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Magalie R. Salas,

Secretary.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7405-7]

Investigator Initiated Grants, Request for Applications, Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms Program

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of financial assistance for project assistance.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that the participating agencies are soliciting individual research proposals of up to 3 years duration, and depending on appropriations, multi-disciplinary regional studies of up to 5 years duration, for the Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms (ECOHAB) program. This program provides support for research on algal species whose populations may cause or result in deleterious effects on ecosystems and human health. Studies of the causes of such blooms, their detection, effects, mitigation, and control in U.S. coastal waters (including estuaries and Great Lakes) are solicited. This document details the requirements for applications for research support that will be considered by the Federal research partnership.

DATES: The deadline for applications is January 28, 2003 by 4:00 EST.

ADDRESSES: Submit the original and eighteen copies of your proposal to Coastal Ocean Program Office, N/SCI2, SSMC#4, 8th Floor, Room 8243, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. The required forms for applications with instructions are accessible on the Internet at <http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/forms/index.html>. Forms may be printed from this site.

The complete program announcement can be accessed on the Internet at <http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/> under "Science To Achieve Results (STAR) Research Grants".

Awards: Final selection of awardees by the participating agencies will be determined on the basis of peer and panel recommendations, applicability of the proposed effort to the interests and objectives of an agency, and the

availability of funds. It is anticipated that each award will be made and be administered by a single agency; however, several agencies may participate in providing assistance to individual components of multi-institutional projects. Applicants recommended for funding will be requested to resubmit their applications and may be asked to modify their budgets and/or work plans to comply with special requirements of the particular agency supporting their awards. Awards will be subject to the terms and conditions of the sponsoring agency.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Technical Information: Susan Banahan, ECOHAB Coordinator, CSCOR/COP Office, (301) 713-3338/ext 148, E-mail: susan.banahan@noaa.gov.

Administrative Information: Gina Perovich, EPA/NCER, (202) 564-2248, E-mail: perovich.gina@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Program Goals and Topic Areas

The National Center for Environmental Research/Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); the Coastal Ocean Program and the Office of Protected Resources/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)/Department of Commerce; the Directorate for Geosciences, Division of Ocean Sciences/National Science Foundation (NSF); the Office of Naval Research (ONR)/Department of Defense; and the Office of Earth Science/National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) are cooperating in an opportunity for investigators to propose activities to address fundamental ecological and oceanographic questions related to the national harmful algal bloom (HAB) problem.

Proposals are encouraged in the following areas: (1) The prevention, control, and mitigation of HABs and their impacts; (2) the transition of current biophysical models for HABs in specific regions into operational HAB forecasts; (3) biological and physical oceanographic regional studies that include the development of linked biophysical models of bloom development and transport; and (4) studies addressing gaps in general knowledge of HAB phenomena. These special emphasis areas are described in greater detail in the complete program announcement (see **ADDRESSES** in this announcement).

ECOHAB will support projects ranging from laboratory studies by individual investigators or small teams, up to larger teams of investigators conducting coordinated, well-

integrated, multi-disciplinary regional field programs. For individuals and small teams, support may be requested for 1-3 years duration. Projects focused on multi-disciplinary regional studies may request support for up to 5 years duration. However, the size and duration of the latter studies are dependent on appropriations, and potential applicants are encouraged to correspond with the ECOHAB Coordinator (see **CONTACTS** in this announcement) prior to preparation of proposals.

Eligibility: Institutions of higher education and not-for-profit institutions located in the U.S., and state or local governments, are eligible under all existing authorizations. Some participating agencies are authorized to make awards to international institutions, and commercial organizations located in the U.S. Federal agencies and laboratories may be eligible, but will be required to submit certifications or documentation which clearly show that they have specific legal authority to receive funds from another Federal agency in excess of their appropriations. Funding for salaries of full time Federal employees will be in accord with individual agency policies. Applications from non-Federal and Federal applicants will be evaluated under the same review/selection process. Proposals from non-Federal applicants that are selected for funding will be funded through a project grant or cooperative agreement under the terms of this announcement. Proposals from Federal agencies or laboratories deemed acceptable and selected for funding will be funded through a medium other than a grant or cooperative agreement, such as inter- or intra-agency transfers, where legal authority exists for such funding. Note that this announcement is not proposing to procure goods and services from Federal applicants; therefore the Economy Act (31 U.S.C. 1535) is not an appropriate legal basis.

How to Apply: The original and eighteen (18) copies of the fully developed application (19 in all) and one (1) additional copy of the abstract, prepared in accordance with the full announcement, must be received by NOAA no later than 4:00 P.M. Eastern Time on the closing date, January 28, 2003.

Program Authorities: For COP: 33 U.S.C. 883d and Pub. L. 105-383; for Office of Protected Resources/NOAA: 16 U.S.C. 1382 and 16 U.S.C. 1421a; EPA: 33 U.S.C 1251 *et seq.* and 40 CFR parts 30 and 40; for NSF: 42 U.S.C. 1861 *et seq.*; for ONR: 10 U.S.C 2358 as

amended and 31 U.S.C 6304; and for NASA: 14 CFR part 1260.

Dated: October 29, 2002.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Numbers. 11.478 for the Coastal Ocean Program; 11.472 for NOAA/Office of Protected Resources; 66.500 for the Environmental Protection Agency; 47.050 for the National Science Foundation, and 12.300 for the Office of Naval Research.

John C. Puzak,

Acting Director, National Center for Environmental Research.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPPT-2002-0059; FRL-7277-4]

Endocrine Disruptor Methods Validation Subcommittee Under the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology; Notice of Public Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA is announcing a 2-hour teleconference meeting of the Endocrine Disruptor Methods Validation Subcommittee (EDMVS), a subcommittee under the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT), a Federal advisory committee. The EDMVS will provide technical advice on a fish lifecycle assay detailed review paper presented by the Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program (EDSP). The upcoming teleconference meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The teleconference meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 4, 2002, from 10 a.m. to noon, eastern standard time.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will originate at RESOLVE, 1255 23rd St., NW., Suite 275, Washington, DC.

To participate in the EDMVS teleconference meeting, or to request special accommodations, including wheelchair access, one should contact the Designated Federal Official (DFO) under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** at least 5 business days prior to the meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jane Smith, DFO, Office of Science Coordination and Policy (7201M), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460-0001; telephone number: (202) 564-8476; fax number: (202) 564-8483; e-mail address: smith.jane-scott@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Does this Action Apply to Me?

This action is directed to the public in general. This action may, however, be of interest if you produce, manufacture, use, consume, work with, or import pesticide chemical and other substances etc. To determine whether you or your business may have an interest in this notice you should carefully examine section 408(p) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), as amended by the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA) (Public Law 104-170), 21 U.S.C. 346A (p) and amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) (Public Law 104-182), 42 U.S.C. 300j-17. Since other entities may also be interested, the Agency has not attempted to describe all the specific entities that may be affected by this action. If you have any questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the DFO under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

B. How Can I Get Copies of this Document and Other Related Information?

1. *Docket.* EPA has established an official public docket for this action under docket identification (ID) number OPPT-2002-0059. The official public docket consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, any public comments received, and other information related to this action. Although a part of the official docket, the public docket does not include Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. The official public docket is the collection of materials that is available for public viewing at the EPA Docket Center, Rm. B102-Reading Room, EPA West, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. The EPA Docket Center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The EPA Docket Center Reading Room telephone number is (202) 566-1744 and the telephone number for the OPPT Docket, which is located in EPA Docket Center, is (202) 566-0280.

2. *Electronic access.* You may access this **Federal Register** document electronically through the EPA Internet under the "Federal Register" listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>, or through the EDSP Web site for the EDMVS at <http://www.epa.gov/scipoly/oscpendo/edmv.htm>.

An electronic version of the public docket is available through EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, EPA Dockets. You may use EPA

Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket/> to submit or view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the official public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically. Although not all docket materials may be available electronically, you may still access any of the publicly available docket materials through the docket facility identified in Unit I.B.1. Once in the system, select "search," then key in the appropriate docket ID number.

C. How Can I Request to Participate in this Meeting?

You may submit a request to participate in the meeting to the DFO listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. You can request special accommodations by electronic mail, telephone, fax, or in person. Seating is on a first-come basis. We would normally accept requests by mail, but in this time of delays in delivery of Federal government mail due to health and security concerns, we can not assure your request would arrive in a timely manner. Do not submit any information in your request that is considered CBI. Your request must be received by EPA on or before November 27, 2002. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, it is imperative that you identify docket ID number OPPT-2002-0059, in the subject line on the first page of your request.

1. *Electronically.* You may submit your request by e-mail to oppt-ncic@epa.gov. Do not submit any information electronically that you consider to be CBI. Use WordPerfect 6.1/8.0 or ASCII file format and avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, it is imperative that you identify docket ID number OPPT-2002-0059, in the subject line on the first page of your request.

2. *By telephone or fax.* Contact Jane Smith, the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

3. *By hand delivery or courier.* Deliver your comments to: OPPT Document Control Office (DCO) to EPA East Building Rm. 6428, 1201 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. Attention: Docket ID Number OPPT-2002-0059. The DCO is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to noon and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the DCO is (202) 564-8930.

II. Background

In 1996, through enactment of FQPA, which amended the FFDCA, Congress directed EPA to develop a screening program, using appropriate validated