

Ohio Lake Erie Commission
Request for Proposals: Agricultural Use of Dredged Material from Ohio's Toledo Harbor
Proposal Due Date: August 3, 2018

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission seeks proposals for the Lake Erie Protection Fund to study and inform agricultural uses of Toledo Harbor dredged material and seeks proposals to access the Center of Dredge Innovation located in Toledo, Ohio.

Each year, the Toledo Harbor is dredged to maintain the shipping channel, which involves removing 850,000 cubic yards of sediment from the Maumee River and bay. Historically, the dredged material was deposited in Lake Erie. However, with passage of Senate Bill 1 in 2015, that practice is prohibited effective July 1, 2020. One alternative to open Lake disposal is using the Toledo Harbor dredged material as a farm field soil amendment.

The Commission is specifically looking for research to determine the benefits and appropriateness of applying Toledo Harbor dredged material to farm fields in Northwest Ohio. Possible submissions might consider research in the areas of crop yield evaluation, field dewatering techniques, quality or nutrient evaluation, material application or incorporation techniques, and nutrient containment techniques.

Available Research Field: The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, using Healthy Lake Erie Funds, recently completed construction of a farm field dredge research site, called the Center of Dredge Innovation. Located on the western bank of the Maumee River, the 10-acre site consists of four cells (filled with 70,000 cubic yards of dredged material) and two edge of field treatment cells. The facility is now available for farm field research.

Available Grants: Projects of up to \$50,000 will be considered for funding through the Lake Erie Protection Fund, with funding available through December of 2019. All projects require a 25% match and indirect costs are limited to 10%. For projects awarded under this Lake Erie Protection Fund RFP, proposals may request a grant period up to 18 months if needed to encompass a full growing season. Preference will be given to projects that:

- Utilize the Center of Dredge Innovation
- Target crops typically grown in Northwest Ohio, such as corn and soybeans and specialty crops
- Engage area farmers to advise on the proposed research

Proposals for grants under the Lake Erie Protection Fund and proposals for use of the Center of Dredge Innovation are both due **August 3, 2018**, and will be awarded at the September 2018 Commission meeting.

A preapplication meeting and tour of the Center of Dredge Innovation will take place in June of 2018. See <http://epa.ohio.gov/dir/dredge> and <http://lakeerie.ohio.gov/GLRI/ToledoHarbor.aspx> for more information about the Lake Erie Dredged Material Program and the Toledo Harbor. Additional information or data related to the Center of Dredge Innovation or the dredge can be made available upon request to the contacts below.

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.

If you have any further questions about the grant application or grants process, please contact Sandra Kosek-Sills at 419-357-2775. If you have questions about this RFP or to be added to a mailing list for future communications regarding dredged materials, please contact David Emerman at 330-963-1283; David.Emerman@epa.ohio.gov.