



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

NOV 9 4 2009

THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Bobby Jindal
Office of the Governor
P. O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Dear Governor Jindal:

Nine months ago, President Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). With your help, EPA was able to obligate all of the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) program resources, the first step in turning these funds into jobs. The next phase of implementation and moving projects to construction is now underway. This is the phase that brings needed jobs into the economy, and States with local water and waste water utilities have this primary responsibility.

The State of Louisiana was awarded approximately \$71 million in ARRA funds for the SRF programs. As of November 23, with three months remaining until the February 17, 2010 deadline to have these funds under contract, Louisiana has reported 0% of its Clean Water SRF funds and 19% of its Drinking Water SRF funds under contract. The creation of needed jobs will depend on successfully getting projects under construction and with three months to go I want to make sure you know your status. In the coming month I will personally make phone calls to some States to inquire into the ongoing progress of the SRF programs.

As I stated in my September 2, 2009 letter to you, ARRA requires Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund dollars be under contract or construction within 12 months of enactment. This means that if a State has not fulfilled this requirement by February 17, 2010, EPA is required by law to reallocate these appropriated funds, and the State loses that funding. We know these funds are vital to your state's economy and to improving basic infrastructure for your residents, and we encourage every effort to ensure that no funds are reallocated, and outlays proceed at an accelerated pace.

Just as important as contracts and construction are to the success of ARRA, outlays represent the final step of delivering ARRA funds to local economies. While there is no specific timeline for all outlays to be completed, the clear expectation by both Congress and the public is that outlays must occur in an accelerated fashion in order to create jobs and maintain the current economic recovery.

I encourage you to contact me or have your Recovery official contact Mr. Craig Hooks, Assistant Administrator for Administration and Resources Management and the Agency Senior Responsible Official for ARRA activities, if there are any issues we can help resolve. Mr. Hooks can be reached at (202)564-4600 or by email at hooks.craig@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Lisa P. Jackson

Governor,

I hope we can set
aside a few minutes
next week to discuss
how EPA can help
LA meet the 2/17/10
deadline. T.C.