



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 25 2013

OFFICE OF THE
ADMINISTRATOR

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Waiver from Prohibition on Conference Spending in Excess of \$500,000

FROM: Bob Perciasepe, Acting Administrator *Bob Perciasepe*

TO: Mathy Stanislaus, Assistant Administrator
Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

In accordance with Office of Management and Budget memorandum M-12-12, "Promoting Efficient Spending to Support Agency Operations," I am providing a waiver from the prohibition on events with spending in excess of \$500,000 for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Brownfields Conference. After reviewing the justification and information for the event, I have found the spending to be necessary and reasonable. I believe that exceptional circumstances exist whereby spending in excess of \$500,000 on this single conference is the most cost-effective option to achieve its compelling purpose.

The National Brownfields Conference is the nation's largest and most comprehensive event that focuses on environmental revitalization and economic redevelopment. The brownfields program is designed to empower states, communities and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse brownfields properties. The conference serves more than 5,000 stakeholders, including community leaders, nonprofit organizations, state and tribal officials, environmental-justice leaders, private-sector developers and environmental engineering firms.

The costs to the EPA are estimated at \$1.2 million, of which \$300,000 is a grant to a nonfederal cosponsor, the International City/County Management Association. Additionally, the EPA is implementing a registration fee to offset costs and estimates collecting \$750,000 from conference fees. Though OMB M-12-12 requires conferences to obtain a waiver only if non-grant net conference expenses are above \$500,000, I am including a precautionary waiver in case the EPA does not collect the estimated amount of registration fees.

cc: Barbara J. Bennett
Stefan Silzer
Sue Priftis
Nena Shaw