

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

March 2, 1990

SUBJECT: Medical Waste Project-Specific Grant Proposals

FROM: Devereaux Barnes, Director
Characterization and Assessment Division

TO: Sylvia K. Lowrance, Director
Office of Solid Waste

The purpose of this memorandum is to recommend that OSW forward certain proposals to the Grants Administration Division, OHRM.

Congress passed and the President signed a FY 1989 supplemental appropriation which includes resources for the new environmental statutes including medical waste. A memorandum was sent to all Regional Waste Management Division Directors on September 1, 1989 for the purpose of soliciting their review of the proposed distribution of these resources. In the memo it was stated that OSWER had received the following resources from the medical waste supplemental:

- \$3 million for financial assistance to states for startup costs for the MWTA;
- 22 work years (subject to EPA receiving hiring authority from OMB);
- \$1.7 million to support medical waste activities by EPA Headquarters and the Regions.

Of the \$3 million appropriation, we set aside \$750K for grants for projects in both participating and nonparticipating States. Grant proposals were due to OSW by December 1, 1989. Ten States submitted 16 proposals. We'll be awarding close to \$800,000 to States, with the amount over \$750K coming from CAD extramural funds. We plan to have all grants awarded in 3-4 months, and the Regions will then be administering the grants on a day-to-day basis. Originally, funding decisions for the grants were expected to be complete by December 31, 1989, but several factors delayed the proposed deadline; one factor being that \$3 million was not released or available from the U.S. Treasury until mid January 1990.

The proposals were reviewed by a committee of representatives from Utah, Region IV, OWPE and OSW. The selection of the committee was based on having proposals reviewed by representatives from EPA Headquarters, States and Regions. In order to avoid the appearance of conflicts of interest, no State or Region with States that submitted proposals were asked to serve on the review committee. The committee selected proposals that were found to be useful for the Report to Congress and that are

not redundant of existing work being done by EPA. Proposals submitted by covered states which could easily be funded from the \$2.25 million appropriation such as enforcement activities, or data management, were not considered. Nine proposals were selected during a conference call on January 25, 1990. The proposals were selected to complement on-going research activities and provide a valuable extension of relevant projects currently underway by EPA for the final Report to Congress. Proposals from Louisiana, New York, and Washington were considered by the committee to strengthen EPA's current Educational Outreach Program. Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Wisconsin and California's proposals were considered to be projects that would provide new and complementary information for the final Report to Congress. The proposal from Connecticut was considered to complement the existing MWTA database at EPA. Those proposals are listed in Attachment 1 and we recommend that they be funded. Every effort has been taken to ensure that no one outside of the committee is aware of the 9 proposals that have been selected.

Proposals listed in Attachment 2 were considered to be more appropriate for funding out of the \$2.25 million grants or duplicate on-going research activities being conducted by EPA or other States. Attachments 1 and 2 both provide brief summaries about the proposals and specifically state why the proposals were or were not selected.

Attachments

PROPOSED APPROVED MEDICAL WASTES GRANTS

STATE	PURPOSE	\$ AMOUNT-5% matching
Louisiana	<p>Training: To address the needs of operators of sanitary landfills and/or MWI operators, and to develop a training program for LDEQ's field inspectors.</p> <p>Approved: Complements on-going educational efforts targeting specific audiences that may not have been adequately addressed during previous training sessions attended by EPA.</p>	34,000
N.Y./HERF	<p>Educational Site Visits (for 137 hospitals): To identify specific problems and solutions, and exchange ideas.</p> <p>Approved: Complements on-going educational efforts by incorporating training with trouble-shooting and problem-solving.</p>	142,500
Washington	<p>Home Health Education and Awareness: To educate the public on proper disposal of home generated infectious waste, and to differentiate between real and perceived risks.</p> <p>Approved: Complements on-going educational efforts by addressing fact vs. Fiction risk issues concerning MW generated in the home.</p>	57,000

PA	<p>Tracking of Chemotherapeutic Waste: Capture, process and disseminate pertinent Infectious and Chemotherapeutic Waste data.</p> <p>Approved: Complements on-going research activities by addressing medical waste that is not regulated but of concern to the medical community.</p>	33,250
New Jersey	<p>Resource Recovery for RMW Disposal: To develop risk assessment, capacity, and handling data.</p> <p>Approved: Complements on-going research activities by addressing issues that are not currently underway. This project could not be funded through the operating grants to covered states.</p>	47,500
Wisconsin	<p>Model SQG Plan: To develop and distribute a model infectious waste management program.</p> <p>Approved: Complements on-going activities by providing additional information concerning small quantity generators.</p>	200,434
	<p>Model Spill Plan: To provide a broad-based guidance on errant infectious waste from the local level to the regional level.</p> <p>Approved: Complements existing guidance and requirements by exploring possible standards solutions and procedures for handling infectious waste spills.</p>	100,121

California	<p>Development of New Medical Waste Disposal Technical: To improve and develop an approval process of new medical waste disposal technologies.</p> <p>Approved: Complements ongoing research activities that involve certification requirements for new treatment technologies.</p>	108,500
Connecticut	<p>MW Tracking: Use of electronic reporting and recordkeeping without hard copy requirements.</p> <p>Approved: Complements ongoing activities by possibly offering a standardized recordkeeping system at the national level. This project goes beyond what we would expect covered States to do with operating grants.</p>	76,000
Total		<hr/> 799,305

Note: All projects are expected to be completed within a 12-13 month time frame.

PROPOSED MEDICAL WASTES GRANTS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING

STATE	PURPOSE	\$ AMOUNT-5% matching
Michigan	<p>Waste Composition/Volume Study: Develop operational data on medical wastestreams generated in Michigan.</p> <p>Not Recommended: Duplicates existing data gathering efforts being conducted by OSW to determine generation rates and volume amounts.</p>	257,550
New Jersey	<p>Outreach and Education: Provide written materials, video's, and posters to the medical community.</p> <p>Not Recommended: Funding for this activity is available out of the \$2.25 million appropriation.</p>	142,500
	<p>Enforcement and Compliance: To provide resources for personnel, vehicles, training, case management, litigation.</p> <p>Not Recommended: Funding for this activity is available out of the \$2.25 million appropriation.</p>	570,000
	<p>Report Analysis/Generator Data Management: Provide resources for annual report dev., hardware, software dev., and analysis.</p> <p>Not Recommended: Funding for this activity is available out of the \$2.25 million appropriation.</p>	71,250
Illinois	<p>MW Tracking Study Group: To study Illinois' problem in tracking</p>	26,468

infectious wastes by other sources than hospitals.

Not Recommended: Not considered to address tracking needs at a national level.

Louisiana

MW Data Base: To utilize the LSU Institute of Env. Studies to obtain the needed medical waste data base.

46,000

Not Recommended: Appropriate representative generation rates are currently being gathered by OSW.

Note: These proposals are not listed in any specific order of preference.

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