

from EPA staff that may be necessary for their further deliberations. At the December 12, 1995, meeting the Council will present its recommendations to the Agency on the draft report. (Note: The availability notice for this document will be published in the Federal Register.)

These meetings are open to the public. The Council encourages the hearing of outside statements and will allocate the first hour of their conference call on December 11, 1995, for this purpose. They will not take public comments at the December 12, 1995, meeting. Oral statements will be limited to five minutes, and it is preferred that only one person present the statement. Any outside parties interested in presenting an oral statement should petition the Council by telephone at (202) 260-2285 before December 7, 1995.

Any person who wishes to file a written statement can do so before or after a Council meeting. Written statements received prior to the meetings will be distributed to all members of the Council before any final discussion or vote is completed. Any statements received after the meetings will become part of the permanent meeting file and will be forwarded to the Council members for their information.

Members of the public that would like to attend the meetings, present an oral statement, or submit a written statement, should contact Ms. Charlene Shaw, Designated Federal Officer, National Drinking Water Advisory Council, U.S. EPA, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (4601), 401 M Street SW, Washington, DC 20460. The telephone number is Area Code (202) 260-2285.

Dated: November 22, 1995.

Peter L. Cook,

Acting Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water.

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FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE

Labor-Management Cooperation Program Application Solicitation for Labor-Management Committees FY1996

A. Introduction

The following is the draft solicitation for the Fiscal Year (FY) 1996 cycle of the Labor-Management Cooperation Program as it pertains to the support of labor-management committees. These

guidelines represent the continuing efforts of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) to implement the provisions of the Labor-Management Cooperation Act of 1978 which was initially implemented in FY81. The Act generally authorizes FMCS to provide assistance in the establishment and operation of plant, area, public sector, and industry-wide labor-management committees which:

(A) Have been organized jointly by employers and labor organizations representing employees in that plant, area, government agency, or industry; and

(B) Are established for the purpose of improving labor-management relationships, job security, and organizational effectiveness; enhancing economic development; or involving workers in decisions affecting their jobs, including improving communication with respect to subjects of mutual interest and concern.

The Program Description and other sections that follow, as well as a separately published FMCS Financial and Administrative Grants Manual, make up the basic guidelines, criteria, and program elements a potential applicant for assistance under this program must know in order to develop an application for funding consideration for either a plant, area-wide, industry, or public sector labor-management committee. Directions for obtaining an application kit may be found in Section H. A copy of the Labor-Management Cooperation Act of 1978, included in the application kit, should be reviewed in conjunction with this solicitation.

B. Program Description

Objectives

The Labor-Management Cooperation Act of 1978 identifies the following seven general areas for which financial assistance would be appropriate:

- (1) To improve communication between representatives of labor and management;
- (2) To provide workers and employers with opportunities to study and explore new and innovative joint approaches to achieving organizational effectiveness;
- (3) To assist workers and employers in solving problems of mutual concern not susceptible to resolution within the collective bargaining process;
- (4) To study and explore ways of eliminating potential problems which reduce the competitiveness and inhibit the economic development of the plant, area, or industry;
- (5) To enhance the involvement of workers in making decisions that affect their working lives;

(6) To expand and improve working relationships between workers and managers; and

(7) To encourage free collective bargaining by establishing continuing mechanisms for communication between employers and their employees through Federal assistance in the formation and operation of labor-management committees.

The primary objective of this program is to encourage and support the establishment and operation of joint labor-management committees to carry out specific objectives that meet the aforementioned general criteria. The term "labor" refers to employees represented by a labor organization and covered by a formal collective bargaining agreement. These committees may be found at either the plant (worksite), area, industry, or public sector levels. A plant or worksite committee is generally characterized as restricted to one or more organizational or productive units operated by a single employer. An area committee is generally composed of multiple employers of diverse industries as well as multiple labor unions operating within and focusing upon city, county, contiguous multicounty, or statewide jurisdictions. An industry committee generally consists of a collection of agencies or enterprises and related labor union(s) producing a common product or service in the private sector on a local, state, regional, or nationwide level. A public sector committee consists either of government employees and managers in one or more units of a local or state government, managers and employees of public institutions of higher education, or of employees and managers of public elementary and secondary schools. Those employees must be covered by a formal collective bargaining agreement or other enforceable labor-management agreement. In deciding whether an application is for an area or industry committee, consideration should be given to the above definitions as well as to the focus of the committee.

In FY 1996, competition will be open to plant, area, private industry, and public sector committees. Public Sector committees will be divided into two sub-categories for scoring purposes. One sub-category will consist of committees representing state/local units of government and public institutions of higher education. The second sub-category will consist of public elementary and secondary schools.

Special consideration will be given to committee applications involving innovative or unique efforts. All application budget requests should