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April 25, 2018

Two more updates:

- 1) New EPA grant announced
- 2) update on Reasonable Suspicion DOT training available at OSBA

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### 1) New EPA Grant announced

US EPA is announcing the availability of more funding for clean diesel national grants under the DERA (Diesel Emission Reduction Act) program. For more information, see [www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/clean-diesel-national-grants](http://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/clean-diesel-national-grants).

## EPA Announces Availability of Funding to Reduce Emissions from Diesel Engines Nationwide Preference given to fleets in areas facing air quality challenges

WASHINGTON (April 24, 2018) – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the availability of grant funding to modernize the nation’s diesel fleet by retrofitting or replacing vehicles with cleaner, more efficient diesel engines. EPA anticipates awarding approximately \$40 million in Diesel Emission Reduction Program (DERA) grant funding to eligible applicants, subject to the availability of funds.

“These grants will incentivize improvements to aging diesel fleets and improve air quality throughout the country,” said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. “EPA will continue to target funds to areas facing significant air quality issues.”

“Steps to reduce emissions from older diesel trucks are some of the most cost-effective measures we can take to improve the air Americans breathe,” said Rep. Ken Calvert (CA-42). “By prioritizing the DERA grant funding in regions that have some of our most complex air quality challenges, the resources being awarded can make a significant impact. I am pleased Congress was able to provide \$40 million for these grants and appreciate the efforts of everyone at EPA in making it a success.”

Diesel-powered engines move approximately 90 percent of the nation’s freight tonnage, and [today](#) nearly all highway freight trucks, locomotives, and commercial marine vessels are powered by diesel engines.

EPA is soliciting proposals nationwide for projects that significantly reduce diesel emissions and exposure, especially from fleets operating at goods movements facilities in areas designated as having poor air quality. Priority for funding will be given to projects that engage and benefit local communities and applicants that demonstrate their ability to

promote and continue efforts to reduce emissions after the project has ended.

Eligible applicants include regional, state, local or tribal agencies, or port authorities with jurisdiction over transportation or air quality. Nonprofit organizations may apply if they provide pollution reduction or educational services to diesel fleet owners or have, as their principal purpose, the promotion of transportation or air quality. All those eligible may apply until [Tuesday, June 5, 2018](#).

Under this competition, EPA anticipates awarding between 20 and 80 assistance agreements. Applicants must request funding from the EPA regional office that covers their geographic project location. The maximum amount of federal funding that may be requested by an applicant varies by Region.

- Region 5 (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin) will accept proposals requesting up to \$3,000,000 in grant funds.

EPA anticipates releasing a separate Request for Proposals for Tribal applicants during 2018.

Since the first year of the DERA program in 2008, EPA has awarded funds to more than 730 projects across the U.S. Many of these grants funded cleaner diesel engines that operate in economically disadvantaged communities whose residents suffer from higher-than-average instances of asthma, heart and lung disease.

For more information and to access the Request for Proposals, visit [www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/clean-diesel-national-grants](http://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/clean-diesel-national-grants).

For more information on the National Clean Diesel campaign, visit [www.epa.gov/cleandiesel](http://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel).

## **2) Reasonable Suspicion Training update**

In yesterday's release, we listed an incorrect price for this class. The correct fee is \$50. The course is only offered at OSBA's offices in Columbus, Ohio at 8050 N. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43235.

Following is the remainder of the announcement:

We are pleased to announce that OSBA is now offering a reasonable suspicion drug and alcohol training program for supervisors. Completion of this course is required for all supervisors of safety sensitive (CDL) drivers, including our school bus drivers. Best practice is that each district have at least two administrators trained in this requirement.

We are offering this course in our offices at OSBA and have scheduled it monthly for the next several months. The course is 2 hours long, and will be held from 10-12 on June 5, July 10, and August 7. The course meets the FMCSA DOT requirements, and attendees will receive a certificate of completion. Cost is \$50 per person.

To register for one of these classes, contact one of the OSBA transportation team at (614) 540-4000 or by email at [schoolbus@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:schoolbus@ohioschoolboards.org).

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