

Mr. Adam Hodson
public-access@epamail.epa.gov.

Dear Mr. Hodson:

Thank you for your electronic message of August 12, 1999 to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) World Wide Web site regarding Frank Prasil's recycled ink system. In your message, you specifically asked why Mr. Prasil has not received EPA funding for his system.

We have exchanged a number of letters with Mr. Prasil concerning his product and his interest to have the ink designated as a recycled product under our Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG) program. This program involves identification of recycled products that are available for purchase by the Federal government. We have also provided him with detailed information on how to request a designation. However, we are unaware of any efforts by Mr. Prasil to obtain funding for his system. All correspondence we have had with Mr. Prasil has related to having his item designated as a recycled product.

EPA's municipal solid waste funding authority is limited to non-profit organizations or state, local, and tribal governments. We provide limited funding to help solve municipal solid waste generation and management problems at the local, regional, and national levels. Eligible projects include training, public education, studies, and demonstration programs. As mentioned previously, only non-profit organizations and state, local, and tribal governments may participate in this program.

One program for which private businesses are eligible is the Small Business Administration's Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) program. Under the SBIR program, funding is provided to private and non-profit small businesses to conduct research on new technologies, products, and processes. Mr. Prasil may receive a quarterly publication announcing federal agencies' SBIR solicitations by calling (202) 205-

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7777 (a Small Business Administration recording), and asking to be put on the "SBIR Pre-Solicitation Mailing (PSA) List." The PSA lists information on selected proposal topics, proposal requirements, and expected funding levels.

We also have identified two federal financing programs through which businesses may be able to access capital. The Small Business Administration (SBA) administers the 504 Certified Development Company Loan Program and the 7(a) Loan Guarantee Program. Both programs provide long-term, fixed asset financing to small businesses. To identify the nearest SBA office, Mr. Prasil should call the Small Business Answer Desk at 1-800-8-ASK-SBA.

Thank you for your interest in recycling. We hope this information is helpful to you and Mr. Prasil.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Cotsworth, Director
Office of Solid Waste