Connecticut Department of ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

DEEP Marine Fisheries News

October 26, 2022

N22-40

Notice of Funds Available for Diesel Emissions Reduction

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is announcing the availability of up to \$1,189,000 in new funds for the reduction of diesel emissions in our state. This funding presents an opportunity to replace older diesel engines and equipment. DEEP is seeking grant proposals from municipalities, organizations, and businesses for diesel emissions reduction projects that are environmentally and economically beneficial, can be initiated promptly, and will be completed quickly.

This year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is allocating to Connecticut a minimum of \$355,000, authorized under the federal Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA), for projects to reduce diesel pollution in the state. In addition, DEEP has reserved the opportunity to nearly triple its DERA allocation using funds available through the "DERA Option" under Connecticut's Volkswagen Mitigation Program (VW Program); this could increase the total to as much as \$1,189,000.

All interested parties are encouraged to apply by submitting their proposal using the form found on DEEP's <u>Diesel Grants & Funding</u> page. Completed forms and inquiries should be directed to the attention of DERA Grants Administration at <u>DEEP.MobileSources@ct.gov</u>; **proposals must be submitted no later than November 30, 2022**.

DERA funding presents an excellent opportunity to leverage federal funds to replace older diesel vehicles and equipment with newer, cleaner equipment, including electric alternatives to diesel, which will benefit you while also helping to improve air quality and protect public health in Connecticut. A complete list of eligible projects can be found in the https://portal.ct.gov/media/DEEP/air/mobile/DERA/2022-State-Clean-Diesel-Project-Guidance-Document-Final-9-29-22.pdf. Projects must be completed by August 31, 2023.

DEEP recommends interested parties review the 2022 DERA Guidance Document, to find out more details about DERA eligibility as well as some VW and DERA program differences. Note that many diesel emission reduction projects that are eligible for the DERA program are not eligible for the VW Program. Therefore, DEEP also recommends that you familiarize yourselves with the State of Connecticut Mitigation Plan under Volkswagen 2.0L and 3.0L Vehicle Partial Consent Decrees, Appendix D, on DEEP's VW Settlement page as you consider options under both the existing DERA and future VW opportunities.

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