Dear MPCA Grantee:

In the past, you received a letter from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) advising you about temporarily suspending operations, should there be a state shutdown. You are receiving a second letter because, since that time, the State has changed the advice we are giving projects funded with strictly grant monies, with certain restrictions.

Projects funded with grant monies may continue working should state government shut down on July 1, 2011, provided they meet certain conditions. The following Frequently Asked Questions explain further:

Will grantees that received advance payment for FY2011 grant activities prior to June 30, 2011 be able to continue work on those agreements after July 1, 2011? (Revised 6-23-2011)

If the grant agreement allows advanced payments and the grantee has received the advanced payment from the State on or before June 30, 2011, the grantee may continue the activities and duties listed in the grant agreement until the advance payment has been expended. Grants included are RETAP, Clean Water Partnership, Environmental Assistance grants, SCORE, Metro Local Recycling Development Grants and Delegated County Feedlot grants. After the grantee has expended all of the funds received from the state, the grantee may continue remaining work up to the limits of the grant agreement if no state employee review or participation is required to support the work of the grant. However, the grantee must recognize that further payments may be delayed.

Will FY2011 funded grant activities paid on a reimbursement basis that have not yet been provided to the grantee be able to continue working after July 1, 2011? (Revised 6-23-2011)

FY2011 approved grant agreements remain in effect and can proceed with local government or non-governmental entities as long as no state employees are needed to support the work and continuation is not dependent on FY2012 funding or state match. However, the grantee must recognize that further reimbursements may be delayed.

Can matching funds be used by a grantee to continue work on a grant project during a temporary suspension of state government? (Revised 6-23-2011)

Yes, if no state employee review or participation is required to support the work of the grant. However, the grantee must recognize that reimbursements may be delayed.

Can recipients of MPCA loans continue to work using the loan funds? (Revised 6-23-2011)

Yes, loan recipients who have received funding from Clean Water Partnership or other loan funds can continue work under those programs as long as no state employees are needed to support the work and continuation is not dependent on FY2012 funding or state match.

We are pleased that you may continue work. Please be aware that this only applies to projects funded with grant dollars, not projects funded through contracts. Additionally, even grants may not proceed where state review or participation is required, such as modeling, assistance in establishing a monitoring site, a change in project scope, or funding modifications. If MPCA staff involvement becomes necessary during the shutdown period, work on the grant would need to cease.

Additionally, there is still a judicial process proceeding so this determination could still be altered by the courts. Please continue to monitor our FAQs for new information that may occur. The website address is www.pca.state.mn.us

If you have questions, please contact your project staff. Thank you.

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