



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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January 19, 2018

The Honorable Senator Peter Courtney, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Representative Tina Kotek, Co-Chair  
State Emergency Board  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Re: Retroactive Request to Apply – Competitive Grant – EPA Exchange Network  
Grant for Transition to SDWIS Prime (OHA-PHD-17-07)

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

### **Nature of the Request**

The Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division (OHA-PHD) requests permission to apply for the National Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant. We seek retroactive approval to apply for federal funds up to \$200,000 for three years beginning July 31, 2018 and ending July 31, 2021. The funds will be awarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the application will be submitted by January 26, 2018.

EPA is transitioning from its legacy drinking water database system, Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS Fed and SDWIS State), to a new cloud-based system called SDWIS Prime that would house national data and would be used by EPA and States. OHA-PHD is dependent on SDWIS State for managing all drinking water related data including lab data used to verify compliance with health-based standards. OHA-PHD will need to transition to the new system but also needs to maintain a local version of its data and to continue to provide public access to data through a local OHA-PHD application, Data Online. This grant will make funds available to hire a contractor to assist with the transition.

### **Agency Action**

If awarded, OHA-PHD will have access to a technical assistance contractor to support the transition process to a new federal database system and ensure that existing State access to data and capabilities are not compromised or lost in the transition process.

Grant funds would be used to hire a contractor under an EPA Blanket Purchase Agreement. Under the EPA Blanket Purchase Agreement contracting mechanism, the funds would not actually come to the State, but would be administered by EPA to pay the selected federal contractor to perform the work.

### **Action Requested**

The Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division requests retroactive permission to accept the EPA National Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant. There are no state matching funds required. OHA-PHD does not need position authority for any additional FTE for this agreement.

The Drinking Water program is a foundational program within OHA. The drinking water database system is mission critical for ensuring that public water systems are providing water that meets health-based standards.

### **Legislation Affected**

No legislation is affected.

For additional information, please contact David Emme, Manager, Drinking Water Services at [David.h.Emme@state.or.us](mailto:David.h.Emme@state.or.us), or by phone at 971-673-0415.

Sincerely,



Patrick Allen  
Director

CC: Linda Ames, Legislative Fiscal Office  
Ken Rocco, Legislative Fiscal Office  
Tom MacDonald, Department of Administrative Services  
George Naughton, Department of Administrative Services

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