

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR CYANOTOXIN TESTING EQUIPMENT FOR WATER SYSTEMS

WEBINAR: 1-3 pm - August 15, 2014

Q: Can a public water system purchase an inverted microscope under the grant funding?

A: Inverted microscopes are a fundable item under the grant program.

Q: How do I nomination my public water system for a grant, and obtain an application?

A: The Grant Application and Guidelines for Cyanotoxin Testing Equipment can be downloaded and obtained from the Ohio EPA webpage, [see http://epa.ohio.gov/HAB_funding.aspx]. All applications and attachments must be submitted electronically, no paper copies will be accepted. Applications should be emailed to: SWPWSfunding@epa.ohio.gov. **Note:** Nomination forms and instructions for the \$50 million infrastructure improvements program will also be posted on the above website.

Q: Is toxin test going to be required throughout the bloom season on a standardized schedule?

A: No. Toxin testing should be conducted in accordance with Ohio's HAB response strategy, which is based on the occurrence of blooms in the source water.

Q: If we already have a nominated Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Project (WPCLF) and are submitting a construction schedule, do we note on the schedule form our wish to be considered for the 0% loan?

A: Yes, please note on the updated construction schedule for the WPCLF Project Application your desire to be considered for a discounted interest rate. Also, please note the same information on your email transmittal of the updated construction schedule. The deadline for nomination forms submittal to DEFA has been extended to September 5, 2014.

Q: Would pilot studies of alternative treatment systems qualify for water treatment loans under this program?

A: Yes, pilot studies of alternative treatment systems would qualify for loans under the program provided it is specific to the public water system.

Q: Will a microscope camera be approved for the lab equipment grant?

A: Microscope cameras can be eligible as lab equipment for this grant program. Many microscopes are constructed to include camera attachments.

Q: What is the DEFA site?

A: "DEFA" is the acronym for the Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance. DEFA is the division within the Ohio EPA that provides both environmental and financial assistance for wastewater systems and assists in the Division of Drinking and Groundwater in providing drinking water system financial assistance. DEFA's website can be accessed at:
<http://epa.ohio.gov/defa/EnvironmentalandFinancialAssistance.aspx>

Q: If a lab already has testing equipment for ELISA, can the funds be used for training for new staff?

A: Yes, funds from the program can be used for training staff on HAB testing equipment and ELISA use.

Q: Can multiple water treatment plants purchase and share testing equipment and be reimbursed more than the \$10,000 amount?

A: No, the limit of \$10,000 per water treatment plant for testing equipment cannot be exceeded by pooling resources or equipment.

Q: If a public water system has already spent funds for items that would be funded, can they be reimbursed?

A: If a public water system expended funds for eligible items since July 1, 2014, up to \$10,000 those expenses can be reimbursed.

Q: Can eligible expenses incurred during the call for nominations be submitted for reimbursement?

A: Eligible expenses previously incurred since July 1, 2014 for the purposes of HAB related planning or design for HAB treatment or avoidance projects can be reimbursed.

Q: Does the testing equipment have to be the Abraxis equipment? What about Spectrometer?

A: The microtiter plate reader spectrophotometer can be purchased from any supplier and be any model as long as it is capable of the analysis required by the cyanotoxin ELISA kits. It is also highly recommended that the spectrophotometer be capable of linking to a computer for assistance in analysis. The microcystin ELISA kit must be capable of measuring total microcystins, as represented by the ADDA structure within the microcystin molecule. Kits can be purchased from any supplier, but the microcystin kit must detect the microcystin-ADDA structure (not just microcystin-LR).