

EPA Announces Keystone Allotments From Clean Water Funds

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PHILADELPHIA — Pennsylvania's State Conservation Commission has received more than \$2 million in federal funds to support a variety of non-point source pollution abatement projects in the state, including funding for 10 conservation district level positions to help develop nutrient management.

The announcement was made last week and details were provided during a conference call based at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region III headquarters in Philadelphia.

The teleconference was arranged by Carolyn Szumal, a spokesperson with the EPA Region III Office of External Affairs. She had a staff of several EPA researchers and administrators on line to field questions.

According to the announcement, there were 17 projects targeted to receive matching federal funds. The funds are authorized by Section 319 of the the Clean Water Act and total a grant of \$2,087,360.

According to the EPA officials, the funds were requested and are to be administered at the state level through Michael Krempasky, secretary to the State Conservation Commission, and chief of the DER Bureau of Soil and Water Conser-

vation, which oversees a Division of Storm Water Management and Sediment Control, and a Division of Nonpoint Source Management which oversees the Chesapeake Bay Program and regional offices for nutrient management specialists.

Krempasky, who was not part of the teleconference, also serves as moderator and support to the Nutrient Management Advisory Board, which is to review and comment on proposed regulations by the State Conservation Commission.

The federal funds available through the Clean Water Act, were awarded as matching funds based on state and local contributions totaling \$1,391,573. The total then available for the 17 projects is \$3,478,933 for the 1994 fiscal year.

The funds are targeted to be used in two ways. Some of it is directed to go toward "base" funding and the remainder for "competitive" funding.

The "base" for Pennsylvania was calculated to be \$1.1 million. The base money is to be used to institutionalize the programs, provide staff and longer term stability. The "competitive" funding is to be then directed to specific projects based on the submission of project proposals.

Of the \$80 million awarded by

the EPA nationally, Pennsylvania is among the top five states, according to amount received.

For 1994, about 66 projects were submitted in Region III, 42 programs were funded, of which Pennsylvania had the most approved.

The criteria used to determine worthy projects depends on several things, in addition to environmental need. According to the EPA officials, a critical requirement is the ability of the project to be measured for success, in addition to the specific watershed, which the states are expected to prioritize to maximize the effectiveness of the funding, and the amount of integrated agency support for the project.

The measurability of the project is a criteria requested so that officials can show Congress that the funds they have allocated are being used effectively.

For Pennsylvania, 17 projects were approved. The combined federal, state and local funding amounts are reported.

Conservation District Mining Program

A project that involves 23 county conservation districts in western Pennsylvania, the Conservation District Mining Program has been awarded a total of \$301,560 for 1994 and is designed to receive funds for a minimum of three years

at a rate of at least \$300,000 each year.

The project is designed to complete acid mine drainage remediation work started by conservation districts as part of DER's Comprehensive Mining Strategy. The funds are to be used to hire a regional coordinator who is to develop an education program coordinate remediation activities in the southwest portion of the state and to generate local support for the work. A possibility is the hiring of a watershed coordinator who would be in charge of seeing through projects in a specific region.

Conservation District Agriculture Program

A total of \$315,800 for 1994 is to be used to pay for 10 nutrient management technicians who are to develop, review and revise nutrient management plans in nine priority watersheds and two addition priority counties, which would be significantly affected by the state's Nutrient Management Act. In addition, funding may also be used to develop demonstration projects. Under the program, the 10 people would also receive education and be certified as crop advisors.

NPS Section Staffing

A total of \$331,568 has been approved to hire people to work out of Harrisburg to oversee, coordinate and integrate efforts of the state's non-point source program.

According to the EPA, the people include a DER section chief, grants manager, program specialist, watershed manager, water pollution biologist, and a clerk/typist.

Citizen Monitoring Coordinator

A total of \$53,850 has been approved to hire a person who would be responsible for coordinating the efforts of existing citizen environmental monitoring groups, and to help stimulate the development of others. The funding is for one year.

Stream School

A 10-day residential workshop on stream ecology and biomonitoring techniques is to be held at the Stroud Water Research Center, where the White Clay Creek is part of a limnological study program and the stream is classified as part of a "high priority watershed." A total of \$20,400 is to be used. The program seeks to teach at least 30 people from across the state who are "community stream watch leaders." They are to learn about the mechanics of running a stream-watch program in their own community.

Educational Programs

There are three parts to this. For a grant of \$8,500, a worksheet is to

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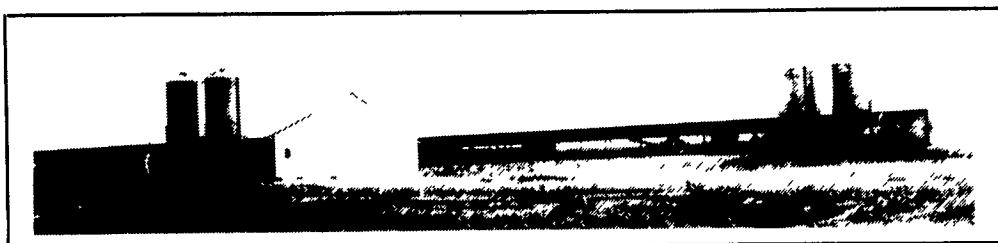
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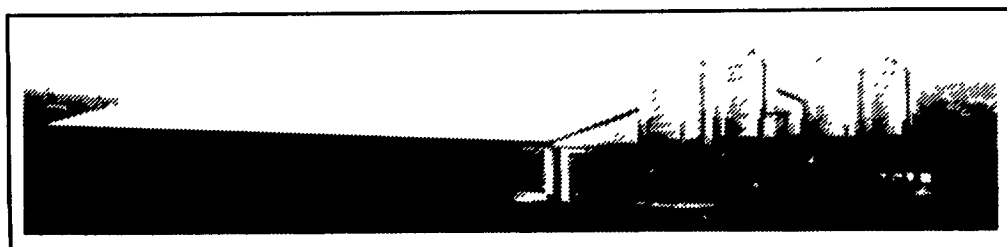
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