



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality
Agency Headquarters
700 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 600
Portland, OR 97232
(503) 229-5696
FAX (503) 229-6124
TTY 711

March 8, 2017

The Honorable Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem Oregon 97301-4048

Dear Senator Devlin and Representative Nathanson:

The Department of Environmental Quality requests authorization to apply for a federal grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for Community-Scale Air Toxics Ambient Monitoring. This grant opportunity investigates public health impacts of air toxins by better quantifying diesel emissions from significant, but not well understood sources such as rail activity, construction, freight distribution and marine vessels. Only state air agencies may apply for this grant and applications are due to EPA by 4:00 P.M. EST on March 22, 2017.

DEQ previously applied for this grant in 2015 in collaboration with research partners at Portland State University and Reed College, in coordination with the Multnomah County Health Department and the Oregon Health Authority. While EPA did not award the grant, they indicated that it was among the top proposals considered for funding and encouraged re-submittal upon issuance of the 2017 Request for Proposal. PSU and Reed have specific expertise and capacity in diesel emissions monitoring that would allow them to take a lead in research and analysis.

DEQ is developing a slightly updated and revised project proposal and grant application in coordination with PSU and Reed. This coordinated effort is underway and in an effort to meet the legislative deadlines, we have included the 2015 DEQ grant application and an addendum indicating intended updates to the grant proposal.

Following is specific information about the grant proposal:

- **The source of the grant:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Community Scale Air Toxics Ambient Monitoring, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
- **The amount being requested:** \$694,265
- **The purpose of the grant:** The purpose of the grant is to investigate public health impacts caused by diesel emissions from significant but not well understood sources such as rail activity, construction, distribution centers and marine emissions, especially for vulnerable populations in communities nearby. DEQ and partners would use improved information about diesel emissions to more accurately estimate health risks and focus and inform emission reduction strategies for different sources of diesel emissions.

In the project proposal, DEQ and collaborators would identify four Portland neighborhoods of high vulnerability to diesel particulate matter. PSU and DEQ would host a series of workshops and tools to engage and communicate with the public. PSU would then conduct particulate and black carbon monitoring, and analysis to develop chemical signatures of sources such as shipping, construction, distribution centers and rail. A two to three-week monitoring study would follow in the four chosen neighborhoods, and PSU would analyze data for source contribution and health impacts.

DEQ would then update its Portland Air Toxics Solutions Model for more accurate diesel emission sources, concentrations, exposure patterns and risk estimates. DEQ and PSU would communicate the study results to stakeholders and policymakers to inform emission reduction and mitigation measures. This study could provide important information for our work to reduce diesel emissions statewide and complement other air toxics efforts such as Cleaner Air Oregon to address industrial air toxics emissions, and planning to use Volkswagen Settlement funds to upgrade dirty on-road diesel engines.

- **The grant application deadline:** March 22, 2017
- **A description of any state match required for the grant:** There is no match requirement for this grant.
- **An estimate of any additional FTE that the grant will require:** DEQ estimates the need for one full FTE for seven months to perform monitoring equipment calibration, data analysis, emission inventory updates and model updates.
- **A description of how the grant supports the agency mission and goals:** This grant aligns within the mission of DEQ to be a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water. This project supports progress towards achieving the goal of reducing cancer risk from exposure to diesel exhaust as outlined in ORS 468A.793 and the DEQ's Key Performance Measures #12 a and b.

If you have more specific questions about the grant, please contact DEQ's Sarah Armitage at Armitage.Sarah@deq.state.or.us.

Sincerely,



Richard Whitman
Director
Oregon DEQ

Enclosures