



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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NEWS RELEASE

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U.S. EPA to Award Recovery Act Funds to Ohio EPA Revolving Loan Funds for Drinking Water and Water Pollution Control Projects

Ohio EPA announced today that the state has been awarded nearly \$280 million for drinking water and water pollution control projects through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The funds were awarded after U.S. EPA reviewed and approved Ohio EPA's plan to distribute the funds.

"Thanks to the leadership of Ohio members of Congress and President Obama, the federal stimulus is helping Ohio invest in our communities and strengthen our aging infrastructure," said Governor Ted Strickland. "These Recovery Act funds will provide more Ohioans with quality drinking water and improved wastewater treatment while putting more Ohioans to work."

Ohio EPA will make 100 percent of stimulus funds available as subsidies, which is more than the 50 percent required in the Recovery Act. Combined with existing funding in the state revolving loan funds, Ohio will be able to provide more than \$1 billion to help stimulate Ohio's economy.

Ohio is receiving \$58.46 million in ARRA funding to combine with \$81 million in non-ARRA funding for drinking water projects. Ohio also is receiving \$220.6 million in ARRA funding to combine with \$730 million in non-ARRA funding for water pollution control projects.

"Ohio EPA is committed to helping communities address their aging and worn water and wastewater systems, while helping to put Ohioans back to work," said Ohio EPA Director Chris Korleski. "The awarding of these additional funds will allow much needed public health and environmental improvements."

To be awarded funding, Ohio EPA developed draft Intended Use Plans (IUP) for the drinking water and water pollution control revolving loan programs. Ohio EPA submitted the draft IUPs to U.S. EPA on April 23, 2009. Ohio EPA was required to follow an IUP checklist developed by U.S. EPA. Some requirements of the checklist include:

- provide an Intended Project List (IPL);
- develop a list of additional projects to be funded if eligible for reallocated ARRA funds;
- conduct a public review and comment period;
- meet federal criteria for reserving 20 percent of funding for green projects;
- provide a grant payment schedule to distribute funds; and
- fund projects that can begin construction by February 16, 2010.

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Director Korleski emphasized that today's announcement does not mean that all the projects on the draft IPL will be awarded funding. "Ohio EPA continues to review the draft drinking water and water pollution control project lists based on public comments received during the public comment period and public meeting, readiness-to-proceed, project rescoring or verification, and green infrastructure components. Ohio EPA plans to submit a revised draft of the plans (which will include the most current project lists) to U.S EPA in the near future."

Director Korleski also stressed that the inclusion of a project on the revised IPL does not guarantee funding of the project. "What everyone needs to understand is that the project lists are always subject to change, until all the funding has been awarded. A listed project may be bypassed for a number of reasons, including withdrawal of the project by the applicant, lack of readiness to proceed and/or the inability to meet program requirements or requirements of the Recovery Act. If a project is bypassed, Ohio EPA will look at the scored and prioritized projects on the full Project Priority List and will then fund one or more of those projects instead. Any bypassed projects may still be eligible for non-ARRA funding."

Prior to the Recovery Act, the State of Ohio through grants from U.S. EPA and matching funds raised by bonds issued by the Ohio Water Development Authority on behalf of Ohio EPA, established financial and technical assistance programs to help Ohioans improve their water and wastewater treatment systems. Since 1998, the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account has provided more than \$630 million in low-interest loans for drinking water improvements. Since 1989, the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund has provided more than \$4 billion in low-cost financing for a wide variety of water quality improvement actions.

Ohio EPA directs the loan programs and evaluates the proposed projects. The Ohio Water Development Authority manages the program's loan accounts and issues bonds to ensure financing is available.

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<http://www.epa.state.oh.us>

For additional information on this federal program visit:

www.epa.gov/recovery/ - U.S. EPA ARRA fund site

www.recovery.gov/ - Federal ARRA economic recovery site