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In this March 19, 2009 issue:

"Green" Project Application for Stimulus Funds

The federal stimulus bill routes some of the funds for water quality through the State Revolving Fund programs. Iowa's allocation is \$53 million for Clean Water SRF and \$24 million for Drinking Water SRF.

Twenty percent of each amount is intended to be used for green infrastructure, water or energy efficiency improvements, or other environmentally innovative activities. This provides an opportunity to submit new projects that can demonstrate water or energy savings, infiltrate stormwater, address climate change impacts on water resources, or promote sustainability.

From the "call for green projects" that went out at the end of February, we received almost 200 project ideas, many of which appear to be eligible "green" projects. Eligibility will be determined by applying criteria developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

In that "call" we stated the deadline for the project applications would be May 15. Unfortunately, we've since received additional guidance from EPA that we need to speed up our application process in order to get projects approved and funding allocated more quickly. The new deadline will be March 27. I apologize for the short notice. The stimulus process overall favors projects that are or can be "shovel ready" in the shortest amount of time.

The application and an attachment outlining the eligibility criteria are attached. Because of the short notice, we realize that you may not have all the project information right away. We will use the information you provide to make a determination of eligibility to the best of our ability.

The instructions for the application also include our proposed terms and conditions for the green projects. These, along with the list of eligible projects, are subject to approval by the Iowa Environmental Protection Commission, which we hope to get in May. Until then, nothing can be considered final.

If you have already included green components in your overall SRF project, please do not apply separately for the green reserve funds.

Finally, there are a number of requirements that apply to stimulus funds. Please review the information carefully and assess your ability and willingness to comply with these requirements before submitting an application.

INVESTING IN IOWA'S WATER

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