

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

August 8, 2001

The STAPPA/ALAPCO/EPA Joint Training Committee developed the following questions to be used in collecting commonly available information from state and local air quality training providers. The information collected will be used, as needed, to assess the training activities and performance of training providers. For example, the information can be used to assist the Committee in situations where total grant requests from air quality training providers exceed the total amount of “off-the-top” Section 105 grants allocated for national air quality training.

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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)?

Six (6) out of seven (7) proposed courses are in the top ten courses to which state and local agencies will be most likely to send staff for training in FY 2002-2003 as published in the final report of the STAPPA/ALAPCO FY 2002/2003 Training Needs Assessment Survey, April 2001.

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.

When ETI was established in October of 1992, \$368,131 was granted for our first year operation (FY 1992-1993), with the total amount of \$891,525 for that first 3-year project (FY 1992-1995). Subsequent funding levels were \$459,597 for FY 1995-1998, \$389,242 for FY 1998-2001, and \$46,890 for FY 2001-2002. The grant amount has been substantially reduced in the past 2 years.

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

 X Greater than last year?

 Less than last year?

Why?

We have numerous requests to increase the number of training courses we offer from training personnel working in our region. For instance, the Kentucky Division for Air Quality has expressed interest in sending a large number of new staff to the proposed courses due to high staff turnover, which seems to be a common problem in our region.

We would like to propose an administration (registration, grading, certification, course report, and record keeping) and delivery of 2 sessions of APTI #450, and one session each of APTI courses #413, #415, #423, #427, #461, and #474 for FY 2002-2003 for an estimate of \$80,000, assuming that all student manuals and other course materials will be provided by APTI, except for #423 and #461.

An additional \$13,500 will also be proposed for maintenance of our satellite downlink facility, administrative and technical support of telecourse delivery, and travel fund to the annual meeting.

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?

We look for an individual with credentials such as a PE, QEP, and/or other related professional license or certification, with many years of experience both outside and inside the classroom. Both background and education must be compatible. Instructor's fee is negotiated to the lowest acceptable and agreeable level with an upper limit at an average full professorship level currently at \$70/hour.

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.

Our courses are offered on the main campus of the University of Cincinnati. We provide excellent classroom and laboratory facilities, which lends itself to an appropriate learning environment. The City of Cincinnati, bordering the Commonwealth of Kentucky in the south, and the State of Indiana in the west, is a central, convenient location and is within a 500-mile radius of two-thirds of the population of the United States.

We draw students both nationally and internationally, from government and private sectors, and have trained students from practically every state in the U.S. as well as international students from countries such as Canada, Mexico, Israel, South Africa, Hong Kong, and Thailand. Typical students are employees from a state or local air pollution control agency. States that our courses most frequently serve include Kentucky, Indiana, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, and Virginia.

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

Our principal training instructors include Dr. Sumana Keener (PhD, PE, QEP; over 20 years experience in air quality management), Prof. Tim Keener (PhD, PE, QEP; over 26 years experience in air pollution control), Mr. George Schewe (CCM, QEP; over 26 years experience in air dispersion modeling studies and meteorology), Mr. Chuck Bruffey (over 20 years of source sampling and CEM experience), and Mr. Thomas Tucker (over 20 years of experience in air permitting).

Our courses are offered on the main campus of the University of Cincinnati. The training classroom is a special seminar room located at the College of Business Administration building. It is equipped with necessary modern audiovisual systems as well as a traditional white board, flip chart, and an overhead projector. Computers are rented and set-up in this classroom for APTI #423 course (Air Pollution Dispersion Modeling). The laboratory facility for APTI #450 course (Source Sampling for Particulate Pollutants) is a modern, clean laboratory located in the College of Engineering, a short walking distance from the College of Business Administration building. Please see our web site for pictures of these facilities at <http://www2.uc.edu/eti/>.

Parking is free along most streets around campus, and costs \$7/day in two of the closest campus garages. A variety of restaurants, both on and off campus are within a walking distance from the classroom. There are also several hotels and motels within the immediate area that accept government rates.

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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.

We both facilitate the delivery of existing APTI courses, and have been continuously involved in revising and upgrading course material. We always provide students with handouts to bring each course up to-date as well as provide corrections of equations and/or other parts of the existing APTI course manuals, which may contain errors.

We have developed our own #423 (Air Pollution Dispersion Modeling) and #461 (Intermediate Permitting) manuals based on APTI original requirements for these courses and regularly update this material each time the class is given.

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.

Performance in delivering training is always tracked by requiring every student to fill out a critique form at the end of each course. A course report, which includes the result of the students' critiques, is sent to EPA after the conclusion of each course.

We have given the proposed 7 courses (APTI #413, #415, #423, #427, #450, #461, #474) numerous times since the institute was established in 1992. Due to a severe budget cut, we were able to offer only three sessions of the two laboratory courses (#423, and #450) during each of the last 2 years (FY 2000-2001, and FY 2001-2002).

During the last calendar year (January-December, 2001), the following EPA's EOG grant related courses were delivered at the University of Cincinnati:

- 1. 2 sessions of #450 (with a limit of 16 students per session) for 25 students.*
- 2. 1 session of #423 (with a limit of 20 students per session) for 19 students.*

Since APTI took control of all registration in 1999, the students' data including their sponsoring states are not available.

We also delivered courses not funded by EPA's EOG during the last calendar year as follows:

- 1. #423 in Boise, Idaho, during March 4-8, 2001 (21 students), as requested and funded by the State of Idaho.*
- 2. #461 (modified for a 2-day seminar) in Providence, Rhode Island, during May 31 – June 1, 2001 (for 27 students), as requested and funded by NEWMOA (Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association).*
- 3. #423 (modified for a 3-day seminar) in Columbus, Ohio, during July 31 – August 2, 2001 (for 5 students), as requested and funded by Battelle Memorial Institute.*

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

*Yes, a course critique is required from each student before he/she can take the post-test. The result is always included in the course report to EPA. **We have consistently been rated from excellent to very good by the students who have attended our classes.***

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

Critiques from students attending our courses are extremely positive. Some of the comments from state and local air directors are attached.
