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Environmental Services, Inc.

The Federal Economic Stimulus Money & USEPA's Role In Handing Out Nearly \$100M

Did you know...

that of the hundreds of billions of dollars authorized by Congress for economic recovery, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) will oversee and administer \$7.22 billion of those funds?

USEPA's programs will reportedly protect and promote "green" jobs and a healthier environment. Funds resulting from the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of* (February) 2009, are beginning to be released, and USEPA announced grants to Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio in April and May 2009.

USEPA's use of the Recovery Act stimulus funds will be focused in the following areas:

- **Brownfields Sites:** \$100 million will be provided via competitive grants to evaluate and clean up former industrial and commercial sites. In May 2009, EPA granted the following:
 - Indiana: \$1.49M for Brownfields sites cleanup and assessments;
 - Ohio: \$5.6M for Brownfields sites cleanup and assessments; and
 - Kentucky: \$600,000 for Brownfields sites cleanup and assessment.

Funding for Brownfields site assessments and remediation is periodically granted through a competitive grant application program.

- **Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST):** \$200 million will be provided for the cleanup of petroleum leaks from underground storage tanks (USTs). As of April 2009, funds were allocated to the following states as shown:
 - Indiana: \$4.04 million;
 - Ohio: \$8.08 million; and
 - Kentucky: \$4.1 million.

California received the largest grant of \$15.5 million, with four states receiving less than \$1 million each.

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The money for cleaning up leaking USTs is "intended to stimulate jobs necessary to perform site assessments and cleanup activities. Assuming all LUST money is used directly for assessment and cleanup work, USEPA estimates that thousands of jobs and 1,600 cleanups will result."

- **Diesel Emissions Reduction:** \$300 million will be provided via grants and loans to help regional, state and local governments, and non-profit organizations with projects that reduce diesel emissions. In April 2009, EPA granted \$1.73M each to Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio in an effort that "provides funds to retrofit school buses and reduce emissions. In addition to helping create and retain jobs, the clean diesel projects (will) reduce premature deaths, asthma attacks and other respiratory ailments..."

Competitive grant applications may be prepared by non-profit groups, states, and local governments to access a fund of \$206M for clean diesel initiatives. Such initiatives include improved emission-control technologies and/or cleaner fuels, use of Smart Way[®] certified commercial vehicles, and *Clean Construction* practices.

- **Superfund Hazardous Waste Cleanup:** \$600 million to "accelerate ongoing cleanup activities or initiate new construction projects at 50 Superfund (hazardous waste) sites, boosting local economies by creating and maintaining jobs while also protecting human health and the environment." There are no Ohio or Kentucky superfund project sites on the list; however in Indiana, sites include the Jacobsville Neighborhood in Evansville, and Continental Steel in Kokomo.
- **Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund:** \$4 billion will be provided to assist communities with water quality and wastewater infrastructure needs, and \$2 billion will be provided for drinking water infrastructure. Some of the funding will be directed to "green" infrastructure, water and energy efficiency, and environmentally innovative projects.

Details of the USEPA's use of federal Recovery Act funds, and summaries of all the relevant programs, are available:

<http://www.epa.gov/recovery/programs.html>.

Midwest Environmental Services, Inc. has the experience to assist you with successful application for federal and/or state Brownfields funding. Our staff has successfully obtained over \$580,000 of state and federal assessment and cleanup grants.

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