

Dear Diesel Emission Reduction applicants,

Thank you for sharing your proposal ideas with us. This message is to update all applicants on the status of stimulus funding for diesel projects in Ohio, and some upcoming deadlines.

A group of state agencies is working with non-profit organizations, metropolitan planning organizations, diesel equipment manufacturers and trade organizations to organize a pool of fleet applicants to apply for funding through U.S. EPA's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding for the National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program (RFA Number: EPA-ARRA-OAR-OTAQ-09-06). The partners are collaborating to submit one or two applications totaling \$5 to \$10 million on behalf of numerous businesses and governments interested in diesel fleet cleanup projects in a wide range of on and off road sectors. Using this collaborative approach may increase the competitiveness of the application.

Nearly 400 government and private fleets in Ohio already have indicated initial interest in applying for these EPA diesel cleanup funds. We are now requesting additional basic information about these projects from fleets. We will use this information to evaluate projects in accordance with U.S. EPA's funding priorities and select \$5 million to \$10 million worth of projects in one or two applications.

To be considered for inclusion in the requests for this ARRA funding, essential data must be submitted as soon as possible. To meet the U.S. EPA's deadline, we are setting a deadline of Wednesday, April 15, 2009 at 11:59 pm. We will use this data to evaluate the competitiveness of the projects, based on stated U.S. EPA criteria, and select which ones to include in the application(s) to U.S. EPA. Based on the high level of interest already expressed in this program in Ohio, not all project submissions will be included in the application(s) to U.S. EPA. Also, those included are not guaranteed of funding by U.S. EPA.

Please carefully read the attached guidance, titled "Project Development and Data Submission Guidance" and complete information on the attached the spreadsheet then return to Carolina Prado at Recovery.Prado@em.ohio.gov<<mailto:Recovery.Prado@em.ohio.gov>> by 11:59 p.m. on April 15, 2009.

If you are a School District with school bus projects please be aware that Ohio EPA throughout its Diesel School Bus Retrofit Grants Program has applied for State Clean Diesel Program funding. Ohio EPA is encouraging school districts (and if authorized in legislation, MR/DD programs) in any Ohio County to apply for these grants by September 1st, 2009. Please visit www.epa.state.oh.us/oeef/html/schoolbus.html<<http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oeef/html/schoolbus.html>> for more information on these grants.

These grants will not cover replacement buses or new technologies like CNG, only retrofits. Replacement school bus projects should consider the information in the National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program mentioned above.

Thanks for your participation and your prompt response,

Carolina Prado

Ohio EPA

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