



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

## Department of Environmental Quality

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December 22, 2014

The Honorable Peter Courtney, President of the Senate  
The Honorable Tina Kotek, Speaker of the House  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear President Courtney and Speaker Kotek:

The Department of Environmental Quality is planning to apply for a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a Community-Scale Air Toxics Ambient Monitoring Grant to investigate public health impacts by better quantifying diesel emissions from significant but not well understood sources such as rail activity, construction, distribution centers and marine vessels. Only state air agencies can apply for this grant and applications are due to EPA by 4 PM EST on January 5, 2015. This letter provides the ten day notification of our intention to apply.

DEQ recently discussed potential collaboration on this grant opportunity with Portland State University, Reed College, Oregon Health Authority and Multnomah County Health Department. All partners expressed interest, and PSU and Reed have specific expertise and capacity in diesel emissions monitoring that would allow them to take a lead in research and analysis. DEQ is developing a project proposal and grant application in coordination with PSU and Reed. Following is specific information about the grant proposal:

- **The source of the grant:** US Environmental Protection Agency Community Scale Air Toxics Ambient Monitoring, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
- **The amount being requested:** \$568,572
- **The purpose of the grant:** The purpose of the grant is to investigate public health impacts caused by diesel emissions from significant but not well understood sources such as rail activity, construction, distribution centers and marine emissions, especially for vulnerable populations in communities nearby. DEQ and partners would use improved information about diesel emissions to more accurately estimate health risks and focus and inform emission reduction strategies for different source categories.

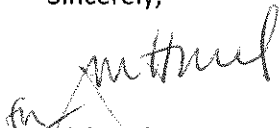
In the project proposal, DEQ and collaborators would identify two Portland neighborhoods of high vulnerability to diesel particulate matter. PSU and DEQ would host a series of workshops and tools to engage and communicate with the public. PSU would then conduct 10 day particulate and black carbon monitoring, speciation and analysis to develop chemical signatures of sources such as shipping, construction, distribution centers and rail. A two to three week monitoring study would follow in the two chosen neighborhoods, and PSU would analyze data for source contribution and health impact. DEQ would then revise risk estimates modeled in the Portland Air Toxics Solutions

Project and communicate study results to stakeholders and policymakers to inform emission reduction and mitigation measures. This study could provide important information for our work to reduce diesel emissions state-wide.

- **The grant application deadline:** January 5, 2015
- **A description of any state match required for the grant:** There is no match requirement for this grant.
- **An estimate of any additional FTE that the grant will require:** DEQ estimates the need for a full-time limited duration position for six months to perform data analysis and modeling (.25 FTE).
- **A description of how the grant supports the agency mission and goals:** This grant aligns within the mission of DEQ to be a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water. This project supports progress towards achieving the goal of reducing cancer risk from exposure to diesel exhaust as outlined in ORS 468A.793 and the DEQ's Key Performance Measures #12 a and b.

If you have more specific questions about the grant, please contact DEQ's Sarah Armitage at [Armitage.Sarah@deq.state.or.us](mailto:Armitage.Sarah@deq.state.or.us).

Sincerely,



Dick Pedersen  
Director  
Oregon DEQ