



# **Changes to the EPA Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund and Cleanup (ARC) Grant Proposal Guidelines**

*What You Need to Know*

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# Agenda

- New Proposal Requirements
- New Opportunities
- Next Steps
- Q&A Time



# Background

- EPA has awarded over \$750 million in brownfields grants since program inception
- In FY10 EPA received 697 proposals for 955 grants
- Selected 304 for award of over \$78 million
- Expect increased amount in coming years



# Important Items to Remember

- Basic format hasn't changed
- Threshold/Ranking Sections are still there
- Separate guidance documents for each grant type
- Single proposal for community-wide assessment
- Approximately 60 days to develop proposals



# Important Items to Remember (contd)

- Community notification back in Threshold for Cleanup applicants only
  - Assessment & RLF applicants do not need to perform community notification at time of application.
- Look at proposal *Check Lists* at the end of threshold & ranking criteria
- Check *Frequently Asked Questions* (FAQs) posted to web



# Hazardous Substances v. Petroleum Funding

- Hazardous Substance Funding may be used at sites with:
  - Hazardous substances
  - Pollutants or contaminants (e.g. brine water)
  - Sites contaminated with controlled substances
  - Mine-scarred lands
  
- Petroleum Funding may be used at sites that meet the statutory definition further described in *Appendix 1, section 1.3.2* of the guidelines
  
- Remember at sites with commingled contamination, apply for the funding of the predominant contaminant based on available information



# Same requirements as FY 2010

- Cleanup applicants **must own their site** at time of proposal submission!
- Only new RLF applicants (don't have an existing RLF) may apply for RLF grants in 2011
  - Existing RLF grantees may apply for Supplemental Funding in early 2011



# Changes for FY 2011 ARC guidelines

- Grants.gov will be available as a means of proposal submission in 2011
  - Applicants wishing to submit electronically should do so at: [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)
- Revolving Loan Funds may use up to 50% of funds to subgrant to eligible entities
- Area-wide planning is an eligible activity under the Assessment grants
  - At least one Assessment must be completed if an applicant chooses to use the majority of the funding for area-wide planning



# Reminder: Increased Opportunities/Applicant Flexibility

- Assessment Coalitions are still an option in 2011
- hazardous/petroleum requests can be combined in one proposal for a total of \$400k



# Assessment Coalitions

- 3 or more eligible entities
- Up to \$1 million haz/petro or combined (e.g. \$500k hazardous, \$500k petroleum)
- Memorandum of Agreement
  - Post-Award requirement: Signed/Developed prior to successful applicant's expenditure of any funds
  - Documents site selection process & plans for funds distribution
- Must assess a minimum of 5 sites
- Members cannot apply for additional assessment funds in year of coalition application



# Examples of Options for Assessment Grant Applicants

Community Wide	Site Specific	Coalitions
Up to \$200,000 for hazardous substances <i>and</i> \$200,000 for petroleum addressing the same community.	Up to \$200,000 for petroleum <i>or</i> hazardous substances (comingled)	Up to \$1 million per coalition. <i>Coalition Members can NOT apply for individual assessment funding.</i>
	May request a waiver for up to \$350,000	
Maximum Combined Amount \$400,000	Maximum Amount \$350,000	Maximum Amount \$1 million



# Community Need

- Health, welfare, environmental needs of the targeted community (e.g. the number and size of the brownfields, the health, welfare and environmental impacts of these sites, health and welfare of sensitive populations).
- Financial needs of the targeted community (e.g. economic impact of brownfields on the targeted community).



# Project Description/Feasibility of Success

- Project Description [incl. RLF business plan]
- EPA Budget/Leveraging
- Budget Table- describe tasks and associated outputs
  - If requesting Hazardous Substance and Petroleum, the funds should be broken out in two tables or separate lines.

(Continued) 



# Project Description/Feasibility of Success

- Programmatic Capability (i.e. demonstrate your ability to manage and successfully perform all phases of work under previous or existing cooperative agreement(s)).
- Everyone will be required to *describe the management system* the applicant has *in place* to direct activities under the grant.
- Applicants with no applicable past experience will receive a neutral score
- Past recipients of EPA brownfields funding will need to state whether they reported their accomplishment to EPA via Assessment, Cleanup, Revolving Loan Fund Exchange System (ACRES) or the Property Profile Form



# Community Engagement/Partnerships

- Community Engagement Plan (i.e. plan for engaging the targeted community in the project)
  - Also explain any efforts made to collaborate with a local job training program (including brownfields job training grantees) if they exist in your area
- Local, state/tribal health and/or environmental agency/other partners
- Community-based organization partners (e.g. local citizen or business groups, environmental or civic organizations, educational institutions, and local labor organizations).
- Letters of support (i.e. from organizations mentioned in proposal that describes their role and affirms any referenced commitments).



# Project Benefits

- Public Welfare/Public Health Benefits (i.e. environmental, social and/or public health benefits anticipated from the redevelopment of sites assessed under this grant).
- Economic Benefits/Greenspace (e.g. increased employment and expanded tax base of the redevelopment of sites assessed under this grant, acres of greenspace created).
- Infrastructure Reuse/Sustainable Reuse/Environmental Benefits (e.g. use of existing infrastructure, such as utilities and public transit, reuse of existing structures, construction and demolition material recycling).



# Next Steps

- **Final ARC Grant Guidelines posted in late summer 2010 for 2011 competition**
- **Questions**