

EPA/SW-707

Technical Assistance to State & Local Governments

EPA/SW-707

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Revised, 1978

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents
U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402

Technical Assistance to State & Local Governments

Resource Conservation & Recovery Panels Program

The Program

Among the eight environmental laws administered by EPA is the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA), Public Law 94-580, which amends the Solid Waste Disposal Act of 1965. RCRA addresses the Nation's goals of protecting the public health and the environment while conserving our valuable resources. The main thrusts of RCRA are protection of the land, control of hazardous wastes, and encouragement of resource conservation and recovery initiatives.

It is clear under the provisions of RCRA that Congress intended that the Act be implemented by the States and local communities, with financial and technical assistance from the Federal Government.

As responsibility begins to pass from the Federal criteria, guidelines, and regulations to the States for preparation of State plans, EPA is completing the institutional

See "Financial Assistance: Grants Authorized by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act," available from Solid Waste Information, Cincinnati, OH 45268.

arrangements that will provide technical assistance, as authorized in Section 2003 of RCRA. This section requires EPA to make available to State and local governments teams of personnel to provide technical assistance on solid waste management, resource recovery, and resource conservation. These teams may include technical, marketing, financial, and institutional specialists.

Among Federal, State, and local employees and contractors are many experienced managers and specialists who have a great amount of relevant knowledge and expertise in solving solid waste management problems. EPA is utilizing the combined talents of these specialists in establishing its Technical Assistance Panels (TA Panels) Program and making this expertise available to State and local governments for particular local problems.

The TA Panels are available on request to provide advice on a wide variety of subject areas to State and local governments as they develop strategies and plans and implement programs to achieve the goals and objectives of RCRA. Some areas of expertise are particularly suited for State-level programs while others are pertinent to local programs. Examples of State-level TA Panels functions are to support the development and implementation of State solid waste management plans to

- manage hazardous wastes,
- assure proper disposal of all solid wastes,
- conserve resources through waste reduction and recovery.

At the local government level, some

examples are assistance in the development of programs to

- evaluate, procure, and implement resource recovery systems;
- establish environmentally acceptable disposal facilities or upgrade unacceptable facilities;
- implement more efficient solid waste management practices (such as collection, storage, and transfer systems, and management information systems).

Eligibility

Technical assistance to other than State and local governments (i.e., Federal agencies, universities, and private citizens), although not a part of the program, may be considered through a request by a State or local government. Routine requests for information and advice will be answered as in the past.

Application

The TA Panels program is managed by EPA's 10 regional offices. For assistance and information about the program, please contact the appropriate regional office. Regional areas are identified and addresses listed on the last page of this pamphlet.

Requests for assistance should be submitted in writing by the chief elected official of a jurisdiction and should contain the following information:

1. nature of the environmental problem;
2. type of assistance requested (such as help in writing requests for proposals or engineering assistance

in siting a landfill) and reason it is needed;

3. estimate of level and duration of assistance (in workdays); and
4. indication of any time frame within which work must be performed and explanation of time frame circumstances.

The specific information required of applicants may vary slightly among EPA regional offices. Potential applicants should contact the appropriate EPA regional office before making written application to ensure that their initial requests contain all required information.

Local governments should submit requests either through their State solid waste management office or directly to the appropriate U.S. EPA regional office (with a copy sent to the State office) to assure consistency with State plans and priorities.

Availability

Section 2003 of RCRA requires that TA Panels be provided upon request at no charge. It is possible that requests for assistance may exceed the availability of TA Panels resources. In this event, assistance will be provided based upon priorities determined by the regional offices. Current details on such selection processes are available from each regional office.

μσ1659R
SW-707