

**Life-Cycle Analysis to Support Cost-Effective Enhanced Aquifer Recharge
Request for Applications (RFA)**

Informational Webinar Questions and Answers

December 1, 2021

- 1. Is there an expectation that the Life-Cycle Analysis (LCA) model should leverage EPA's USEEIO model?**

Answer: If an applicant is interested in either of these models and decides to leverage or use as a framework, including EPA's USEEIO model, to address the problem, that is accepted but not required in this RFA.

- 2. The Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer is mentioned as "of particular relevance to this RFA", does this indicate that institutions/communities in Oklahoma are encouraged to be included in the proposal? If no, will there be any disadvantage?**

Answer: The applicant is welcome to collaborate with any institutions/communities. Those not working directly with the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer will not be at any disadvantage. EPA is interested in research on the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer and aquifers similar to it, but it is not a requirement in the application.

- 3. Is there a preference over the scale of the proposed research (i.e., national, regional, and local)?**

Answer: No. However, research results must benefit environmental issues within the U.S. and have broad applications. Please see the relevancy review criteria in Section V.B of the RFA.

- 4. Does the proposal not need to include assessment of the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer?**

Answer: Assessment of the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer is not a requirement.

- 5. Is there a preference for a web-based tool/interface to be used in the research?**

Answer: No, the RFA does not specify a preference for web-based tool to be used in the research. Keep in mind that all tools, models, and frameworks developed as a result of the research should be non-proprietary, open-source and based on open-access data. See section I.D in the RFA for more information.

- 6. When you are using subcontractors, where do you provide their qualifications or vita?**

Answer: Contractors and consultants are not to be considered Principal Investigators (PIs) or co-PIs; therefore a resume is not required. Applicants may list contractor and consultants' names in the abstract and/or provide resumes, but this is not required. Be sure to follow Agency competitive procedures as specified in Section IV.C.7.b.(6).

- 7. Are there particular impact categories that are of more interest? Should all Tool for Reduction and Assessment of Chemicals and Other Environmental Impacts (TRACI) impacts be included?**

Answer: All interests for the research area are within the RFA and the research is not limited to the sub-bullets listed. It is not a requirement of the RFA that applicants include TRACI impacts.

8. Where should the cost of the equipment be included? Are there limits on how much budget is spent on equipment? Are there requirements for how often testing is completed?

Answer: There should be a specific category for equipment and supplies, please see Sections IV.C.7.b (4) and (5) the RFA for details. There is not a limit on the equipment budget, but it is expected that the majority of funds be used to develop the tools, models, and frameworks as listed in the expected outcomes of the RFA. There are no requirements for how often testing is completed. Please also note that peer reviewers will evaluate your application for “Resources and Cost Controls” as specified in Section V.A. of the RFA.

9. Are there any restrictions on proprietary LCA databases being used?

Answer: Models should be non-proprietary, open-source and based on open-access data. Tools, models, and frameworks developed as part of this research should be user-friendly, transparent, and provide actionable information for local decisionmakers. See section I.D in the RFA for more information. EPA encourages consideration following the EPA LCA data quality assessment guidelines found at

https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_Report.cfm?Lab=NRMRL&dirEntryId=321834

10. Is this a one-time grant opportunity, or does EPA anticipate having future similar grant opportunities?

Answer: EPA does not have a Notice of Intent for any future Enhanced Aquifer Recharge (EAR) RFAs posted on our [website](#) at this time. Because of the competitive nature of the awards and uncertain nature of funding, EPA is unable to provide any specific information on future opportunities. The EPA website contains a list of “intent to fund” future RFAs, and by signing up for the [listserv](#) you will be notified when future RFAs are published.

11. Is there any limit on the type and readiness of the technology the RFA is looking for?

Answer: No, there is not a limit. Research Area 1 in the RFA asks for applicants to evaluate all the different technologies and costs associated with those technologies and then prioritize and incorporate that into the final tool/model. If evaluated in Research Area 1, you could choose to do a demonstration with that particular technology.