



Assessing Perchlorate Occurrence in Ambient Waters Following the Usage of Fireworks

Informational Webinar for Applicants

EPA STAR RFA


August 18, 2022

- Review application information for the EPA RFA:

“Assessing Perchlorate Occurrence in Ambient Waters Following the Usage of Fireworks”
- Provide guidance for eligibility, submission, technical aspects of application process
- Answer questions about the application process



Webinar Ground Rules

- Please hold your questions until all EPA presentations have been made.
- You may type your questions in the comments box. A black outline icon of a speech bubble with three horizontal lines inside, representing a comment or message box.
- Specific research projects or ideas should not be discussed but clarifying questions regarding what is written in the RFA announcement may be answered.
- These slides will be provided after the webinar.



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RFA & Award Information

- RFA will close on September 14, 2022, at 11:59:59 pm Eastern Time
- Estimated Number of Awards: 1 grant
- Anticipated Funding Amount: \$2.5M over 3 years.
- Proposed budget must not exceed \$2.5M.
- Details in the section **II. Award Information** of the RFA.

Read the RFA very carefully, all necessary information is provided

Research Areas:

1. Evaluation of perchlorate levels in ambient waters before and after fireworks events
2. Development of watershed models

Applications under this solicitation should address **both** research areas. **Applications that do not address both research areas may not be rated as highly as those that do.**

Research questions are listed under Research Area 1 for applicants to consider in shaping their research project. Applicants are encouraged, but not limited to addressing these research questions.



Research Area 1

Research to evaluate perchlorate levels in ambient waters before and after fireworks events.

EPA is interested in supporting research that provides a better scientific understanding of the magnitude and timing of perchlorate in ambient waters after fireworks events.

- Research should cover a wide range of waterbody types, precipitation levels and environments across the United States.
- Both receiving water near large fireworks displays and runoff from neighborhoods using smaller consumer-grade fireworks are of interest.
- Research should capture baseline concentrations and account for temporal concentrations before and after firework events.

Research Questions

- What are the spatial and temporal patterns of perchlorate levels at different points downstream from perchlorate sources?
- What are the variables that control perchlorate attenuation in water bodies?
- What are the relative contributions from large display fireworks events vs. consumer grade fireworks usage?
- What amount of perchlorate leaches to groundwater?
- What is the impact of environmental systems and topography?
- What is the impact of season, climate, precipitation levels and waterbody type on perchlorate levels?

Development of watershed models

Applicants should develop a model to estimate perchlorate concentrations in drinking water sources which is calibrated/verified with collected and existing data from Research Area 1.

Models should enable decision makers, states, and utilities to:

- Estimate the behavior of perchlorate after firework events
- Make better decisions regarding management options to reduce perchlorate exposure

Outputs may include:

- A communication plan to appropriately convey findings to states and utilities.
- Occurrence data about perchlorate found in waters used for public water sources.
- Analytical models that help communities predict and identify the risks associated with perchlorate in drinking water sources.
- Planning/guidance documents to mitigate and reduce risks associated with perchlorate.
- Risk communication materials and practical tools that translate scientific results into easily understandable outreach and education materials for water management professionals and the public.
- Descriptions of analytical methods used (e.g., instrumentation, standard operating procedures, quality control procedures and results).



Example Outcomes

Outcomes may include:

- A better understanding of the nature and extent of perchlorate contamination in water bodies near display events, and near neighborhood areas where consumers use fireworks.
- Increased scientific understanding of the magnitude and timing of perchlorate in waterbodies after fireworks events which may lead to improved management approaches, resulting in clean and safe drinking water.



Eligibility Information

Eligible to Apply (Section III. Eligibility Information)

Public and private nonprofit institutions/organizations

Public and private institutions of higher education

Hospitals located in the U.S. and its territories, possessions

State and local governments, U.S. territories or possessions

Federally Recognized Indian Tribal Governments

Foreign collaborators, data collection or use are OK

- International Budget needs to be justified, reviewed, and approved

Entities that are **NOT** eligible

- Profit-making companies
- Foreign governments
- International organizations
- Federally-Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs)
- Federal agencies
- Individuals



Eligibility Information

- Some non-eligible institutions/organizations may be on subawards of eligible applicants
- For-profit companies are NOT eligible and may NOT be subawardees
- For-profit companies may be consultants:
 - Consultants are not to be considered key personnel on a grant application
 - Contracts/Consultants are subject to competitive procurement requirements (see Section (IV.C.5.iv.f))



Application Materials and Process

- **Section IV. Application And Submission Information** of the RFA
- To apply under this solicitation, use the application package available at **Grants.gov**
- For further submission information see: **RFA Section IV.F. “Submission Instructions and other Submission Requirements”**
- Note: All necessary forms are included in the electronic application package, with the exception of the current and pending support form, available at: **Research Funding Opportunities: How to Apply and Required Forms**

Make sure to include the current and pending support form as part of the Project Narrative of your Grants.gov submission



Other Information

Please refer to the following RFA sections for additional Information:

IV. Application And Submission Information

- Required application package materials including:
 - EPA Human Subjects Research Statement (HSRS)
 - Scientific Data Management Plan (SDMP)
 - Quality Assurance Statement (QAS)

V. Application Review Information

- Peer Review Criteria
- Relevancy Review Criteria



Application Review Information

Peer Review Criteria

1. Research Merit
2. Project Management
3. Responsiveness

Relevancy Review Criteria

1. The degree to which the proposed science/research is relevant to EPA's priorities as described in this solicitation and Goal 5: Ensure Clean and Safe Water for All Communities, Objective 5.1: Ensure Safe Drinking Water and Reliable Water Infrastructure, of EPA's [FY2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#).
2. The degree to which results (i.e., outputs/outcomes) of the research have broad application or affect large segments of society.
3. The degree to which the research is designed to produce data and methods that can immediately and/or with little to no translation be utilized by the public, states, and tribes to better assess or manage environmental problems.

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Thank you!