

567—90.14(455B) NPS project procedures—GNS loan program. The purpose of this program is to assist projects that will provide water quality improvements or water quality protection. This program allows for funding of the water quality protection portion of nontraditional projects.

90.14(1) *Project ranking.* Projects and activities under NPS project categories VI-B through D, VII-A through K, and XII will all receive a total score of five when placed on the PPL. Once 90 percent of NPS program funds have been allocated, additional NPS project scoring criteria published in the IUP will be used to rank NPS projects for funding and placement on the PPL. Until that time, the loan assistance is based on a first-come, first-funded concept.

90.14(2) *Eligibility conditions and restrictions.* Assistance under the CWSRF GNS program shall be in the form of low-interest loans made directly or by participating lending institutions through a participation arrangement with the CWSRF.

a. Eligible project costs. The amount of assistance available shall be limited to the total costs deemed necessary, reasonable, and directly related to the facilities or practices required to provide water quality improvements, restoration, or protection. Participation in nontraditional projects where the primary purpose is not water quality protection or improvement will be limited to the portion of the project that is directly related to water quality improvement, restoration, or protection.

b. Applicant eligibility. Assistance is available to projects for which facilities are needed to protect, restore, or improve water quality from NPS pollution. Only applicants that are owners of record of the property or have long-term control of the property where the project is to be implemented are eligible. In applications where the WPC project is a plan or document that will direct water quality protection or improvement efforts, loans will be made to applicants that have the capacity and capability of implementing the plan and repaying the loan.

c. Eligible projects. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, practices to address NPS pollution control needs associated with stormwater treatment and green infrastructure, silviculture, groundwater protection, marinas, resource extraction, brownfield remediation, aboveground and underground storage tanks, sanitary landfills, hydromodification, and watershed planning. Nontraditional NPS projects that may have a water quality protection or improvement component include, but are not limited to, bird sanctuaries and wildlife enhancement projects, vegetative plants, sediment removal and other lake restoration practices, and education programs.

90.14(3) *Applying for assistance.* Applications for GNS project approval shall be made on forms provided by the department. Forms may be downloaded from www.iowasrf.com. Applications shall include an explanation of how the water quality will be protected, improved, or restored by the proposed project. Applications may be submitted on an ongoing basis and will be reviewed in accordance with the schedule in the IUP.

90.14(4) *Project review and approval.* The department will evaluate eligibility and project design and provide the applicant a memorandum of approval for the proposed WPC project.

90.14(5) *Eligible costs.* All costs directly related to the implementation of the project approved in the memorandum of approval are eligible costs.

90.14(6) *Ineligible costs.* Costs for livestock water quality facilities are not eligible under this program and are provided for in 567—90.11(455B). Costs for the purchase of land are not eligible costs unless specifically approved by the commission.

90.14(7) *Site access.* The recipient shall provide the department and its agent access to the project site to verify that the loan was used for the purpose intended.

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