



STATE OF IDAHO

DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1410 North Hilton, Boise, ID 83706-1255, (208) 373-0502

C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor
Toni Hardesty, Director

January 26, 2012

<Address Block>

**Application Solicitation—2013 Funding Cycle for Competitive Nonpoint Source
Water Quality §319 Subgrants**

Dear <Name>:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is announcing the start of the 2013 Nonpoint Source Water Quality §319 grants funding cycle.

The grant pre-application and application will be available online as of April 9, 2012 at <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/Applications/319G/Default.aspx>. The *Project Application Guidance* and information on how to submit an application can also be found at this web address.

Please distribute this notice within your agency or organization and to others who may have viable projects that could qualify for grant funds under this program.

Project Eligibility

An eligible project will include goals and objectives that focus on maintaining or restoring water quality that has been degraded due in part to impacts from nonpoint sources of pollution. Work on an eligible project is expected to be completed by dedicated staff whose goals are to successfully implement the project work plan on a timely basis and within budget. The application shall discuss project monitoring and site maintenance efforts and should also address all management practices that will be implemented following completion of the project.

The application period closes in August and the evaluation process begins soon afterwards. During this time all applications will be reviewed and the merits of each project weighed. In December, recommendations for how any available funding should be directed will be made. All applicants will later be notified in writing of their project's funding status.

Funding should be available for successful projects by the end of May, 2013.

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DEQ's general priorities for projects seeking funding in 2013 are listed below. DEQ will continue its practice of directing funding to those projects that address nonpoint source related water quality concerns in the highest priority water bodies found across the state.

Project applications that address at least one of the four water quality priority categories that follow are likely to receive the strongest consideration for funding in 2013. Priority consideration will be assigned to projects that:

1. Fulfill a goal and/or objective of the FY2012 -2016 DEQ Strategic Plan and the 2012 Idaho Water Quality Performance Partnership Agreement entered into with USEPA (both available online at deq.idaho.gov/water).
2. Direct efforts at meeting the goals and objectives of an established Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), TMDL implementation plan or other water quality management plan.
3. Address anti-degradation of other important non-TMDL waters.
4. Promote comprehensive or conjunctive management of ground water, with a specific emphasis on nitrate priority areas.

Funding and Timeframe

Approximately \$ 1.9 million is expected to be available to award to projects in the 2013 grant funding period. Projects ranging in cost up to \$250,000 can be funded through this program.

Submitting an optional project pre-application to provide DEQ with early information about the type, location, and anticipated budget of the projects that are considering applying for funding is recommended. The pre-application allows DEQ the opportunity to contact the applicant if there are early questions about the proposed project, or to provide advice prior to submittal on how the application might be enhanced. The pre-application time frame is from April 9, 2012 to May 6, 2012.

The last day to submit a complete (final) application is Wednesday, August 1, 2012. Prior to submitting an application the applicant and local DEQ regional office personnel are expected to meet to discuss the project and the process to follow to ensure the applicant's project has the opportunity to be heard before the local Watershed Advisory Group, to gain approval to move forward.

Application Review Process

Enclosed is a schedule of important dates in the application process. Please note that DEQ may find it necessary to revise some dates in the schedule at a later time to address unexpected circumstances that may arise. You are encouraged to routinely check the schedule on DEQ's website for updated information on any changes that may have occurred.

A link to the applicable *1999 Idaho Nonpoint Source Management Plan* is provided on the DEQ website. Chapter 8 of the *Plan* includes additional information on the policy DEQ adheres to in administering the Nonpoint Source Program.

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For information on EPA's Nonpoint Source Program authorities and their guidelines for State programs please access the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/cwact.html>.

If you have any questions please contact Dave Pisarski at (208) 373-0502, or at david.pisarski@deq.idaho.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry N. Burnell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "B" at the beginning.

Barry N. Burnell
Water Quality Division Administrator

BNB: DP:dls

Enclosure (1)

NPS 319 Application Process Schedule

The schedule below includes key dates in the grant application process. Fixed calendar dates are displayed in bold. In some cases date ranges are used to allow for flexibility in scheduling.

- **April 9, 2012:** Optional project pre-application period opens. DEQ asks that all parties who intend to seek funding for a proposed project in 2013 consider submitting a pre-application. The pre-application form can be found at <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/Applications/319G/Default.aspx>
- **May 6, 2012:** The pre-application period will close.
- **May 31, 2012:** Pre-application reviews are to be completed by this date. DEQ will contact the project applicant with any questions or comments regarding the pre-application.
- **August 1, 2012:** A complete, online application is due at DEQ. All projects will have been presented to the local Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) for approval and to allow the application to move forward towards funding consideration.
- **August 6 – September 7, 2012:** DEQ and other responsible parties, as requested, will review and evaluate each project application for technical completeness. An application must be found technically complete before advancing for funding consideration
- **September 14, 2012:** Technically complete project applications are sent to all Basin Advisory Group (BAG) representatives for subsequent review and ranking.
- **October 1 - November 7, 2012:** Each applicant is required to present an overview of their project to the respective BAG membership, and afterwards be available to answer any questions about the project. After presentations conclude the BAG members will convene to rank each project based on its merit, the amount of funding being requested, and any other factors determined to be relevant at the time.
- **November 9, 2012:** The outcome from each regional BAG project ranking meeting will be forwarded to each regional BAG Chairman. Each Chairman (or designee) is then expected to review all applications and supplementary information in preparation for upcoming deliberations on project funding.
- **December 5, 2012:** DEQ personnel and the Chairman of each BAG will meet in Boise to review the highest ranked projects from across the state. From this group the Chairman will rank those projects they recommend be funded in 2013.
- **Mid-January, 2013:** Applications of the projects recommended for funding will be transmitted to EPA for review and approval. EPA's review is expected to be completed in 30 days or less. EPA may elect to comment on or otherwise intervene on any project application they receive. If necessary DEQ will address EPA's comments according to established procedures.
- **Mid-February, 2013:** A complete NPS program grant application package, including the list of EPA-approved projects, is forwarded to the Director of DEQ for review and approval.
- **Mid-March, 2013:** DEQ applies to EPA for a 2013 §319 federal grant award to the State of Idaho.
- **June 1, 2013:** DEQ expects to receive its grant obligation letter from EPA. All 2013 project applicants are subsequently notified in writing of their project's funding status. All projects that were approved for funding must then submit a subgrant development request form to DEQ to finalize the process of assigning funding to the project.