

Ohio Lake Erie Commission

Request for Proposals

Beneficial Use of Dredged Material in Ohio's Lake Erie Watershed

Proposal Due Date: June 10, 2016

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission seeks proposals for the Lake Erie Protection Fund to address beneficial use of dredged material in Ohio's Lake Erie watershed.

Each year, federal ports and harbors on Ohio's north shore must be dredged to keep the shipping channels open. Nearly 1.5 million cubic yards of material is dredged annually from these ports and harbors. Historically, much of the dredged material was dumped in the open waters of Lake Erie. However, with passage of Senate Bill 1, that will no longer be an option after July 1, 2020. To reach this goal, the state has developed a policy objective to increase the use of material dredged from the eight Lake Erie federal navigation channels for beneficial purposes to create economic value and reduce the need to dispose of it.

This request also addresses the Priority Area in the [Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Plan \(2013\)](#) "Dredged Material Beneficial Use and Management".

Preference will be given to projects that:

- Develop business models for utilizing dredged material in the manufacturing of marketable products and processing techniques (public entities, universities, and colleges);
- Demonstrate use of dredged material for up-land and in-water uses;
- Remove barriers with a focus on economic factors that inhibit use of dredged material;
- Increase awareness of value and/or potential uses of dredged material; or
- Develop processes for intercepting and capturing sediment to minimize the need for dredging.

Priority will be given to those proposals that intend to utilize LEPF funds as a component of a larger project. Submittal of work plans from associated projects is not necessary. However, project proposals for LEPF funding should clearly describe how the proposed work will benefit associated projects.

Grants will be available in quarter four of the current state fiscal year (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016). For this quarter only, projects of up to \$60,000 will be considered for funding. All projects require a 25% match. Please visit the Commission's website at <http://lakeerie.ohio.gov/LakeErieProtectionFund.aspx> for application materials and to obtain more information about the Lake Erie Protection Fund.

See <http://epa.ohio.gov/dir/dredge> for more information about the Lake Erie Dredged Material Program.

If you have any further questions, please contact Sandra Kosek-Sills at 419-357-2775.