

# **Notice of Opportunity for Technical Assistance Grant for 0153 Ground Water Contamination Site**

Application Deadline: September 15, 2017

Often there are many technical issues at potential Superfund sites that may need more explanation for the benefit of the general public. A Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) provides money to pay for a technical advisor to help the community better understand the technical reports, site conditions, the cleanup proposals and decisions.

To assist the community's understanding of the 0153 Ground Water Contamination Site cleanup, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) will award one TAG in the maximum amount of \$50,000. Unless renewed, the grant funds will remain available for 4 years. TAG applications are due September 15, 2017.

## **Who may apply for a TAG?**

IDEM is looking for the group or coalition of local groups that best matches the interests of the entire affected community within the 0153 Ground Water Contamination Site and demonstrates an ability to continue to do so. Although not required at the time of the application, when entering into a Technical Assistance Agreement the recipient should be a recognized legal entity, as evidenced by a document such as a written partnership agreement or articles of incorporation. The entity will provide one point of contact for TAG related communications.

To ensure that the TAG benefits the affected community, IDEM will not allow certain groups to apply for a TAGs. Groups that may not apply for a TAG include (1) potentially responsible parties (PRPs), (2) academic institutions like colleges or universities, (3) groups affiliated with a state or national organization, or (4) counties, cities, or townships. Groups created by, representing, or receiving money or services from any of the groups described above are not eligible.

## **What Can Be Done with a TAG?**

TAG money must be used to pay for one or more technical advisors to help the community to better understand information about the 0153 Ground Water Contamination Site. For example, you may want someone to explain how conditions within the 0153 Ground Water Contamination Site affect the air or water in the area. The technical advisor might review and better explain existing information about the 0153 Ground Water Contamination Site developed by IDEM or developed by a PRP under IDEM's direction as part of the Superfund alternative cleanup process. Here are some other examples of what your group or coalition might pay a technical advisor to do:

- Review site-related documents from IDEM or others.
- Meet with your group and other community members to explain site information.
- Make site visits, when appropriate and necessary, to learn more about site activities.
- Travel to meetings and hearings about Site 0153.
- Evaluate plans for reusing Site 0153 after it is cleaned up.
- Interpret and explain available health-related information.

Technical advisors should have the background and experience to understand the cleanup process, and be able to produce reports that are easily understood by the community. Technical advisors may not conduct additional studies or generate any new data or information. A technical advisor should not have a conflict of interest within Site 0153.

## What Cannot be Done with TAG Money?

There are several activities for which you cannot use TAG money. Here are some examples:

- Travel expenses of group members (only technical advisor travel expenses can be paid).
- Lawsuits or other legal actions, including preparing testimony or hiring expert witnesses.
- Lobbying.
- Social activities, fund raising, or amusement.
- Tuition or training expenses for group members or technical advisors (except for onetime health and safety training for the advisor to gain access to Site 0153).
- Collection of new health or primary data through, for example, medical testing or drilling for environmental testing or well installation, or laboratory testing of soil, ground water or air.
- Reopening or challenging a final IDEM decision.

## Using your TAG throughout IDEM's Path Forward

There are more than 80 potential sources of chlorinated solvents within one year time-of-travel to the City well fields within the 0153 Ground Water Contamination Site. IDEM's path forward from the initial investigation to the ultimate cleanup goals will include the following steps:

**Investigation.** Over the next two to three years IDEM will further evaluate these 80 sources to identify those that may require immediate cleanup or additional surface cleanups, and to identify those that may be a threat to the drinking water wells. As necessary, IDEM may conduct removal activities at some of the sites.

**Conceptual Site Model.** IDEM will assemble the results of the individual investigations into a comprehensive document that describes the collective impact on human health, the environment or the wellfield, and an analysis of the feasible remediation alternatives.

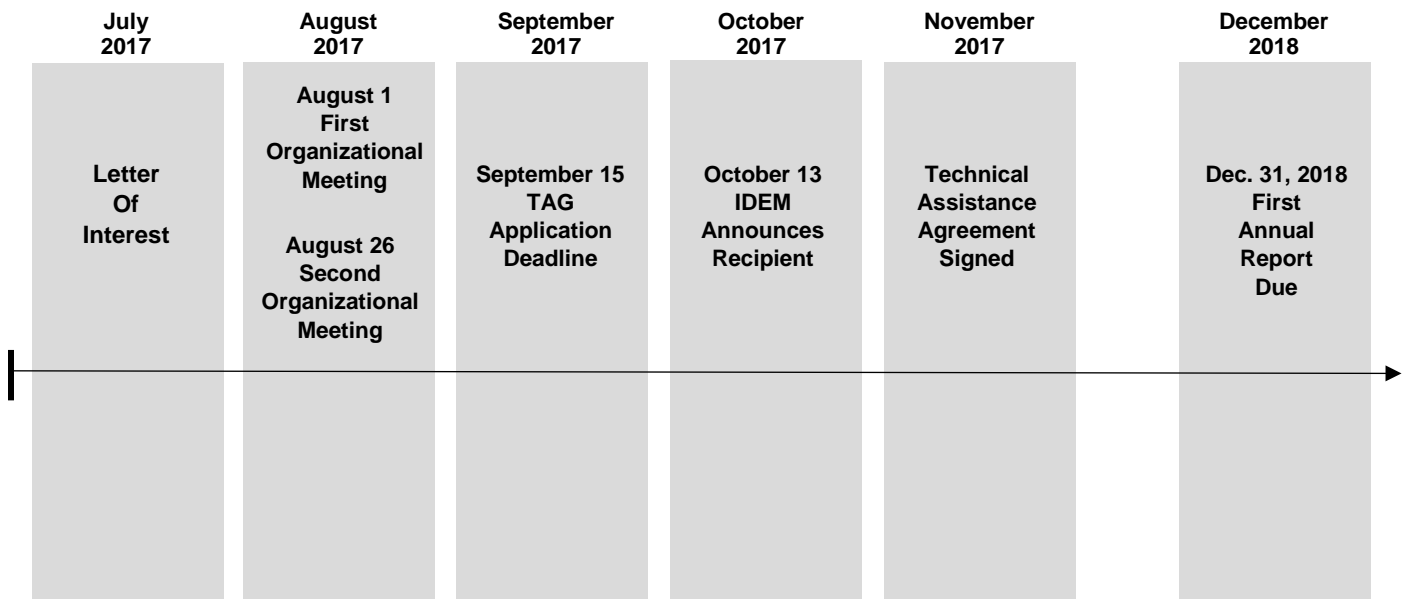
**Remedial Work Plans.** From the results of the Conceptual Site Model, IDEM will decide upon and design remedial work plan(s) for implementing the best and most cost effective remedy for protecting human health and the environment, including the well field.

IDEM will favor TAG applications that plan to allocate TAG funding to address community concerns at each significant step, including commitments to advise the entire community at each step.

## Matching Efforts

Your group must match at least 20 percent of the total project costs, which might include commitments to volunteer hours and other “in-kind” services to implement the TAG on behalf of the entire community. Your in-kind commitments will also demonstrate the group’s ability to implement the TAG throughout the cleanup process and inform other community members about site-related information and insight provided by the technical advisor. IDEM will ask for annual reports identifying the in-kind services your group or coalition expended to implement the TAG for that year and as promised in your application.

## IDEM’s TAG Process



**Step 1: Letter of Interest.** Your group writes IDEM a letter telling of its interest in a TAG. IDEM will send your group a more detailed application which will require much more information about how your group will use the TAG for the benefit of the entire community. An example of the application and information EPA typically requires can be found at

<https://semspub.epa.gov/work/HQ/174960.pdf> The letter simply expresses an interest, your application will not be due to IDEM until September 15, 2017.

**Step 2: Two Organizational Meetings for Potential TAG Applicants.** To help form a coalition of local groups that best matches the interests of the entire community and demonstrates an ability to continue to do so, IDEM will host two meetings of potential TAG applicants:

Tues Aug 1	Sat. Aug. 26
6 to 8 pm	10 to Noon
Flanner House	Flanner House
2424 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street	

Each group representative must sign in with a brief description of your group and your contact information. Your information will be immediately shared with the other attendees. IDEM will begin with a presentation on the cleanup process, the anticipated schedule and a demonstration of the availability of public documents along the way. While IDEM will be in attendance to begin the two meetings, the purpose of these meetings is to allow neighbors to organize themselves into a coalition for purposes of the TAG application and make decisions about the best use of the funds for the community. A representative from your group must attend at least one of these two meetings.

**Step 3: Submit the TAG Application by September 15, 2017.** If your group and other interested groups decide they don't want to form one coalition, you may make separate applications. There is no benefit to an early application.

**Step 4: IDEM reviews the Applications.** If IDEM receives more than one application, it will rank each application based on how well the group represents the affected community, the group's plans for using a technical advisor for the benefit of the community, and the group's ability throughout the cleanup process to inform other community members about site-related information and insight provided by the technical advisor.

**Step 5: IDEM announces the Recipient:** If one or more applicants meet all requirements for a TAG, on or before October 13, 2017, IDEM will select one Recipient for the TAG. IDEM and the Recipient will enter into a Technical Assistance Agreement. However, if none of the applications meet all of the TAG requirements, IDEM reserves the right to make no award.

**Step 6: TAG Disbursements by Invoice.** To receive disbursements under the Technical Assistance Agreement, the Recipient will submit proposed invoices for pre-approval by IDEM. The invoices will describe the TAG related work activity and anticipated costs, IDEM will confirm that the proposed work and costs listed on the invoice meet the terms of the TAG application. Thereafter, when the work is completed, IDEM will process invoices for payment.

**Step 7: Annual Reports.** IDEM will ask for an annual reports due December 31<sup>st</sup> each year which identify the in-kind services your group or coalition expended to implement the TAG for that year and as promised in your application. If for some reason your group has not performed as promised, IDEM may eliminate, limit or condition future disbursements accordingly.

See: <http://www.in.gov/idem/cleanups/pages/site0153/map.html> for an interactive map of The 0153 Ground Water Contamination Site.