) whether, and how, you were able to successfully complete and manage those agreements and (ii) your history of meeting the reporting requirements under those agreements including submitting acceptable final technical reports. In evaluating applicants under these factors in Section V, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current and prior Federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available past performance or reporting information, please indicate this in the proposal and you will receive a neutral score for these factors under Section V.

In addition, provide information on your organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project, and your staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project.

ix. Describe How the Project will Address the following items:

State, local, and/or other stakeholder participation (partnerships) and opportunities for leveraging other sources of funding. Describe how you will (a) 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 (ii) that EPA funding will complement activities relevant to the proposed project(s) carried out by the applicant with other sources of funds or resources. Leveraged funding or other resources need not be for eligible and allowable project costs under the EPA assistance agreement unless the Applicant proposes to provide a voluntary cost share or match. If EPA accepts an offer for a voluntary cost share/match/participation, applicants must meet their matching/sharing/participation commitment as a condition of receiving EPA funding. Applicants may use their own funds or other resources for voluntary match/cost share/participation 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 voluntary matches/cost shares/participation. Other Federal grants may not be used as voluntary matches or cost shares without specific statutory authority (e.g. HUD's Community Development Block Grants).

4. Budget Narrative (not included in page limitations)

Provide a brief budget narrative containing the following categories:

- ◆ Personnel
- ◆ Fringe benefits
- ◆ Travel
- ◆ Equipment (materials that are greater than \$5,000 per piece)
- ◆ Supplies (materials that are less than \$5,000 per piece)
- ◆ Contractual
- ◆ Other/miscellaneous costs
- ◆ Total direct costs (sum of above costs)
- ◆ Indirect charges (a negotiated rate with a federal agency or calculated “actual” rate)
- ◆ TOTAL

(Please include a brief breakdown of costs such as salary and benefit rates, number of trips taken and cost per trip, etc.)

MANAGEMENT FEES

When formulating budgets for proposals/applications, applicants must not include management fees or similar charges in excess of the direct costs and indirect costs at the rate approved by the applicants cognizant audit agency, or at the rate provided for the terms of the agreement negotiated with EPA. The term “management fees or similar charges” refers to expenses added to the direct costs in order to accumulate and reserve funds for ongoing

business expenses, unforeseen liabilities, or for other similar costs that are not allowable under EPA assistance agreements. Management fees or similar charges may not be used to improve or expand the project funded under this agreement, except to the extent authorized as a direct cost of carrying out the scope of work.

5. Other attachments (optional)-resumes, letters of support.

D. SUBMISSION DEADLINE AND INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants must submit their proposal packages in *one* of two ways: 1) electronically through the Grants.gov website **or** 2) hard copy by commercial delivery service, hand delivery, U.S. Postal Mail, or courier service to the EPA contact identified below. EPA will **not** accept faxed submissions. Proposal submissions must be **received** by the EPA contact listed below or through grants.gov on or before the due date and time. For any questions concerning submission, please contact Tina Lowery, at 913-551-7964, or at lowery.tina@epa.gov

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7
Attention: Tina Lowery
Chemical Risk Information Branch
Air & Waste Management Division
901 N 5th Street
Kansas City, KS 66101

Applicants must use only one of the following two methods to submit proposals. **Emailed or faxed submittal of proposals will not be accepted.**

1. Electronically via <http://www.grants.gov>

EPA encourages applicants to submit their proposal materials electronically through www.grants.gov. If you wish to apply electronically via Grants.gov, please follow the appropriate instructions for electronic submission outlined in Appendix A.

Your organization's AOR must submit your complete proposal electronically to EPA through Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>) no later than **5:00 P.M. CDT June 12, 2009.**

If you wish to submit your proposal electronically via Grants.gov, the electronic submission of your proposal package as described in Section IV.C must be made by an official representative of your institution who is registered with Grants.gov and authorized to sign applications for Federal assistance. For more information, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on "Get Registered" on the left side of the page. Note that the registration process may take a week or longer to complete. If your organization is not currently registered with Grants.gov, please encourage your office to designate an AOR and ask that individual to begin the registration process as soon as possible. For further instructions see Appendix B of this announcement.

2. Hard Copy Submission:

One hard copy of the complete proposal package described in Section IV.C is required to be sent by commercial delivery service, courier service, U.S. Postal Mail, or hand delivered.

Please mark all submissions: ATTN: **FY09 Targeted Proposal.**

For all proposals submitted under this announcement by hard copy, the proposals **must be received** at the address listed below no later than an **5:00 P.M. CDT on June 12, 2009.**

Address for Hard Copy Submission: Tina Lowery
AWMD/IO
EPA Region 7
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, KS 66101

E. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

This program may be eligible for coverage under E.O. 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs." An applicant should consult the office or official designated as the single point of contact in his or her State for more information on the process the State requires to be followed in applying for assistance, if the State has selected the program for review.

Further information regarding this can be found at

www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html.

F. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION:

In accordance with 40 CFR 2.203, applicants may claim all or a portion of their application/proposal as confidential business information. EPA will evaluate confidentiality claims in accordance with 40 CFR Part 2. Applicants must clearly mark proposals or portions of proposals 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.

G. FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

EPA grant funds may only be used for the purposes set forth in the grant agreement, and must be consistent with the statutory authorities for the award. Grant funds may not be used for matching funds for other federal grants, lobbying, or intervention in federal regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings. In addition, federal funds may not be used to sue the federal government or any other government entity. All costs identified in the budget must conform to applicable Federal Cost Principles contained in OMB Circular A-87 "Cost Principles for State, Local, and Tribal Governments"; A-122 "Cost Principles for Nonprofit Organizations"; and A21 "Cost Principles for Educational Institutions."

Ineligible costs will be reduced from the final grant award. Cost(s) incurred prior to award by the applicant will not be allowed.

H. PRE-APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

In accordance with EPA's Assistance Agreement Competition Policy (EPA Order 5700.5A1), EPA staff will not meet with individual applicants to discuss draft proposals, provide informal comments on draft proposals, or provide advice to applicants on how to respond to ranking criteria. Applicants are responsible for the contents of their applications/proposals. However, consistent with the provisions in the announcement, EPA will respond to questions

from individual applicants regarding threshold eligibility criteria, administrative issues related to the submission of the proposal, and requests for clarification about the announcement.

I. Contracts and Subawards:

1. Can funding be used for the applicant to make subawards, acquire contract services, or fund partnerships?

EPA awards funds to one eligible applicant as the recipient even if other eligible applicants are named as partners or co-applicants or members of a coalition or consortium. The recipient is accountable to EPA for the proper expenditure of funds.

Funding may be used to provide subgrants or subawards of financial assistance, which includes using subawards or subgrants to fund partnerships , provided the recipient complies with applicable requirements for subawards or subgrants including those contained in 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31, as appropriate. Applicants must compete contracts for services and products, including consultant contracts, and conduct cost and price analyses, to the extent required by the procurement provisions of the regulations at 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31, as appropriate. The regulations also contain limitations on consultant compensation. Applicants are not required to identify subawardees/subgrantees and/or contractors (including consultants) in their proposal/application. However, if they do, the fact that an applicant selected for award has named a specific subawardee/subgrantee, contractor, or consultant in the proposal/application EPA selects for funding does not relieve the applicant of its obligations to comply with subaward/subgrant and/or competitive procurement requirements as appropriate. Please note that applicants may not award sole source contracts to consulting, engineering or other firms assisting applicants with the proposal solely based on the firm's role in preparing the proposal/application.

Successful applicants cannot use subgrants or subawards to avoid requirements in EPA grant regulations for competitive procurement by using these instruments to acquire commercial services or products from for-profit organizations to carry out its assistance agreement. The nature of the transaction between the recipient and the subawardee or subgrantee must be consistent with the standards for distinguishing between vendor transactions and subrecipient assistance under Subpart B Section .210 of OMB Circular A-133 , and the definitions of subaward at 40 CFR 30.2(ff) or subgrant at 40 CFR 31.3, as applicable. EPA will not be a party to these transactions. Applicants acquiring commercial goods or services must comply with the competitive procurement standards in 40 CFR Part 30 or 40 CFR Part 31.36 and cannot use a subaward/subgrant as the funding mechanism.

2. How will an applicant's proposed subawardees/subgrantees and contractors be considered during the evaluation process described in Section V of the announcement?

Section V of the announcement describes the evaluation criteria and evaluation process that will be used by EPA to make selections under this announcement. During this evaluation, except for those criteria that relate to the applicant's own qualifications, past performance,

and reporting history, the review panel will consider, as appropriate and relevant, the qualifications, expertise, and experience of:

- (i) an applicant's named subawardees/subgrantees identified in the proposal/application if the applicant demonstrates in the proposal/application that if it receives an award that the subaward/subgrant will be properly awarded consistent with the applicable regulations in 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31. For example, applicants must not use subawards/subgrants to obtain commercial services or products from for profit firms or individual consultants.
- (ii) an applicant's named contractor(s), including consultants, identified in the proposal/application if the applicant demonstrates in its proposal/application that the contractor(s) was selected in compliance with the competitive Procurement Standards in 40 CFR Part 30 or 40 CFR 31.36 as appropriate. For example, an applicant must demonstrate that it selected the contractor(s) competitively or that a proper non-competitive sole-source award consistent with the regulations will be made to the contractor(s), that efforts were made to provide small and disadvantaged businesses with opportunities to compete, and that some form of cost or price analysis was conducted. EPA may not accept sole source justifications for contracts for services or products that are otherwise readily available in the commercial marketplace.

EPA will not consider the qualifications, experience, and expertise of named subawardees/subgrantees and/or named contractor(s) during the proposal/application evaluation process unless the applicant complies with these requirements.

V. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

A. SELECTION CRITERIA

All eligible proposals, based on the Section III threshold eligibility review, will be evaluated based on the following criteria and weights. Points will be awarded based on how well and thoroughly each criterion and/or sub-criterion is addressed. Applicants should directly and explicitly address these criteria as part of their proposal submittal. Each proposal will be rated based on the following evaluation criteria and weights with a total of 100 points possible.

A. Evaluation Criteria	
Criteria	Points
1. Environmental Results Under Assistance Agreements - We will evaluate to what extent your proposed project objectives are linked to the EPA's Strategic Plan for Reducing Chemical Risk at Facilities and in communities (4.1.2). http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/plan/2006/goal_4.pdf	25
2. Environmental Results Past Performance - We will evaluate the extent and quality to which you adequately documented and/or reported your progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outcomes and outputs) under Federal agency assistance agreements performed within the last three years and if such progress was not being made whether the applicant adequately	10

<p>documented and/or reported why not.</p> <p>In evaluating applicants under this factor, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources including agency files and prior/current grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information supplied by the applicant). Applicants with no relevant or available past performance reporting history will receive a neutral score for this factor.</p>	
<p><u>3. Potential Benefit</u> - We will evaluate your proposed activities for their potential to build State and local capabilities for improving accident prevention, preparedness, response, and/or risk communication. The benefit may also be determined by the universe impacted by the project, including LEPCs, TERCs, and the community.</p> <p><u>NOTE:</u> In evaluating applicants under this criterion, the Agency will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources including agency files and prior/current grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information supplied by the applicant). Applicants with no relevant or available past performance or reporting history will receive a neutral score for this criterion.</p>	10
<p><u>4. Technical Soundness</u> - We will evaluate whether your project is feasible and appropriate to address the problems you identified. Your application must list clear and measurable products. It also must reflect your understanding of emergency planning, preparedness, and response and/or Risk Management Program implementation, as well as the possible challenges to your project. You also must show that you can successfully complete the project within the project period.</p>	10
<p><u>5. Priority Need</u> - You must demonstrate a priority need for assistance. We will consider the extent to which you are willing to assume responsibility for implementing the 112(r) program or are willing to implement strong emergency planning, preparedness, and response activities. We also will consider the extent to which chemical accidents pose a risk in your community. Risk factors include high population, high industrial concentration, natural hazards (e.g. earthquake zones), accident history, and existing preparedness, prevention and response capabilities.</p>	15
<p><u>6. Regulated Community and the Risk Management Program</u> - You must demonstrate that your proposal will impact the largest number of members of the regulated community and emergency response community in ensuring that the program will yield chemical accident prevention and/or coordinated emergency response to chemical accidents from facilities regulated under the Risk Management Program.</p>	20
<p><u>7. Tracking and Measuring Progress</u> - You must demonstrate how you will track and measure the projects progress in achieving the expected outputs/outcomes as discussed by Section 1, C Environmental Results.</p>	10

B. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

All proposals received by EPA or submitted electronically through Grants.gov by the submission deadline will first be screened by EPA staff against the threshold criteria in Section III of the announcement. Proposals that do not pass the threshold review will not be evaluated further or considered for funding.

A panel of EPA staff will review eligible proposals based on the evaluation criteria listed in Section V.A and assign scores to each proposal.

Based on the review of proposals against the criteria above, the panel will develop a list of the most highly scored proposals to submit to the Selection Official. Final funding decisions will then be made by the Selection Official based on the evaluation conducted by the review panel and may also take into account factors such as:

1. Geographic distribution of funds;
2. Diversity of projects (this includes type of project and type of applicant i.e. state/tribe/or local government); and
3. Availability of funds.

VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A. AWARD NOTICES

Following EPA's evaluation of proposals, all applicants will be notified regarding their status by mail. Final applications will be requested from those eligible entities whose proposal has been successfully evaluated and preliminarily recommended for award. Those entities will be provided with instructions and a due date for submittal of the final application package. This letter is not an authorization to begin performance.

EPA reserves the right to negotiate and/or adjust the final grant amount and workplan prior to award, as appropriate and consistent with Agency policy including the Assistance Agreement Competition Policy, EPA Order 5700.5A1. All **final** workplans must include the information required in 40 CFR § 35.107 and 35.507.

An approvable workplan is required to include:

1. Workplan components to be funded under the assistance agreement;
2. Estimated work years and the estimated funding amounts for each workplan component;
3. Workplan commitments for each workplan component and a timeframe for their accomplishment;
4. Performance evaluation process and reporting schedule in accordance with §35.115 of 40 CFR; and
5. Roles and responsibilities of the recipient and EPA (for cooperative agreements only) in carrying out the workplan commitments.

In addition, successful applicants will be required to certify that they have not been Debarred or Suspended from participation in federal assistance awards in accordance with 40 CFR Part 32.

B. ADMINISTRATIVE AND NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS

The general award and administration process the Grants is governed by regulations at 40 CFR Part 30 (Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Nonprofit Organizations), 40 CFR Part 31 (“Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments”) and 40 CFR Part 35, Subpart A (“Environmental Program Grants for State, Interstate, and Local Government Agencies”) and Subpart B (“Environmental Program Grants for Tribes”). A listing and description of general EPA Regulations applicable to the award of assistance agreements may be viewed at: http://www.epa.gov/ogd/AppKit/applicable_epa_regulations_and_description.htm.

Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs may be applicable to awards, resulting from this announcement. Applicants selected for funding may be required to provide a copy of their proposal to their State Point of Contact (SPOC) for review, pursuant to Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs. This review is not required with the Initial Application and not all states require such a review.

NONPROFIT ADMINISTRATIVE CAPABILITY CLAUSE

Non-profit applicants that are recommended for funding under this announcement are subject to pre-award administrative capability reviews consistent with Section 8b, 8c and 9d of EPA Order 5700.8 - Policy on Assessing Capabilities of Non-Profit Applicants for Managing Assistance Awards: (http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700_8.pdf).

In addition, non-profit applicants that qualify for funding may, depending on the size of the award, be required to fill out and submit to the Grants Management Office the Administrative Capabilities Form with supporting documents contained in Appendix A of EPA Order 5700.8.

DISPUTE PROCESS

Assistance agreement competition-related disputes 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://www.epa.gov/ogd/sdd/SD%20Regulations.pdf>

Copies of these procedures may also be requested by contacting Chester Stovall, 913-551-7549, stovall.chester@epa.gov.

DUNS NUMBER

Applicants are required to provide a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number with the full application for Federal grants or cooperative agreements. Organizations can receive a DUNS number in one day, at no cost, by calling the dedicated

toll free DUNS Number request line at 1-866-705-5711, or visiting the D&B website at: <http://www.dnb.com> .

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REPORTING

Grants are covered under the following EPA grant regulations: 40 CFR Part 30 (Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Nonprofit Organizations), 40 CFR Part 31 (States, Tribes, interstate agencies, intertribal consortia and local governments), and 40 CFR Part 35, Subpart A (States, interstate agencies and local governments) and Subpart B (Tribes and intertribal consortia). These regulations specify basic grant reporting requirements; including performance and financial reports (see 40 CFR 30.51, 30.52, 31.40, 31.41, 35.115, and 35.515). In negotiating these grants, EPA will work closely with recipients to incorporate appropriate performance measures and reporting requirements into each grant agreement consistent with 40 CFR 30.51, 31.40, 35.115, and 35.515. These regulations provide some flexibility in determining the appropriate content and frequency of performance reports. At a minimum, however, the reporting schedule must require the recipient to report at least annually.

GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION

Grants awarded under this announcement may involve Geospatial Information. Geospatial data generally means information that identifies, depicts, or describes the geographic locations, boundaries, or characteristics of inhabitants and natural or constructed features on the Earth. This includes such information derived from, among other sources, socio-demographic analysis, economic analysis, land information records and land use information processing, statistical analysis, survey and observational methodologies, environmental analysis, critical infrastructure protection, satellites, remote sensing, airborne imagery collection, mapping, engineering, construction, global positioning systems, and surveying technologies and activities. It also includes individual point or site-specific data that are referenced to a location on the Earth and digital aerial imagery of the Earth. This information may be derived from, among other things, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Global Positioning Systems (GPS), remote sensing, mapping, charting, and surveying technologies, or statistical data. For purposes of EPA grants, this refers to geographically based information or data or the tools, applications or hardware that allow one to collect, manage, analyze, store, or distribute data in a geographic manner.

QUALITY ASSURANCE/QUALITY CONTROL (QA/QC) and STORET

Quality Assurance /Quality Control requirements are applicable to these grants (see 40 CFR 30.54 and 40 CFR 31.45). QA/QC requirements apply to the collection of environmental data. Environmental data are any measurements or information that describe environmental processes, location, or conditions; ecological or health effects and consequences; or the

performance of environmental technology. Environmental data include information collected directly from measurements, produced from models, and compiled from other sources such as databases or literature. Applicants should allow sufficient time and resources for this process. EPA can assist applicants in determining whether QA/QC is required for the proposed project. If QA/QC is required for the project, the applicant is encouraged to work with the EPA QA/QC staff to determine the appropriate QA/QC practices for the project. Contact the Office Grant Coordinator (See Section VII) for referral to an EPA QA/QC staff.

EXCHANGE NETWORK

EPA, states, territories, and tribes are working together to develop the National Environmental Information Exchange Network, a secure, Internet- and standards-based way to support electronic data reporting, sharing, and integration of both regulatory and non-regulatory environmental data. States, tribes and territories exchanging data with each other or with EPA, should make the Exchange Network and the Agency's connection to it, the Central Data Exchange (CDX), the standard way they exchange data and should phase out any legacy methods they have been using. More information on the Exchange Network is available at www.exchangenetwork.net.

VII. AGENCY CONTACTS

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APPENDIX A– GRANTS.GOV INSTRUCTIONS

How to submit your proposal through Grants.gov:

At <http://www.grants.gov>, you will find step-by-step instructions which will help you to apply under this announcement. Proposals submitted through grants.gov will be time/date stamped electronically.

If you wish to apply electronically via Grants.gov, the electronic submission of your proposal must be made by an official representative of your institution who is registered with Grants.gov. For more information, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on “Get Registered” on the left side of the page. *Note that the registration process may take a week or longer to complete.* If your organization is not currently registered with Grants.gov, please encourage your office to designate an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and ask that individual to begin the registration process as soon as possible.

Proposal Process

To begin the proposal submission process under this grant announcement, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on the “Apply for Grants” tab on the left side of the page. Then click on “Apply Step 1: Download a Grant Application Package” to download the compatible Adobe viewer and obtain the application package. **To apply through grants.gov you must use Adobe Reader applications and download the compatible Adobe Reader version, ([Adobe Reader applications are available to download for free on the Grants.gov website.](#) For more information on Adobe Reader please visit the [Help section](#) on grants.gov at <http://www.grants.gov/help/help.jsp> or http://www.grants.gov/aboutgrants/program_status.jsp).**

Once you have downloaded the viewer, you may retrieve the application package by entering the Funding Opportunity Number [EPA-R7AWMD-09-003](#) in the appropriate field. You may also be able to access the proposal package by clicking on the Application button at the top right of the synopsis page for this announcement on <http://www.grants.gov> (to find the synopsis page, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on the “Find Grant Opportunities” button on the left side of the page and then go to Search Opportunities and use the Browse by Agency feature to find EPA opportunities).

Proposal Submission Deadline

Your organization’s AOR must submit your complete proposal electronically to EPA through Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>) no later than June 12, 2009 at 5:00 PM CDT.

Proposal Materials

Proposals must be prepared as described in Section IV.C of the announcement and include the following information.

1. Standard Form (SF) 424, Application for Federal Assistance

Complete the form. There are no attachments.

Please note that the organizational Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number must be included on the SF-424. Organizations

may obtain a DUNS number at no cost by calling the toll-free DUNS number request line at 1-866-705-5711.

2. SF-424A, Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs

Complete the form. There are no attachments.

The total amount of federal funding requested for the two-year project period should be shown on line 5(e) and on line 6(k) of SF-424A. If indirect costs are included, the amount of indirect costs should be entered on line 6(j). The indirect cost rate (i.e., a percentage), the base (e.g., personnel costs and fringe benefits), and the amount should also be indicated on line 22. If indirect costs are requested, a copy of the Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement must be submitted as part of the application package. (See instructions for document 10 below.)

3. Narrative Workplan

Prepare as described in Section IV.C of the announcement (there is a 12 page limitation on this not including the budget narrative and other attachments such as resumes and letters of support).

4. Other Attachments Form

Prepare as needed for the budget narrative and optional documents such as resumes, letters of support.-See Section IV.C of the announcement.

Proposal Preparation and Submission Instructions

Documents 1 through 2 listed under Proposal Materials above should appear in the “Mandatory Documents” box on the Grants.gov Grant Application Package page.

For documents 1 through 2, click on the appropriate form and then click “Open Form” below the box. The fields that must be completed will be highlighted in yellow. Optional fields and completed fields will be displayed in white. If you enter an invalid response or incomplete information in a field, you will receive an error message. When you have finished filling out each form, click “Save.” When you return to the electronic Grant Application Package page, click on the form you just completed, and then click on the box that says, “Move Form to Submission List.” This action will move the document over to the box that says, “Mandatory Completed Documents for Submission.”

For document 3 (the Narrative Workplan) and any other attachments such as the budget narrative, you will need to attach electronic files. For the Narrative Workplan, prepare the document as described in Sections IV.B and C of the announcement and save the document to your computer as MS Word, PDF or WordPerfect files. (U.S. EPA prefers to receive documents in MS Word, but documents prepared in WordPerfect will also be accepted.) When you are ready to attach it to the application package, click on “Project Narrative Attachment Form,” and open the form. Click “Add Mandatory Project Narrative File,” and then attach your proposal narrative (previously saved to your computer) using the browse window that appears. You may then click “View Mandatory Project Narrative File” to view it. Enter a brief descriptive title of your project in the space beside “Mandatory Project Narrative File Filename,” the filename

should be no more than 40 characters long. If there other attachments that you would like to submit to accompany your proposal, you may click “add Optional Project Narrative File” and proceed as before. When you have finished attaching the necessary documents, click “Close Form.” When you return to the “Grant Application Package” page, select the “Project Narrative Attachment Form” and click “Move Form to Submission List.” The form should now appear in the box that says, “Mandatory Completed Documents for Submission.”

Once you have finished filling out all of the forms/attachments and they appear in one of the “Completed Documents for Submission” boxes, click the “Save” button that appears at the top of the Web page. It is suggested that you save the document a second time, using a different name, since this will make it easier to submit an amended package later if necessary.

Please use the following format when saving your file: “Applicant Name – Region 7 – FY09 – CEPP – 1st Submission” or “Applicant Name – Region 7 – FY09 CEPP – back-up Submission.” If it becomes necessary to submit an amended package at a later date, then the name of the 2nd submission should be changed to “Applicant Name – Region 7 – FY09 CEPP – 2nd Submission.” Once your application package has been completed and saved, send it to your AOR for submission to U.S. EPA through Grants.gov. Please advise your AOR to close all other software programs before attempting to submit the application package through Grants.gov.

In the “Application Filing Name” box, your AOR should enter your organization’s name (abbreviated where possible), the appropriate region, the fiscal year (*e.g.*, FY09), and the grant category (*e.g.*, CEPP). The filing name should not exceed 40 characters. From the “Grant Application Package” page, your AOR may submit the application package by clicking the “Submit” button that appears at the top of the page. The AOR will then be asked to verify the agency and funding opportunity number for which the application package is being submitted. If problems are encountered during the submission process, the AOR should reboot his/her computer before trying to submit the application package again. [It may be necessary to turn off the computer (not just restart it) before attempting to submit the package again.] If the AOR continues to experience submission problems, he/she may contact Grants.gov for assistance by phone at 1-800-518-4726 or email at <http://www.grants.gov/help/help.jsp>, and at the same time you should notify Tina Lowery, **as shown in Section VIII**. If you have any technical difficulties at any time during this process, please refer to <http://www.grants.gov/help/help.jsp>

Proposals submitted through grants.gov will be time and date stamped electronically.

If you have not received a confirmation of receipt from EPA (not from grants.gov) within 30 days of the Proposal deadline, please contact **Tina Lowery, as shown in Section VII of the announcement**. Failure to do so may result in your proposal not being reviewed.