

TO: INTERESTED PARTY

FROM: Brian Spangler

DATE: April 6, 2009

SUBJECT: Grant Opportunities for Clean Diesel
Projects in Montana

I am writing to alert you to a federal grant opportunity targeted at upgrading motor vehicle diesel technology as part of the efforts surrounding the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This program is referred to as the National Clean Diesel Campaign (NCDC). The following information outlines details of the NCDC program.

WHO: Eligible organizations and entities under this federal grant program include: A regional, state, local or tribal agency or port authority with jurisdiction over transportation or air quality; or a nonprofit organization or institution that represents or provides pollution reduction or educational services to persons or organizations that own or operate diesel fleets; or has, as its principal purpose, the promotion of transportation or air quality.

School districts, municipalities, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), cities and counties are all eligible entities under this assistance program to the extent that they fall within the definition above. Private corporations that own diesel-powered vehicle fleets may partner with eligible organizations and entities to submit a grant application.

WHAT: NCDC seeks to reduce air pollution caused by diesel emissions. EPA is offering grant awards to eligible organizations and entities on a competitive basis for the purpose of implementing clean diesel activities that promote economic recovery, preserve and/or create jobs, and reduce air pollution. ARRA includes \$300 million to support clean diesel activities across the nation with approximately \$7.3 million eligible for Montana and surrounding states. EPA Region 8 anticipates awarding six regional grants ranging from \$100,000 to \$3 million.

Eligible organizations and entities can apply to EPA for consideration of funding based upon pre-identified selection criteria. Project funds can be awarded for any one of the five options available to reduce diesel emissions, also known as the five R's: re-fuel (using cleaner diesel fuel); re-build (engine upgrades); re-power (new engine); re-place (new equipment); and retrofit (emission filters/catalysts). These solutions can be applied to both on-road and off-road diesel vehicles and equipment. EPA also has the authority

to create finance programs to sponsor low-cost loans or to work with partners to offer loans that promote clean diesel goals.

WHY: Cleaning up particulate pollution from diesel trucks, buses and heavy equipment helps to reduce air pollution, improves public health and creates thousands of jobs.

WHEN: Eligible organizations and entities must submit grant applications to EPA Region 8 before **April 28, 2009**. This is a competitive grant application process sponsored by EPA. The EPA will review applications and make awards in May 2009 with a mandatory project completion date of September 30, 2010.

WHERE: Visit the NCDRC website for important updates, funding schedules, program information, and sample proposals.

EPA Grants & Funding page:

<http://www.epa.gov/otaq/diesel/grantfund.htm>

If you have any questions regarding this grant opportunity, please contact me at 841-5250 or e-mail at bspangler@mt.gov.