



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

SEP -3 2008

Dr. Craig Benson, PhD, PE
Director, Wisconsin Geotechnics Laboratory
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering
2214 Engineering Hall
1415 Engineering Drive
Madison, WI 53706

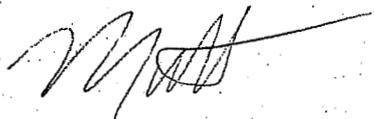
Dear Dr. Benson:

I am writing to follow up on the July 31, 2008 letter Associate Assistant Administrator Scott Sherman sent you regarding the RMRC's proposal to develop a rating and certification program to increase the use of recycled materials in transportation construction. In the July 31 letter, Mr. Sherman noted that a third party, voluntary rating system for roadway construction could provide further incentive for higher levels of sustainability.

As Mr. Sherman requested, I will provide you with some details about EPA's grant process. EPA has a process for evaluating unsolicited grant proposals. I will be forwarding your proposal to Bruce Binder, EPA's Grant Competition Advocate. It is our understanding that your submittal will be evaluated to see if it: (1) is unique or innovative, (2) has been independently originated and developed by the applicant, (3) was prepared without government supervision, endorsement, direction or direct government involvement, and (4) does not resemble the substance of a pending or contemplated competitive announcement. If your proposal meets these criteria, then the Grants Management Division will request review by the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) for possible acceptance and funding. However, at this time, you should be aware that the financial resources your proposal requests are likely beyond the scope of available OSWER program funds.

If you want to talk further about your plans please feel free to contact me or Thea McManus of my staff. I can be reached at (703) 308-8895 or via email at hale.matt@epa.gov; Ms. McManus can be reached at (703) 308-8738 or via email at mcmanus.thea@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Hale', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Matt Hale, Director
Office of Solid Waste