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Ohio EPA
Division of Drinking and Ground Waters

Important Highlights of the WSRLA Program Year 2016

Effective July 1, 2015, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA), will update the Project Priority List (PPL) for the Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) for the program year (PY) 2016. To be considered for funding from the WSRLA, drinking water-related infrastructure projects must be on the PPL. The first step toward positioning a project on the PPL is to submit a nomination form and supporting documentation. The WSRLA provides an opportunity for mutually beneficial partnerships between Ohio EPA and Ohio's public water systems to ensure a safe and adequate supply of drinking water is available to all citizens of Ohio. There are numerous advantages to participating in the WSRLA program, some of which are emphasized below. Please review these highlights, as they may impact your decision to pursue funding opportunities.

Funding in the amount of \$150 million dollars will be made available during PY 2016 to provide assistance in the planning, design, and construction of improvements to community water systems and non-profit, non-community water systems.

Proportionate Share is set at \$40 million dollars to ensure equal shares of funds are allocated to water systems regardless of the population that they serve. Systems serving a population greater than 10,000 can receive no more than \$40 million of the available funds.

Planning loans are available at 0% interest for a 5 year term. These funds can be utilized beyond the scope of construction planning. Ohio EPA strongly encourages systems to utilize these funds for contingency planning, creating an asset management plan, or general planning purposes.

The procedure to establish the long term interest rate has changed. The new long term interest rate will be based on an eight week average of the Municipal Market Data (MMD) Index. This change will likely result in lower interest rates for water systems. Currently, the standard rate is below 2% and the small systems rate is below 1.5%.

Funding for auxiliary power is likely to continue. Auxiliary power includes emergency generators and additional appurtenances required by the auxiliary power generator and transfer switches. Secondary feeds from an electric provider are excluded from this fund. Systems with construction projects on the PY 2016 PPL may be eligible to receive 50 percent of the auxiliary power cost up to \$10,000 in principal forgiveness. If matching funds for the auxiliary power portion of the project are not available, the 50 percent match can be added to the loan portion of the project. Announcements on the status of potential funding for this type of project will be made shortly.

Regionalization, including shared services, is prioritized. Acceptable projects that result in the consolidation (i.e. regionalization) of small water systems will receive a 0.25 percent discount on the interest rate of their loan.

Hazardous algal bloom (HAB) related projects remain a priority. The WSRLA program will likely continue to encourage the planning and implementation of projects that will address HAB problems

in drinking water systems through avoidance, alternative source water, and/or improved treatment. Look for additional information in the coming months regarding possible funding incentives.

Please read the instructions carefully, complete and submit the nomination form in its entirety, including the required attachments. An incomplete form will not be scored or added to the PPL. The nomination form and the instructions can be found on the DDAGW Financial Assistance website: epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/financialassistance.aspx.

All nomination forms with supporting documentation must be submitted via email by March 1, 2015 to DWAF.mail@epa.ohio.gov. Paper copies and faxes will no longer be accepted. Please attach the nomination form, Disadvantaged Community Loan Program Application (only if applicable) and one file of all the required documentation. The email can contain a maximum of three attachments. The subject line of the email should be labeled with the system name followed by the project name. Systems submitting multiple projects should send a separate email for each project. If the one file of all required documentation will exceed the 25 MB Ohio EPA email capacity, include the document file name in the body of your email and FTP the file to Ohio EPA. Instructions to self-register and send large files to Ohio EPA can be found on the DDAGW Financial Assistance website. Submission of a nomination form does not guarantee funds will be available, nor does it obligate you to apply for, or receive assistance from the WSRLA. You may withdraw your project at any time.

For further questions or information on the WSRLA, contact the Division of Drinking and Ground Waters at (614)644-2752.