

## Grant Round Application for G-021-A

### DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS G—021-A

#### **“WRAP Phase III Oil and Gas Air Emissions Inventory for the Williston Basin”**

Submitted by: Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS)

Request for \$25,000; Total Project Costs \$95,000

#### **Description of the Project:**

The objective of the project is to provide credible, scientific data on emissions from comprehensive sources associated with the exploration and production of oil and natural gas. The data will enable regulators and industry to identify sources of air emissions in order to determine high-value, efficient means to reduce those emissions and develop better environmental practices particular to the basin.

#### **Technical Reviewers' Comments**

##### **Reviewer 21A-02**

Clean Air regulations such as Regional Haze and several new ambient air quality Standards may significantly impact the oil and gas industry in the near future. An accurate emission inventory will be a critical tool necessary to ensure that air quality assessments may be completed accurately and that any reductions in emissions that may be necessary are targeted to the appropriate sources. Compliance with the standards will enable (rather than severely limit or even prohibit) future exploration and development to utilize North Dakota's oil and gas resources. Within this context, every one of the goals and objectives listed in the Mission Statement is related to this project (either directly or indirectly) in that the results of this inventory will allow the oil and gas industry to determine how development can best continue while maintaining clean air on behalf of the citizens of North Dakota.

**Recommendation: Fund**

##### **Reviewer 21A-03**

The project will provide information that may prove invaluable to the oil and gas industry and to the state agencies. The commitment in terms of both the portion of project cost at well over 50% of the total and man hours that will be provided by the producers in the region is substantial for the project. The data that is achieved from the project will be used as the basis for numerous air quality assessments in the future. Therefore, it will provide industry with a roadmap of how to efficiently and effectively monitor, reduce, and manage emissions possibly in lieu of future regulations which industry does not play a role.

**Recommendation: Fund**

**Reviewer 21A-04**

The stated goal to develop an accurate, credible, and comprehensive, 2006 baseline and projected 2012 criteria pollutant emissions inventory for the purpose of evaluating control strategies, estimating impacts, and managing emissions within the Williston air quality basin was clearly stated. However, the technical approach and quality assurance provisions for obtaining these project goals was deficient and lacked specificity. The consequences for use and reliance on simplified estimation approaches could result in misleading conclusions and incorrect impact assessments.

**Recommendation: Fund**

**Director's Recommendations:**

**Recommendation: To fund in the amount \$25,000**