

*City of Alexandria, Virginia***MEMORANDUM**

DATE: MAY 4, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A RENEWAL GRANT APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY FOR FY 2007 PASS-THROUGH FUNDING FROM THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA AIR POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM

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**ISSUE:** City Council consideration of submission of a renewal grant application to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality for FY 2007 pass-through funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), for the City of Alexandria Air Pollution Control Program.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council authorize the City Manager to:

- (1) Submit a renewal grant application to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality for FY 2007 pass-through funding from EPA, in the amount up to \$43,730, for the City of Alexandria Air Pollution Control Program; and
- (2) Execute all necessary documents that may be required.

**DISCUSSION:** The annual EPA pass-through Air Pollution Grant represents approximately 12 percent of the total funding for the City's Air Pollution Control Program administered by the Department of Transportation & Environmental Services, Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The purpose of the City's Air Pollution Control Program under the Clean Air Act is to monitor and improve the air quality in Alexandria and the Metropolitan Washington area, thus improving the quality of life for all Alexandrians and their neighbors. The City has been receiving the Air Pollution Grant from the EPA since the early 1970s.

The work program for the City's Air Pollution Control Program has three areas which include Enforcement/Compliance, Monitoring and Asbestos Control. The City has adopted the Virginia State Air Pollution Control Regulations that allow for local enforcement by the DEQ. DEQ staff operate an air quality monitoring network 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, which is fully integrated with the State's monitoring program. A new PM10 monitoring station, which was funded in FY2006 is currently being installed in Boothe Park at Cameron Station. DEQ staff routinely inspect activities involving asbestos throughout the City such as demolitions and

asbestos removal. The DEQ is also responsible for the implementation of City's Air Quality Action Days program and has developed and maintains a web page for the City's website with emphasis on public education/outreach on the ground level ozone related issues and Air Quality Action Days program.

As you are aware, a considerable amount of staff time is being utilized for analyzing information regarding the Mirant Potomac Power Plant and coordinating the City's efforts in this regard. Staff also supports the Mirant Community Monitoring Group. In addition, the City has also hired air quality consultants to support various City activities regarding Mirant. However, grant monies do not fund any costs associated with consultant work.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** To apply for this grant, the City must maintain a level of funding comparable to the preceding year. The FY 2007 budget for the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services includes \$313,789 in General Fund monies for this program that will satisfy the comparable funding requirement. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will provide up to \$43,730 in pass-through funding from the EPA.

In addition, the City is responsible for the normal administrative costs associated with this grant. These costs include financial and reporting oversight provided by the administering agency, as well as by the Office of Management and Budget and by the Finance Department. It should be noted that there are no additional monies available in the City budget to continue these activities once the grant funds are expended, and should the grant monies not be renewed, there are no funds budgeted to continue these activities.

**STAFF:**

Richard J. Baier, P.E., Director, T&ES  
William J. Skrabak, Division Chief, Environmental Quality  
Morgan Routt, Budget/Management Analyst, OMB