

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR CYANOTOXIN TESTING EQUIPMENT FOR WATER SYSTEMS

WEBINAR: 10-11 am - August 22, 2014

Q: Is a spectrofluorometer on our raw water line eligible for the \$10,000 grant?

A: No, this specific equipment is not eligible at this time.

Q: Will public water suppliers designated as groundwater under the direct influence of surface water be eligible for funding?

A: Yes, public water suppliers with this designation will be eligible for funding.

Q: Will the grant go back to cover any of the spending by water suppliers after the Toledo incident on any of the times listed in the grant?

A: The grant will cover expenses dating back to July, 1st 2014 only. It will not cover any expenses incurred prior to that date.

Q: Will Ohio EPA pay for Stone Lab classes on Algal ID and cyanotoxins in 2014 and /or in 2015?

A: Yes, algal identification classes taken during 2014/2015 will be covered.

Q: The application says it is state law to get two quotes. How do you get two quotes when there is only one supplier?

A: To the best of the Agency's knowledge, only one piece of equipment has one supplier (ELISA method test kits for Microcystin (ADDA) kit). An exception will be made for associated quote requirements. Using an internet search engine will assist public water suppliers with locating a list of vendors for the remaining equipment.

Q: What about purchase of replacement equipment for addition of PAC for toxin removal?

A: This type of purchase will be covered by the grant, if the equipment is purchased specifically for use in response to algal blooms.

Q: I noticed that all training should be done within six months of the grant award...Stone Laboratory puts on the Algae ID/HAB course in early August every year...Would an extension be considered if we would apply soon knowing that the course is next August 2015?

A: Yes, an extension will be arranged to take the August 2015 training.

Q: Can this grant be used to cover the toxin absence / presence test method?

A: No, the grant will not cover this test method.

Q: On the ELISA list of equipment, would a new computer be eligible to link to the Spectrophotometer?

A: No, this specific purchase is not eligible for grant funding.

Q: What is the estimated cost for all required lab equipment for cyanotoxin testing?

A: The estimates that the Agency is aware of range from \$8,200 to \$10,000 with the possibility of exceeding \$10,000.

Q: What was the item you require only one quote for?

A: ELISA method test kits for Microcystin (ADDA) kit.

Q: Does Ohio EPA have a list of equipment vendors?

A: We do not currently maintain a list of equipment vendors. Vendors can be located utilizing an internet search engine.

Q: How are the weekly results to be submitted as required by the grant?

A: Requirements in regard to sampling frequency can be found in the HAB Response Strategy Guidance [HAB Response Strategy-DRAFT](#). Further questions can be directed to the HAB Coordinator, Heather Raymond at Raymond.Heather@epa.ohio.gov.

Q: If we do end up purchasing equipment and testing...we must submit results to Ohio EPA within a week of testing? Correct?

A: Yes, results must be submitted within a week of the testing.

Q: Will this webinar transcript be available?

A: The audio portion of the transcript will not be made available on the Ohio EPA website. However, all documents referenced during this webinar can be located by navigating to the Division of Drinking and Ground Water webpage, then connecting to the Harmful Algal Bloom link [Harmful Algal Blooms](#).

Q: Will an Ohio EPA rep come and certify operators or labs that have equipment?

A: No, not at this time.

Q: Do we only need to note in our e-mail transmission of the 2015 WPCLF nominations if (or which) projects being nominated are projects we wish to be considered for this special interest rate?

A: That is correct, however DEFA is also planning on posting a very simple one-page Nutrient Reduction “addendum” to accompany the regular WPCLF nomination form (or schedule). If the nomination is submitted after the “addendum” is available, we’d ask that you fill that addendum out and submit it with the nomination form.

Q: Is there a “proportionate share” limitation per municipality/applicant and if so, what is the amount of that limitation?

A: No, there is not a proportionate share limitation associated with this grant.

Q: Can projects currently under construction (started earlier this year- prior to July 1) be submitted for consideration for the 0% financing, or is it too late for those at this point?

A: No, any project submitted prior to July 1 is not eligible for this grant.

Q: If we have projects that are not nutrient reduction specific (as their core purpose), but do have some nutrient reduction benefits (some of which may be characterized as incidental) are those types of projects outside of the scope of the intent for these discounted monies or is OEPA willing to evaluate and provide partial 0% financing to certain elements of a project and standard WPCLF financing for the balance of the components of the same project?

A: Projects do not have to have nutrient reduction as their sole purpose to qualify. For example, an applicant could be considering a comprehensive wastewater treatment plant upgrade, of which nutrient reduction is only a part, and the portion of the project directly attributable to the nutrient reduction will be eligible for the 0% financing. Applicants should be aware that these funds are intended for improvements at publicly-owned wastewater treatment plants which will reduce nutrients in the discharge. Further, the focus is primarily on phosphorus reduction at these treatment plants. All other projects (sewer-related, CSO-related, rehabilitation projects, etc.) do not qualify for this special 0% rate, but can still get regular, below-market interest rate loans.

Q: Are there algae identification training providers in addition to Stone Labs?

A: The Agency is currently unaware of other algae identification trainers in Ohio. There are others in Michigan and Tennessee. Please contact Raymond.Heather@epa.ohio.gov with additional questions.