

23 U.S.C. for Projects of National and Regional significance. An FFGA defines the scope of the project, establishes the maximum amount of Government financial assistance for the project, covers the period of time for completion of the project, facilitates the efficient management of the project in accordance with applicable Federal statutes, regulations, and policy, including oversight roles and responsibilities, and other terms and conditions.

§ 505.7 Eligibility.

To be eligible for assistance under this program, a project shall have eligible project costs that are reasonably anticipated to equal or exceed the lesser of—

- (a) \$500,000,000; or
- (b) 75 percent of the amount of Federal highway assistance funds apportioned for the most recently completed fiscal year to the State in which the project is located.

§ 505.9 Criteria for grants.

(a) The Secretary will approve a grant for a Project of National and Regional Significance project only if the Secretary determines, based upon information submitted by the applicant, that the project:

- (1) Is based on the results of preliminary engineering;
- (2) Is supported by an acceptable degree of non-Federal financial commitments, including evidence of stable and dependable financing sources to construct, maintain, and operate the infrastructure facility; and
- (3) Is justified based on the ability of the project:
 - (i) To generate national and/or regional economic benefits, including creating jobs, expanding business opportunities, and impacting the gross domestic product;
 - (ii) To reduce congestion, including impacts in the State, region, and Nation;
 - (iii) To improve transportation safety, including reducing transportation accidents, injuries, and fatalities;
 - (iv) To otherwise enhance the national transportation system; and
 - (v) To garner support for non-Federal financial commitments and provide evidence of stable and dependable financing sources to construct, maintain, and operate the infrastructure facility.

(b) In selecting projects under this section, the Secretary will consider the extent to which the project:

- (1) Leverages Federal investment by encouraging non-Federal contributions to the project, including contributions from public-private partnerships;

(2) Uses new technologies, including intelligent transportation systems, that enhance the efficiency of the project; and

(3) Helps maintain or protect the environment.

(c) In evaluating a non-Federal financial commitment under paragraph (a)(2) of this section, the Secretary shall require that:

- (1) The proposed project plan provides for the availability of contingency amounts that the Secretary determines to be reasonable to cover unanticipated cost increases; and
- (2) Each proposed non-Federal source of capital and operating financing is stable, reliable, and available within the proposed project timetable. In assessing the stability, reliability, and availability of proposed sources of non-Federal financing, the Secretary will consider:
 - (i) Existing financial commitments;
 - (ii) The degree to which financing sources are dedicated to the purposes proposed;
 - (iii) Any debt obligation that exists or is proposed by the recipient for the proposed project; and
 - (iv) The extent to which the project has a non-Federal financial commitment that exceeds the required non-Federal share of the cost of the project.

§ 505.11 Project evaluation and rating.

(a) A proposed project may not be funded under this program unless the Secretary finds that the project meets the requirements of this part and there is a reasonable likelihood that the project will continue to meet such requirements.

(b) In making such findings, the Secretary shall evaluate and rate the proposed project as “highly recommended,” “recommended,” or “not recommended” based on the criteria in § 505.9 of this part. Individual ratings of “highly recommended,” “recommended,” or “not recommended” for each of the criteria will also be provided to the applicant.

§ 505.13 Federal government's share of project cost.

(a) Based on engineering studies, studies of economic feasibility, and information on the expected use of equipment or facilities, the Secretary shall estimate the project's eligible costs.

(b) A grant for the project shall be for 80 percent of the eligible project cost, unless the grant recipient requests a lower grant percentage. A refund or reduction of the remainder may only be made if a refund of a proportional amount of the grant of the Federal Government is made at the same time.

§ 505.15 Full funding grant agreement.

In general, a project financed under this section shall be carried out through a full funding grant agreement. The Secretary shall enter into a full funding grant agreement based on the evaluations and ratings required herein, and in accordance with the terms specified in section 1301(g)(2) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, (Pub. L. 109–59; 119 Stat. 1144).

§ 505.17 Applicability of Title 23, U.S. Code.

Funds made available to carry out this section shall be available for obligation in the same manner as if such funds were apportioned under chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code; except that such funds shall not be transferable to other agencies and shall remain available until expended and the Federal share of the cost of a Project of National and Regional Significance shall be as provided in § 505.13.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 122

[EPA–HQ–OW–2006–0141; FRL–8202–7]

RIN A2040–AE86

Extension of Public Comment Period for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Water Transfers Proposed Rule

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of the public comment period.

SUMMARY: On Wednesday, June 7, 2006, the Environmental Protection Agency published a proposed rule entitled “National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Water Transfers Proposed Rule.” As initially published in the **Federal Register** on June 7, 2006, written comments on the proposed rulemaking were to be submitted to EPA on or before July 24, 2006 (a 45-day public comment period). Since publication, EPA has received several requests for additional time to submit comments. Therefore, the public comment period is being extended for 14 days and will now end on August 7, 2006.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before August 7, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA–HQ–

OW-2006-0141 by one of the following methods:

(1) Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments. EPA prefers to receive comments submitted electronically.

(2) E-mail: ow-docket@epa.gov, Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2006-0141.

(3) Mail: Send the original and three copies of your comments to: Water Docket, Environmental Protection Agency, Mailcode 4203M, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460, Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2006-0141.

(4) Hand Delivery: Deliver your comments to: EPA Docket Center, EPA West, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC, Attention: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2006-0141. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation and special arrangements should be made.

Instructions: Direct your comments to Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2006-0141. EPA's policy is that all comments received will be included in the public docket without change and may be made available online at <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided, unless the comment includes information claimed to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Do not submit information that you consider to be CBI or otherwise protected through [regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or e-

mail. The federal [regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) Web sites are "anonymous access" systems, which means EPA will not know your identity or contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment. If you send an e-mail comment directly to EPA without going through [regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), your e-mail address will be automatically captured and included as part of the comment that is placed in the public docket and made available on the Internet. If you submit an electronic comment, EPA recommends that you include your name and other contact information in the body of your comment and with any disk or CD-ROM you submit. If EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment. Electronic files should avoid the use of special characters, any form of encryption, and be free of any defects or viruses.

Docket: All documents in the docket are listed in the Regulations index at <http://www.regulations.gov/>. Although listed in the index, some information is not publicly available, *i.e.*, CBI or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, is not placed on the Internet and will be publicly available only in hard copy form. Publicly available docket materials are available either electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov> or in hard copy at the Water Docket in the EPA Docket Center, EPA West, Room B102, 1301

Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. The Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the Water Docket is (202) 566-2426.

Note: The EPA Docket Center suffered damage due to flooding during the last week of June 2006. The Docket Center is continuing to operate. However, during the cleanup, there will be temporary changes to Docket Center telephone numbers, addresses, and hours of operation for people who wish to make hand deliveries or visit the Public Reading Room to view documents. Consult EPA's **Federal Register** notice at 71 FR 38147 (July 5, 2006) or the EPA Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/epahome/dockets.htm> for current information on docket operations, locations and telephone numbers. The Docket Center's mailing address for U.S. mail and the procedure for submitting comments to <http://www.regulations.gov> are not affected by the flooding and will remain the same.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information contact Jeremy Arling, Water Permits Division, Office of Wastewater Management (4203M), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: 202-564-2218, e-mail address: arling.jeremy@epa.gov.

Dated: July 19, 2006.

Brent A. Fewell,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Water.
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