

CARB National Air Compliance Training Delivery Project

STAPPA/ALAPCO Training Committee Questionnaire Of State and Local Air Quality Training Providers

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TRAINING PROVIDER: The National Air Compliance Training Delivery Project (NACTDP) completed its 9th year in September 2001. This innovative and very successful air compliance training program is the result of the coordinated efforts between the NACTDP, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the California Air Resources Board (CARB). The training program is administered by the National Council on Aging (NCOA) and coordinated from the offices of the CARB.

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- 1. How does your training plan (e.g., course offerings) address the air quality training needs identified in the most recent biannual STAPPA/ALAPCO training needs assessment (currently the FY 2002-2003 Assessment)?**

Our annual training plan is based on input from surveys sent to California's Air Pollution Districts and the recent biannual STAPPA/ALAPCO training needs assessment, on input from the host states and consortia we train, the evaluation of changes in regulations and technologies, and other high interest items identified by the Air Resources Board and the U.S. EPA.

2. What is your historical “off-the-top” Section 105 grant funding level? Do not include in this amount any base Section 105 grants provided by state and local agencies or other extraneous sources of funding that support your program.

\$284,740.00

3. Is your current request for “off-the-top” Section 105 grant funds:

Greater than last year?

Less than last year?

Why?

CARB through NCOA, will be requesting \$300,000. This is an increase of \$15,260 to take care of the increase in instructor’s salaries (cost of living increase) and the increase in travel costs. No new classes are being proposed at this time for FY 2002/2003.

4. When you hire external training consultants to provide training, what process or criteria do you use to ensure the cost-effective use of those funds?

No external consultants are used in the National Air Compliance Training Delivery Project. The staff are either employees of the National Council on Aging or the California Air Resources Board

5. Who may attend your training courses?

Only member agencies

National audience

Generally describe who attends your courses and the area where your courses are offered.

The courses are offered nation-wide and are attended by inspectors, permit engineers, scientists, legal staff, and other environmental professionals. In addition, personnel from regulated industries also attend.

6. Describe your infrastructure (e.g., training staff, training facilities, training networks/consultants) for providing air quality training to state and local air agencies?

Mary Boyer, Chief, Training & Compliance Assistance Branch, CARB administers the program. The staffing for this program consists of five instructors that are hired by the

NCOA. The instructors have a combined total of 163 years of air pollution control management experience, and a total of twenty-five years as NACTDP instructors.

The program also has two administrative staff that are hired by the NCOA. Their main duties consist of scheduling all the training courses, compiling all of the training course materials for shipment to training sites, grading all exams and issuing certificates.

In addition, six instructors of the CARB Compliance Training Section are used, as required, to augment the NCOA staff.

Training sites in California are provided in the Cal/EPA Headquarters building and several different air districts. Sites outside of California are provided by the host state.

7. Identify whether you primarily facilitate the delivery of existing training and/or develop training materials and courses, and your process for revising/improving training courses.

The primary duty of the NACTDP and the CARB compliance training program is the development and delivery of environmental training courses. Many improvements to the training program are based on suggestions and critiques from our students. In addition, the previously mentioned survey data from California's Air Pollution Districts, the input from the host states and consortia we train, the changes in regulations and technologies, and high interest items identified by the Air Resources Board and the U.S. EPA are used to keep our instructional programs up-to-date.

8. Have you tracked your past performance in delivering training to state and local air agency staff? Please identify your previous reporting practices (e.g., to EPA) and summarize the number of state and local air agency staff trained per course/topic and the number of courses offered during the last calendar year. If you have statistics for earlier years, provide them too.

Overall course numbers are tracked. We are currently finishing the annual report for the last fiscal year which will be sent to the U.S. EPA and interested stakeholders. Past year's reports are also available upon request. Attached is a summary of the past year's statistics.

9. Do you request course evaluations from trainees and do you track the results?

The NACTCP program has an extensive evaluation process. The Level 100 series of training is evaluated on a daily bases as well as a weekly overall evaluation. The Level 200 series has a daily evaluation. The instructors review all evaluations, as well as the ARB program managers. Results are discussed at the quarterly staff meetings and changes are made as needed.

10. How do the state and local air directors in your area, as well as your EPA regional manager(s), rate your training program?

The NACTDP and CARB program are some of the highest rated and popular training courses in the United States and have we even trained students in foreign countries. We offer the biggest variety of environmental courses at the lowest cost.