

## Department of Environmental Quality Connolly

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**Request:** Authorization to apply for a grant of \$694,265 for Community-Scale Air Toxics Ambient Monitoring from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**Recommendation:** Approve the request.

**Discussion:** The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is requesting authorization to apply for a grant from the EPA that will be used to investigate public health impacts of diesel emissions from significant but not well understood, sources of those emissions. DEQ and its partners would use improved information about diesel emission to more accurately estimate health risks and select emission reduction strategies for different sources of diesel emissions.

The request for proposals was opened on March 6, 2017 and the application must be submitted to EPA by March 22, 2017. The EPA expects to notify applicants of the outcome 60 to 75 days after the application date, approximately May 2017. There is no match requirement for this grant.

The purpose of the grant is investigate public health impacts caused by diesel emission from rail activity, construction, distribution centers, and marine operations. The proposed project will run from August 1, 2017 to August 31, 2019. The agency will work with Portland State University (PSU) and Reed College to identify four neighborhoods in Portland with high vulnerability to diesel particulate matter. DEQ's Portland Air Toxics Study conducted in 2012 demonstrated disproportionate impacts from air toxics on minority and low-income populations in the Portland area. DEQ and PSU will engage in outreach activities to obtain input from stakeholders who are responsible for rail, marine and construction pollution; and will conduct broad-scale awareness campaigns in cooperation with community groups with the broader neighborhood members to understand and evaluate exposure management options that can be offered to neighborhoods.

PSU would conduct particulate and black carbon monitoring and analysis to develop the chemical signature of sources of diesel emission. PSU will then do monitoring in the four neighborhoods and would analyze the data gathered for source contribution and health impacts. DEQ would take the information and update its Portland Air Toxics Solution Model for more accurate diesel emission sources, concentration, exposure patterns and risk estimates. DEQ and PSU would then communicate the study results to stakeholders and policy makers to inform emission reduction and mitigation measures. This grant builds on work done by DEQ and PSU on the issues surrounding diesel emissions

Of the total project funding, \$543,487 will be paid to PSU and Reed College by DEQ, the balance will cover the agency's costs for this project. If awarded this grant the agency may return to the Legislature to request additional Federal Fund limitation and position authority of 0.30 FTE to perform monitoring equipment calibration, data analysis, emission inventory updates and model updates.

This project is self-contained, anticipated to end when the funding ends.