



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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November 4, 2013

TO: Environmental Health Directors

FROM: Jim Pendowski, Program Manager
Toxics Cleanup Program 

SUBJECT: **Implementation Memorandum:** Changes to Washington State Department of Ecology's (Ecology) Site Hazard Assessment (SHA) Grants in the 2013-15 Biennium

In the 2013 legislative session, the Washington State Legislature made significant changes to the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) (SB 5296 and HB 2079). Additional information about the legislation is available at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/regs/legislation-2013.html>.

Some of the changes to MTCA are to the Site Hazard Assessment Grant program (SHA). One of the most important changes is that carry-over of SHA Grant funds from one biennium to the next will no longer be allowed. Although grants will be issued as quickly as possible, some delay after the start of a new biennium is expected.

This memo describes the following:

- Changes to the Site Hazard Assessment Grant program this biennium;
- Availability of funding this biennium;
- Contact information.

Ecology plans to complete revisions to both the Remedial Action Grant (RAG) rule, Chapter 173-322 WAC, and guidelines by June 30, 2014. In the interim, the Legislature authorized Ecology to implement the new statutory provisions through interpretive guidance. This memo, and the current RAG Guidelines, constitute that guidance and should be used on a case-by-case basis until the rules are revised.

Changes to Site Hazard Assessment Program

The following discussion provides a general description of the different types of RAG and loans and the significant changes for 2013-2015 biennium based on the legislation. Where there is a conflict between this memorandum and the RAG Guidelines, this memorandum governs.

Site Hazard Assessment (SHA) Grants

- The purpose of the SHA grant program is to involve local health districts and departments in assessing the degree of contamination at suspected contaminated sites within their jurisdiction.
- For the 2013-15 biennium, no changes were made to these grants (except as described below under methamphetamine lab site assessment and cleanup grants). All funding has already been allocated to eligible local health districts and departments.

Methamphetamine Lab Site Assessment and Cleanup Grants

- The purpose of the methamphetamine lab site assessment and cleanup grant program is to provide funding to local health districts and departments that assess and cleanup sites of methamphetamine production. The program is not intended to assist in the initial containment of methamphetamine lab sites, nor for assessment of residences to assess recreational use of the drug.
- For the 2013-15 biennium, Ecology is no longer allocating funds separately for methamphetamine lab site assessment and cleanup. Where meth labs are encountered, local health departments may amend their site hazard assessment grant work plan to address the assessment and cleanup of a specific meth lab sites within their current grant award.
- Access to SHA Grant funds for assessment and cleanup of methamphetamine laboratory sites will require a work plan, outlining assessment and cleanup activities, to be submitted by the grant applicant, and approved by Ecology, before a SHA grant can be amended for any such activities.

If you have any questions or would like more information regarding SHA, changes to the program, and the availability of funding, please contact one of the following TCP Staff list below.

Toxics Cleanup Budget Staff and SHA Coordinator Contact Information		
• Grant Fund Availability	Angie Wirkkala, TCP Budget Manager	angie.wirkkala@ecy.wa.gov (360) 407-7219
• Grant Application Process	Lydia Lindwall, Remedial Action Grant Manager	lydia.lindwall@ecy.wa.gov (360) 407-6210
• Site Hazard Assessment Grants	Ted Benson, Site Hazard Assessment Coordinator	ted.benson@ecy.wa.gov (360) 407-6683