

Federal Grant Application Request
Department of Environmental Quality
Community Scale Air Toxics Ambient Monitoring

Analyst: Paul Siebert

Request: Approve, retroactively, the submission of a \$568,572 federal grant application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for monitoring to investigate the public health impacts of diesel emissions from lesser understood sources.

Recommendation: Approve, retroactively, the request to apply.

Analysis: The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is seeking retroactive approval for the submission of a \$568,572 federal grant proposal to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to investigate the public health impacts of diesel emissions from lesser understood sources such as rail activity, construction, and marine vessels. Only state air quality agencies may apply for this funding. DEQ proposes to partner with Portland State University and Reed College for research and analysis work on diesel emissions. Under the proposal DEQ and other grant partners would identify two Portland neighborhoods with increased risk of exposure to diesel particulate matter then conduct diesel particulate and black carbon monitoring for 10 days. The results would be analyzed to develop chemical signatures from sources such as marine vessels, rail work, distribution centers, and construction. A 2-3 week monitoring study would then be completed in the two chosen neighborhoods.

The grant was due on January 5, 2015. On December 22, 2014, the Department sent the required 10 day notification letter signaling their intent to apply for the grant and their intention to seek retroactive approval during the 2015 legislative session. There is no match requirement for this grant. DEQ has indicated that if the grant is awarded it may need a limited duration position for six months to perform data analysis and modeling. If the grant proposal is successful the Department may need to return to the Assembly for an increase in Federal Funds expenditure limitation and position authority.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval, retroactively, of the request to apply for a \$568,572 grant to the Environmental Protection Agency to investigate the impacts of diesel emissions from lesser investigated sources.