

*Question 14: Please furnish details of the criteria used for awards of grants and research contracts for water pollution abatement research.*

Answer: Contracts—Research contract proposals are submitted to this administration as unsolicited proposals or in response to published requests for R. & D. qualifications and subsequent requests for proposals to solve specified research problems.

Upon receipt of a proposal, our technical staff reviews it to determine its general priority with respect to our research needs. That is, does it relate to a problem of significance, would it provide practical and usable results, what is its probable chance of success, what is the "payoff" if it succeeds and what is the negative impact on pollution control if it does not? Following this initial review, and assuming it is favorable, a more detailed evaluation is performed by other research staff, often located at our field laboratories, who are specialists in the subject area of the proposal, by scientists and engineers in other FWPCA activities, and by consultants (e.g., from universities, private industry, or other agencies). Based on these more detailed evaluations of the technical soundness of the project and approach proposed as well as on the project's priority with respect to accomplishing our program mission and the availability of funds, the final decision is then made to negotiate a contract or not.

In summary, contract proposals are evaluated on the following basis:

1. Relationship to program objectives and research needs;
2. Technical soundness of the proposal;
3. Cost of contract versus in-house project cost;
4. Capability of contractor;
5. Availability of funds and research priorities.

Grants—Proposals of independent investigators largely determine distribution of grant-supported research and development projects. Proposals are submitted to the program in the form of applications which are reviewed by panels of non-Federal advisory consultants. This review includes an evaluation of (1) scientific merit and significance of the project; (2) competency of the staff responsible for conducting the type of research proposed; (3) feasibility of the project and potentially useful results; (4) adequacy of the applicant's resources available for the project; (5) amounts of grant funds needed; and (6) the relationship to the Water Pollution Control Administration mission.

*Question 15: There appear to be more and more opportunities for transferring pollution from one segment of the environment to another, that is, from water to air, or air to the soil. Now that Federal Water Pollution Control Administration has been transferred to the Department of the Interior, what means are provided for coordinating the efforts of your agency with the air and solid waste pollution control programs of the Public Health Service in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare? Also with the public health aspects of the water pollution abatement programs which, the committee understands, have been retained in the Public Health Service because of their effect on public health?*

Answer: Communication between the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration and Public Health Service, Department of Health,