

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Connecticut DEP

Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program

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. On October 29, 2010, Loureiro Engineering Associates, Inc. (LEA) was selected as our environmental consulting firm. In November, LEA attended an introductory meeting with the Department of Environmental Protection in Hartford.

The Department, working with the State Attorney General, have passed the following milestones for the initial five sites: determined site ownership, received site access for the initiation of assessment, met with owners following assessment and discussed proposed remediation, developed a workable cost recovery process to determine ability to pay for eligible sites, sent notice to site owners for tax documents, and developed a draft for site access for remediation.

Reports Required Through 4th Quarter:

Report	Submitted to	Due Date	Status	Quality Assurance
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	9/4/09	Submitted	Review Complete
Quarterly Report	US OMB	10/10/09	Submitted	Review Complete
4 th Quarter-2009 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	Submitted	Review Complete
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	12/4/09	Submitted	Review Complete
1 st Quarter-2010 Programmatic Report	Region 1 EPA	1/10/10	Submitted	Review Complete
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	1/15/10	Submitted	Review Complete
Quarterly Report	US OMB	1/15/10	Submitted	Review Complete
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	2/15/10	To Be Submitted	Pending
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	3/15/10	To Be Submitted	Pending
Quarterly Report	US OMB	4/10/10	To Be Submitted	Pending
State Monthly Report	CT OPM	4/15/10	To Be Submitted	Pending

Data Reported:

The activities in this quarter resulted in the selection of the project vendor, drafting site access agreements for site assessments, and drafting work plan for site remediation.

Addressing Challenges:

Challenging aspects of the project include the development of a workable cost recovery plan and the evaluation of the ability of site owners to cover remediation. These issues have been satisfactorily resolved, and CTDEP and LEA remain on target to initiate the site assessments for draft remedial action plans at five sites.



Forecast of Fourth Quarter Activities:

The site assessments of five LUST sites will commence after LEA's Site Work Plan is submitted and approved by DEP. Following each individual site assessment, a draft remedial action plan will be submitted in a timely manner for DEP review and approval, prior to implementation. The effects of this grant, reductions in risk to human health and the environment, increased economic revitalization of the five sites, and job creation/retention, will be more evident at the conclusion of the fourth quarter.