

#### Question 1.

Is it possible request funds for the development of watershed-based plans over multiple years or does the EPA like to see the plans completed over the course of a single year?

#### Answer 1.

Any proposal (whether it includes the development of a watershed-based plan or not) can span more than one year. You should talk to your EPA project officer about how long the project can go, especially if you are planning on putting the funding into your PPG.

Secondly, you do not need to complete a watershed-based plan under a single proposal. If you don't plan to or cannot complete the watershed-based plan under a single proposal then it would be best if you clearly describe in your proposal the discrete elements/parts/or building blocks of the plan that will be completed.

#### Question 2.

If a tribe has a hardship waiver, can it apply to their 319 competitive grant proposal?

#### Answer 2.

Yes, According to Page 25 of the RFP, "the work plan must include additional required information such as a financial hardship waiver letter requesting a reduced match, if applicable."

Also on Page 32 of the RFP, "in making grant awards to tribes that provide for a reduced match requirement, the Regional Administrator or delegee must include the hardship letter from the tribe in the final funding package for categorical grants or the work plan may be included in a PPG. If the match for the PPG is reduced below 5%, the hardship letter should also be included justifying the reduced match under the PPG."

#### Question 3.

How does a tribe obtain a hardship waiver and are the waivers based on one year or multiple years.

#### Answer 3.

To obtain a hardship waiver contact your EPA Project Officer to learn about the process. The hardship waiver process varies by each EPA region. Hardship waivers are granted on a one year basis.

#### Question 4.

Our tribe has an indirect cost rate approved by the Department of the Interior. However, the Tribal Council has approved a resolution with a different indirect cost rate. Can we use the indirect cost rate from the Tribal Council's resolution?

#### Answer 4.

According to Page 14 of the RFP, "If a tribe chooses to include indirect costs in its budget, the indirect cost rate set by the Department of Interior would be the rate that the tribe would start with." However if the Tribe wishes to use a different indirect cost, start by contacting their EPA Project Officer to determine eligibility.

Also Page 14 of the RFP contains information on funding restrictions. "Pursuant to CWA section 319(h)(12), administrative costs in the form of salaries, overhead, or indirect costs for services provided and charged against activities and programs carried out with the grant shall not exceed 10 percent of the grant award (federal share and tribal cost share or match). The costs of implementing enforcement and regulatory activities, education, training, technical assistance, demonstration projects, and technology transfer are not subject to this limitation. For example, staff time implementing a stream restoration project is exempt from the 10% cap on administrative costs. Developing a watershed-based plan is also exempt from the 10% cap on administrative costs.

Please note that a tribe's indirect cost rate set by Department of Interior is independent of the 10% administrative costs mentioned in CWA section 319(h)(12). If a tribe chooses to include indirect costs in its budget, the indirect cost rate set by the Department of Interior would be the rate that the tribe would start with. However, some of the costs that are covered in the indirect cost rate may be administrative and subject to the 10% administrative cap. If they are subject to the administrative cap and are more than 10%, the tribe would need to limit the indirect costs included in the budget. The 10% administrative cap is intended to limit overall funds for any administrative costs whether they are direct or indirect costs."

#### Question 5

If a tribe is selected for a 319 competitive grant, when will funding be available?

Answer 5.

Awards will be announced in Spring of 2015. Funding will be available to the tribes in accordance to the start date in the grants agreement.

#### Question 6.

If the Tribe is waiting for an assessment to be conducted on the NPS site can we still apply? Or can we write are own report?

Answer 6.

A tribe needs to have an EPA approved Non-point source assessment report to apply for the 319 competitive grant.

According to Page 8 of the RFP, "to be eligible for a section 319 grant under this RFP, a tribe or intertribal consortium must: (1) be federally recognized; (2) have an EPA-approved NPS assessment report in accordance with CWA section 319(a); (3) have an EPA-approved NPS management program in accordance with CWA section 319(b); and (4) have "treatment-in-a-manner-similar-to-a-state" (TAS) status in accordance with CWA section 518(e). To be eligible for CWA section 319 grants under this RFP, tribes or intertribal consortium must have met these eligibility requirements as of October 9, 2015."

#### Question 7.

Does the watershed context heading want any tribal information or do we keep that just hydrological?

Answer 7.

Please Refer to page 4 of the RFP to review how applicants should include in their proposal a description of how the project fits into the watershed context. Specifically look at the evaluation factor V.A.e on page 27 of the RFP to learn how the EPA selection committee will review your proposal.

#### Question 8.

Can we use the County's Integrated Watershed Management Plan and its recommended actions as the Watershed based management plan identified in the solicitation notice for the competitive 319?

#### Answer 8.

The Watershed-based plan should be reviewed by EPA staff to see if it can be used as the Watershed based Plan for the competition. The plan should have been either finalized by the Tribe or by the State and gotten EPA staff review that the plan meets the required 9 elements. Please see Appendix A of the RFP to see the 9 Elements of a Watershed based plan. Please also refer to Section II.v. on page 22 and Section V.A.e on Page 27 of the RFP for more information about how a proposal fits into the watershed context.

#### Question 9.

Is it true that watershed monitoring is not encouraged in the competitive 319, but that it should be used post project?

#### Answer 9.

According to Page 14 of the RFP, pursuant to CWA section 319(h)(7), tribes or intertribal consortia may use funds for financial assistance to persons only to the extent that such assistance is related to the cost of demonstration projects. In general, CWA section 319 funding should not be used for general assessment activities (e.g., monitoring the general status of reservation waters, which may be supported with CWA section 106 funding). CWA section 319 funding may not be used to fund any activities required by a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. This includes monitoring and other activities associated with the storm water permitting program. However, tribes may use CWA section 319 funding to support nonpoint source project-specific water quality monitoring (i.e., baseline monitoring and post-BMP implementation monitoring), data management, data analysis, and the development of watershed-based plans. Section 319 does not, by statute, provide access for tribes to sample lands or waters not within their jurisdiction. If monitoring is to occur off tribal lands in waterbodies that affect the waters of the reservation, permission must be sought from the land owner(s) prior to applying for funding.

#### Question 10.

We would like to work with a few other nearby tribes for implementation projects. Are projects on private property allowable that will reduce non point source reduction that affects the Tribe's water quality and resources?

#### Answer 10.

Please Refer to Section III.D. Threshold Evaluation Criteria beginning on page 11 of the RFP for the answer to this question. Please specifically look at Section III.D.3.i-ii on page 12 of the RFP to determine whether the project you are proposing is eligible.