



## FOCUS AREA RFP 4562

*This project is being funded through the Focus Area Program, which enables WRF to solve broadly relevant subscriber issues and challenges with a targeted, sustained research effort. The program is developed around research Focus Areas: a topic area that is of high interest and priority to WRF subscribers because of a challenge or opportunity that is present, emerging, or anticipated, and for which research will help subscribers manage and address the challenge or optimize the opportunity. A focus area includes a discrete challenge or opportunity statement, measurable objectives, and one or more projects that will lead to applied solutions and benefits for WRF subscribers within a specified, relevant time frame.*

*This project is funded under the Focus Area titled **Hexavalent Chromium: Filling Critical Knowledge Gaps to Inform Effective Rulemaking** and is intended to support the Focus Area objective(s):*

**OTHER**

### ***Scoping Study to Review Contributions of Chromium to Drinking Water from Corrosion in the Distribution System (RFP 4562)***

#### **Project Objective**

This study will conduct a literature review and analysis to determine the importance of contributions of chromium to drinking water from the distribution system through corrosion of distribution system appurtenances. This includes corrosion of components made from stainless steel or other materials that might release chromium into the drinking water distribution system.

#### **Budget**

\$25,000 in WRF funds

#### **Background**

With the development of California's new draft MCL for Cr(VI), as well as EPA's investigations into the need to create a national Cr(VI) standard, many utilities are interested to learn about sources of chromium within the distribution system that may lead to increased Cr(VI) levels in drinking water after treatment. Although they may be technically in compliance with regulations after treatment, they must still address customer concerns about chromium levels in drinking water at the tap. Because of attention given to hexavalent chromium in drinking water by the national media and by citizen groups, hexavalent chromium is likely to continue as a contaminant of high interest to consumers.

This project will benefit utilities by providing them the most current information on the corrosion of distribution system components as a source of chromium in drinking water.

#### **Research Approach**

This project will include a literature review to identify and summarize research on the contributions of chromium to drinking water from distribution system appurtenances.

The final deliverable should

- a) provide a detailed synopsis of existing literature and data;
- b) identify recommendations for additional research in this area and provide a prioritized detailed description of potential research projects; and
- c) summarize important findings from the literature review.

The final deliverable should also include a simple communications piece to assist utilities in responding to consumer questions and concerns regarding potential sources, health effects, and concentrations of Cr(VI) in drinking water due to corrosion.

### **Proposal Preparation Instructions**

Proposals submitted in response to this RFP must be prepared in accordance with the WRF document “Guidelines for Focus Area Program Proposals.” The most current version of these guidelines is available at <http://www.waterrf.org/funding/Pages/proposal-guidelines.aspx>. The guidelines contain instructions for the technical aspects, financial statements and administrative requirements that the applicant must follow when preparing a proposal.

### **Eligibility to Submit Proposals**

This RFP solicits proposals from all technically qualified U.S. based or non-U.S. based applicants, including educational institutions, research organizations, federal or state agencies, local municipalities, and consultants or other for-profit entities.

WRF’s Board of Trustees has established a Timeliness Policy that addresses researcher adherence to project schedule. The policy can be reviewed at <http://www.waterrf.org/funding/Pages/policies.aspx>. Researchers who are late on any ongoing WRF-sponsored studies without an approved no-cost extension are not eligible to be a named participant in any proposal. If you have any questions about your eligibility for WRF projects, please contact the WRF Research Manager listed at the bottom of the RFP directly.

### **Budget and Funding Information**

The funding available from WRF for this project is \$25,000. A minimum 25 percent of the total project value must be contributed by the applicant (i.e. the applicant’s minimum contribution must equal one-third of WRF funds requested). Acceptable forms of applicant contribution include cost-share, applicant in-kind or third-party in-kind that meet Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) requirements in 2 CFR Part 215.23, or the requirements of Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-102.24. The applicant may elect to contribute more than 25 percent to the project but the maximum WRF funding available remains fixed at \$25,000. Proposals that request less than \$25,000 from WRF need only contribute 25 percent of the total project value.

## **Administrative, Cost and Audit Standards**

WRF's standards for administrative, cost and audit compliance are based upon and comply with the proposer's applicable US Federal Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Financial Assistance. These standards are referenced in the WRF's "Guidelines for Focus Area Program Proposals" and include specific guidelines outlining the requirements for Indirect Cost Negotiation Agreements, Financial Statements and the Statement of Direct Labor, Fringe Benefits and General Overhead. Inclusion of indirect costs must be substantiated by a negotiated agreement or appropriate Statement of Direct Labor, Fringe Benefits and General Overhead. Well in advance of preparing the proposal, your financial staff should review the detailed instructions included in WRF's annually released "Guidelines for Focus Area Program Proposals."

## **Period of Performance**

The proposed project schedule should be realistic, allowing ample time for the preparation of final reports and for review of project results. It is WRF's policy to negotiate a reasonable schedule for each research project. Once this schedule is established, WRF and its contractors have a responsibility to adhere to the agreed-upon schedule. Under WRF's No-Cost Extension Policy, a project schedule cannot be extended more than nine months beyond the original contracted schedule, regardless of the number of extensions granted. The policy can be reviewed at <http://www.waterrf.org/funding/Pages/policies.aspx>.

## **Utility Participation**

WRF is especially interested in receiving proposals which include both participation and contribution of resources from water utilities in the research effort. Information on utilities that have indicated an interest in participating in this research project is attached. While WRF makes utility participation volunteers known to applicants, it is the applicant's responsibility to negotiate utility participation in their particular proposal, and the utilities are under no obligation to participate.

## **Application Procedure and Deadline**

**Proposals are now being accepted exclusively online in PDF only format and must be fully submitted before April 24, 2014, 5pm Mountain Time.** All the forms and components of the proposal are available online in the "Proposal Component Packet" zip file. A login is required to download this packet and use the proposal website. This information is available at <https://proposals.waterrf.org/Pages/RFPs.aspx>

The online proposal system allows submission of your documents until the date and time stated in the RFP. To avoid the risk of the system closing before you press the submit button, do not wait until the last minute to complete your submission.

Questions to clarify the intent of this Request for Proposals may be addressed to the Research Manager, Mary Smith, at 303-347-6134, or by e-mail at [msmith@waterrf.org](mailto:msmith@waterrf.org).

## UTILITY VOLUNTEERS

The following utilities have indicated an interest in possible participation in this research. This information is updated within 24 business hours when a utility submits a volunteer form and this RFP will be re-posted with the new information. **(Depending upon your settings, you may need to click refresh on your browser to load the latest file.)**