EPA Community-Scale Air Toxics Monitoring 2020 Grants Competition Winners

September 28, 2020 -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has selected 11 air toxics monitoring projects to receive funding under the Agency's Community-Scale Air Toxics Ambient Monitoring grants. As EPA pursues its mission to protect human health and the environment, the Agency periodically awards these grants to help state, local and tribal air agencies conduct air quality monitoring projects to address localized air toxics issues.

These grants will support monitoring in communities and provide important information on air toxics, including ethylene oxide, chloroprene, benzene, 1,3-butadiene, and toxic metals. Funding for the grants comes from State and Tribal Assistance (STAG) funding. Congress appropriates STAG funds for state, local and tribal air agencies to use in implementing and maintaining environmental programs.

The 11 state and local agencies selected to receive grants will conduct projects in these categories:

1) Characterizing the impacts of air toxics in a community (community-scale monitoring);
2) Assessing the impacts of air toxics emissions from specific sources (near-source monitoring);
3) Evaluating new and emerging testing methods for air toxics.

The grants total $5 million. To support the Administrator's goal of a clean and healthy environment,EPA anticipates that it will award the grants once all legal and administrative requirements are satisfied. The Agency anticipates providing selected agencies funding for their work in fiscal years 2021 and 2022. The selected grant recipients and anticipated award amounts are listed below.

Region 1

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, $263,502 to characterize air toxics emissions near the Port of Providence and characterize risk to the most highly affected populations, including surrounding environmental justice areas, schools and hospitals.

Region 3

City of Philadelphia Air Management Services, $352,208 to assist in assessing the degree and extent to which air toxics from various sources, including a major oil refinery, impact the immediate community in South Philadelphia.

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, $526,603 to characterize concentrations of air toxics metals and conduct health risk assessments for the Lambert's Point community in Norfolk and the Southeast community in Newport News.

Region 4

Georgia Department of Natural Resources, $571,670 to evaluate new technology for measuring ethylene oxide to continue the evaluation of ambient ethylene oxide concentrations in communities in the Atlanta metropolitan area.

Shelby County Health Department Pollution Control Section, $353,516 to evaluate low-cost equipment for measuring and analyzing volatile and semi-volatile organic air toxics compounds in the Memphis area.

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Conservation, $261,128 for monitoring and characterizing concentrations of ethylene oxide in the North Charleston area, including in environmental justice communities.

Region 5

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, $500,000 to conduct mobile monitoring to delineate local scale air toxics concentration gradients and assess the contributions of certain industrial sources to concentrations of air toxics in the outdoor air in southeast Michigan.

Region 8

Utah Division of Air Quality, $328,459 to conduct outdoor air quality monitoring and a health risk assessment of ethylene oxide emissions from major commercial sterilizers in Utah.

Region 9

Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, $435,450 for quantifying benzene and mobile source air toxics in environmental justice communities.

South Coast Air Pollution Control District, $749,624 for design and development of a mobile platform for higher frequency air toxics measurements, including evaluating the performance of a new continuous ethylene oxide monitor.

Region 10

Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, $657,840, for an assessment to identify trends in air toxics for the Puget Sound region which includes the area of Seattle and Tacoma in Washington state from by monitoring VOCs, including ethylene oxide and aldehydes.