

## American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

### Connecticut DEP

#### Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program

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##### **Description of the Grant and Summary of Activities:**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded \$2 Million to the Connecticut DEP (CTDEP) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) to identify, assess and cleanup federally-regulated Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) sites. This funding is part of the \$197 Million appropriated under the ARRA to address LUST sites nationwide. The funds will be used for oversight of the assessment and cleanup of leaks from underground storage tanks or for directly funding the assessment and cleanup of leaks where the responsible party is unknown, unwilling or unable to finance the cleanup. In addition to cleaning up sites and protecting Connecticut's groundwater, this project is expected to create and/or retain jobs.

In order to be eligible to receive ARRA funds, the CTDEP entered into a cooperative agreement with EPA's Region 1 Office of Underground Storage Tanks. EPA provided initial guidance on how to implement the ARRA LUST Program in June 2009. That same month, CTDEP submitted an Assistance Agreement Work Plan Narrative to EPA and in July an Application for Federal Assistance was finalized. The \$2 Million award was signed by CTDEP on August 26, 2009. The ending date of the project is September 30, 2011.

EPA's guidance document incorporates strategies to ensure that funds are used effectively to achieve the goals of LUST site cleanups, while at the same time maximizing job creation/retention to provide economic, health, and environmental benefits to the citizens of Connecticut. Performance measures were established to facilitate the documentation of State oversight (indirect) and of funds used (direct) for assessment and cleanup actions. Performance in each category is measured by the number of Site Assessments Initiated, Site Assessments Completed, Cleanups Initiated, and Cleanups Completed.

Starting as early as February 2009, the CTDEP initiated an extensive file and database search for facilities that could potentially be eligible for use of ARRA LUST funding. CTDEP focused the search for LUST sites where the owners are unknown, unwilling or unable to finance the cleanup or the cleanup is necessary as part of an emergency response. In CTDEP's June Assistance Agreement Work Plan Narrative a total of fourteen facilities were determined to be potentially eligible for ARRA LUST funding. In July, the CTDEP sent a Request for Proposals (RFP) to seven environmental consulting firms that are currently eligible to submit bids

pursuant to the State of Connecticut's Department of Administrative Services Contract No. 05PSX0271. The response deadline was set for August 14, and the CTDEP has reviewed the bids and will be selecting a contractor shortly.

### Reports Required Through 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter:

Report	Submitted to	Due Date	Status	Quality Assurance
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	9/4/09	Submitted	Review Complete
Second Quarterly Report	US OMB	10/10/09	Submitted	Review Complete
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter Programmatic Report	Region 1 EPA	10/10/09	Submitted	Review Complete
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	10/15/09	Submitted	Review Complete
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	11/4/09	Pending	Pending
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	12/4/09	Pending	Pending
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	1/4/10	Pending	Pending
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Report	US OMB	1/10/10	Outlined	Pending
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Programmatic Report	Region 1 EPA	1/10/10	Outlined	Pending

### Data Reported:

The activities in this quarter resulted in developing a prioritization process for the selection of LUST sites to be addressed with ARRA LUST funds. Sites from this list are being discussed with representatives from the Connecticut Office of the Attorney General to determine liability and viability of owners and operators of the properties on this list.

In addition, the Vendor selection process is near complete. There will be no Sub Recipient associated with this grant.

### Addressing Challenges:

The mechanisms for delegating responsibilities, especially ARRA-specific reporting requirements, have been difficult. These issues have been satisfactorily resolved and CTDEP remains on target to initiate work with a Vendor in the near future.

### Forecast of Third Quarter Activities:

The assessment and cleanup of several LUST sites will commence after a Vendor is selected. With the assistance of the Connecticut Office of the Attorney General, arrangements will be made regarding the EPA-required cost recovery efforts. Remedial actions will then be planned and implemented. The effects of this grant, reductions in risk to human health and the environment, increased economic viability of addressed sites, and job creation/retention, will be more evident at the conclusion of the third quarter.