



Department of Environmental Protection

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Secretary

TO: Applicants for Section 319 Grant Funding

FROM: John Abendroth, Administrator
Nonpoint Source Management Section

DATE: February 14, 2006

SUBJECT: FY 2007 Application Guidance for Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management
Program Grant Proposals

The DEP Nonpoint Source Management Section administers grant money received from the USEPA through Section 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act. These grant funds are used to implement projects to reduce nonpoint sources of pollution. Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution refers to diffuse sources of pollution, such as stormwater runoff from urban areas and agricultural operations, failing septic tanks, and erosion from construction sites. NPS pollution is the biggest cause of water pollution in Florida today, and controlling it is critical to meeting Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) of pollutants for impaired waters as required by the Clean Water Act.

DEP currently awards approximately \$7 million each year in Section 319 funds to local governments and others in Florida to implement projects, such as stormwater treatment facilities, demonstration projects for agricultural best management practices (BMPs), and training and education programs to reduce NPS pollution. State and local governments and agencies, colleges, universities, non-profit organizations, public utilities and state water management districts may apply for Section 319 funding. Partnering with other entities is strongly encouraged. Approved projects are contracted with the DEP and managed by the staff of the Nonpoint Source Management Section. Grant funds are administered on a cost-reimbursement basis and the grant period is six years. Descriptions of funded projects, proposal ranking information and the **new FY07 application form**, may be found on the Department's website at: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/nonpoint/319h.htm>

The schedule for the FY 2007 grant cycle is as follows:

- **May 26, 2006 - Project proposals are due to the Department for review and ranking.**
- July 31, 2006 - DEP submits a draft "work plan" containing selected proposals to EPA for their review and comment.
- August 2006 - DEP notifies applicants of the status of their proposals.
- June 2007 - EPA anticipates awarding the funds, and DEP initiates work/contracting with grantees.

Please follow this year's guidance closely so that your proposal can receive full consideration for funding. More detailed guidance follows in the attachments but some highlights are identified below.

1. Section 319 funds can be used only on projects that are consistent with the activities set forth in the Action Plans contained in the "Florida Nonpoint Source Management Program Update" (1999). This plan is available for downloading or viewing at: www.dep.state.fl.us/water/nonpoint/319h.htm