

**Action Required By: November 11, 2011**

**Purpose.** To provide State Conservationists with national guidance to support the national Air Quality Initiative (AQI) through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

**Expiration Date.** September 30, 2012

**Background.** Under the Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, the Secretary shall provide eligible producers with program support to address serious air quality concerns from agricultural operations and help meet regulatory requirements through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). During fiscal year (FY) 2012, the program is designed to help producers meet air quality compliance requirements, as well as opportunity to support practices which address energy conservation and impacts associated with greenhouse gases (GHG). To further meet national goals for consistency in delivery of program benefits associated with AQI, the agency will nationalize implementation of the program in FY 2012 with new requirements and business tool controls as outlined in this bulletin.

**Explanation.** FY 2012 national EQIP Air Quality Initiative funds will be allocated to States and Counties which have been identified as having serious air quality resource concerns related to designated non-attainment for the pollution factors of Ozone and Particulate Matter, as shown in Attachment A. The FY 2012 allocation to support the AQI is shown in the following table:

STATE	State Percent	FA Fund Allocation \$35,295,000	TA Fund Allocation \$2,205,000 5.88%	Total Allocation \$37,500,000
AZ	5.54%	\$1,955,212	\$122,149	\$2,077,361
CA	48.64%	\$17,167,182	\$1,072,493	\$18,239,675
CO	4.68%	\$1,653,301	\$103,287	\$1,756,589
IL	5.88%	\$2,076,423	\$129,721	\$2,206,144
MT	4.18%	\$1,474,535	\$92,119	\$1,566,654
NY	4.96%	\$1,749,693	\$109,309	\$1,859,003
OH	6.19%	\$2,183,099	\$136,386	\$2,319,484
PA	10.42%	\$3,676,733	\$229,698	\$3,906,431
TX	9.52%	\$3,358,822	\$209,837	\$3,568,659
TOTAL	100.00%	\$35,295,000	\$2,205,000	\$37,500,000

Using the guidance provided and attachments, State Conservationists (STC) will implement this initiative during the nationally announced application periods, along with the following requirements.

- EQIP AQI funds must first be used to address the primary air quality natural resource concerns associated with "non-attainment" for the ambient air quality standards of: Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5), Particulate Matter 10 (PM10), and/or eight hour Ozone as listed in attachment A. Greenhouse Gases and energy conservation may also be supported through practices addressed through this initiative (e.g., par Practices to address "VOCs" will also have benefits to "Ozone").

If States are unable to obligate all of the allocated AQI funds in approved non-attainment counties, STCs may request approval from the Deputy Chief for Programs, to use remaining unobligated funds in other specifically cited counties to address specifically cited state or local air quality regulations. If AQI funds cannot be used to address air quality resource concerns, the STC shall return the excess funds to the national office through an allowance change. STCs may add additional regular EQIP funds to the AQI fund account, but none of the AQI funds may be reallocated to support other accounts or program priorities.

- States approved for AQI must offer the following Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) practices to support the agency effort of providing planning assistance for these priority resource concerns associated with this initiative.
  - Agricultural Energy Management Plan-Headquarters-122
  - Agricultural Energy Management Plan-Landscape-124
  - Comprehensive Air Quality Management Plan-126

Payment schedules to support CAPs will be developed and issued by the national office.

- The following sub account will be created in ProTracts to support AQI in each State approved for the

initiative:

- o "Air Quality National" with an account type of "Air Quality National"

States shall evaluate and fund applications for air quality related projects and the three required air quality related CAPs using the "Air Quality National" sub account. Applications for CAPs must be assigned the application type of "planning". States may establish additional air quality related sub accounts using other program funds, but must attach an account type of "Air Quality State".

Action Required. State Conservationists who have received funds for the national EQIP Air Quality Initiative must complete the following no later than Friday, November 11, 2011:

1. **Fund Management.** When States are notified that AQI funds have been distributed to ProTracts, States shall then reallocate their AQI funds to the nationally established sub account "Air Quality National". Refer to Attachment A for which Counties are approved to associate with the Air Quality National sub account. Funds may not be distributed to the County level until after evaluation and ranking of applications has been completed for the entire State.

2. **Application Ranking.** States shall develop the ProTracts Application, Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT) to support the nationally created AQI sub-account. Specific actions include:

A. **Air Quality National sub account resource concerns:** States shall assign the following air quality resource concerns to the nationally established sub account:

- Particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter (PM 2.5)
- Particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter (PM10)
- Excessive Ozone
- Excessive Greenhouse Gas -N<sub>2</sub>O (nitrous oxide)
- Excessive Greenhouse Gas -CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide)
- Excessive Greenhouse Gas -CH<sub>4</sub> (methane)
- Inefficient Energy Use – Equipment and Facilities Energy
- Inefficient Energy Use – Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations

B. **Approved practices:** States shall offer all the conservation practices listed in Attachment B and associate practices with the appropriate resource concerns indicated. States **may not** offer any additional practices other than those listed in Appendix B nor include any additional resource concerns. If a State does not have need to offer one of the required practices (e.g. the practice is not needed to address any air quality resource concern), the STC may request a waiver from the Deputy Chief for Programs.

C. **National and State Ranking Criteria:** National ranking questions for EQIP for FY 2012 will remain the same as used in previous program years. The national office will also populate the State questions in ProTracts for FY 2012 AQI. Refer to Attachment C which provides the State ranking criteria.

D. **Approved land uses:** States shall assign the following approved land uses as eligible for EQIP AQI in the ProTracts AERT ranking tool:

- Crop
- Hay
- Headquarters
- Grazed Range
- Pasture

E. **Local Ranking Criteria:** States participating in the FY2012 AQI will also need to develop and populate local air quality related questions to ProTracts AERT. This initiative is subject to the requirements in 440 CPM, Part 512, Subpart C, regarding application evaluation, assignment of points, multipliers, as well as the fund management policy cited in NB 300-11-31 issued 08/11/2011.

3. **Application Periods:** The national office will issue an announcement that the FY 2012 Air Quality Initiative is available in the approved States. Although applications for EQIP are accepted year-round, the following ranking periods will be announced for AQI this FY:

A. **Period 1:** From program announcement to Friday February 3, 2012, application cut-off. All eligible applications received to this date will be ranked and approved if funding is available.

B. **Period 2:** From February 3, 2012 to Friday, March 30, application cut-off. All remaining eligible applications received will be ranked and approved if funding is available.

The national office will establish a national Air Quality Initiative website which States may "link-to" which will post this year's program information.

4. **Obligation Deadline:** All AQI program contracts must be obligated by COB Monday, July 2, 2012. If the allocated EQIP AQI funds are not obligated by this date, State Conservationists must return the unused funds to the national office by submitting form NHQ-FNM-3, Allowance/Performance Adjustment Sheet. Return of funds or request for additional funds should be done in accordance with 440-CPM, Part 512.84, Fund Allocation Changes.

**Contact.** If you have any questions, contact the EQIP Team Leader, Financial Assistance Programs Division (FAPD), at (202) 690-2621.

/s/ Michael D. Hubbs for

ANTHONY J. KRAMER  
Deputy Chief for Programs

[Attachment A - Approved FY 2012 AQI States and Counties](#)  
[Attachment B - Approved FY 2012 AQI Conservation Practices](#)  
[Attachment C - State FY 2012 EQIP ProTracts AERT Questions](#)

## Attachment A - EQIP FY2012 Air Quality Initiative - Approved States and Counties

Total 9 States.

[Source: The Green Book Nonattainment Areas | Green Book | US EPA](#)

[All Criteria Pollutants: Select a State | Green Book | US EPA](#)

### Currently Designated Nonattainment Areas for All Criteria Pollutants Listed By State, County and then Pollutant - Current as of August 30, 2011

#### Arizona

County	Non-Attainment Pollutant
Santa Cruz	PM-2.5
Maricopa	8-Hr Ozone
Pima	PM-10
Pinal	PM-10
Pinal	8-Hr Ozone

County	Non-Attainment Pollutant
Gila	PM-10
Santa Cruz	PM-10
Cochise	PM-10
Maricopa	PM-10
Yuma	PM-10

#### California

County	Non-Attainment Pollutant
Alameda	PM-2.5
Alameda	8-Hr Ozone
Amador	8-Hr Ozone
Butte	PM-2.5
Butte	8-Hr Ozone
Calaveras	8-Hr Ozone
Contra Costa	PM-2.5
Contra Costa	8-Hr Ozone
El Dorado	PM-2.5
El Dorado	8-Hr Ozone
Fresno	PM-2.5
Fresno	8-Hr Ozone
Imperial	PM-2.5
Imperial	8-Hr Ozone
Imperial	PM-10
Inyo	PM-10
Kern	8-Hr Ozone
Kern	PM-10
Kern	PM-2.5
Kings	PM-2.5
Kings	8-Hr Ozone
Los Angeles	PM-2.5
Los Angeles	8-Hr Ozone
Los Angeles	PM-10
Madera	PM-2.5
Madera	8-Hr Ozone
Marin	PM-2.5
Marin	8-Hr Ozone
Mariposa	8-Hr Ozone
Merced	PM-2.5
Merced	8-Hr Ozone
Mono	PM-10

#### California

County	Non-Attainment Pollutant
Napa	PM-2.5
Napa	8-Hr Ozone
Nevada	8-Hr Ozone
Orange	PM-2.5
Orange	8-Hr Ozone
Orange	PM-10
Placer	PM-2.5
Placer	8-Hr Ozone
Riverside	PM-2.5
Riverside	8-Hr Ozone
Riverside	PM-10
Sacramento	PM-2.5
Sacramento	8-Hr Ozone
Sacramento	PM-10
San Bernardino	PM-2.5
San Bernardino	8-Hr Ozone
San Bernardino	PM-10
San Diego	8-Hr Ozone
San Francisco	PM-2.5
San Francisco	8-Hr Ozone
San Joaquin	PM-2.5
San Joaquin	8-Hr Ozone
San Mateo	PM-2.5
San Mateo	8-Hr Ozone
Santa Clara	PM-2.5
Santa Clara	8-Hr Ozone
Solano	PM-2.5
Solano	8-Hr Ozone
Sonoma	8-Hr Ozone
Sonoma	PM-2.5
Stanislaus	PM-2.5
Stanislaus	8-Hr Ozone

#### California

County	Non-Attainment Pollutant
Sutter	PM-2.5
Sutter	8-Hr Ozone
Tulare	PM-2.5
Tulare	8-Hr Ozone
Tuolumne	8-Hr Ozone
Ventura	8-Hr Ozone
Yolo	PM-2.5
Yolo	8-Hr Ozone
Yuba	PM-2.5

**Colorado**

County	Non-Attainment Pollutant
Adams	8-Hr Ozone
Arapahoe	8-Hr Ozone
Boulder	8-Hr Ozone
Broomfield	8-Hr Ozone
Denver	8-Hr Ozone
Douglas	8-Hr Ozone
Jefferson	8-Hr Ozone
Larimer	8-Hr Ozone
Weld	8-Hr Ozone

**Montana**

County	Non-Attainment Pollutant
Flathead	PM-10
Lake	PM-10
Lincoln	PM-10
Lincoln	PM-2.5
Missoula	PM-10
Rosebud	PM-10
Sanders	PM-10
Silver Bow	PM-10

**Illinois**

County	Non-Attainment Pollutant
Cook	8-Hr Ozone
Cook	PM-2.5
DuPage	8-Hr Ozone
DuPage	PM-2.5
Grundy	8-Hr Ozone
Grundy	PM-2.5
Jersey	8-Hr Ozone
Kane	8-Hr Ozone
Kane	PM-2.5
Kendall	8-Hr Ozone
Kendall	PM-2.5
Lake	8-Hr Ozone
Lake	PM-2.5
Madison	8-Hr Ozone
Madison	PM-2.5
McHenry	8-Hr Ozone
McHenry	PM-2.5
Monroe	8-Hr Ozone
Monroe	PM-2.5
Randolph	PM-2.5
St. Clair	8-Hr Ozone
St. Clair	PM-2.5
Will	8-Hr Ozone
Will	PM-2.5

**New York**

County	Non-Attainment Pollutant
Albany	8-Hr Ozone
Bronx	PM-2.5
Bronx	8-Hr Ozone
Chautauqua	8-Hr Ozone
Dutchess	8-Hr Ozone
Erie	8-Hr Ozone
Essex	8-Hr Ozone
Genesee	8-Hr Ozone
Greene	8-Hr Ozone
Jefferson	8-Hr Ozone
Kings	8-Hr Ozone
Kings	PM-2.5
Livingston	8-Hr Ozone
Monroe	8-Hr Ozone
Montgomery	8-Hr Ozone
Nassau	PM-2.5
Nassau	8-Hr Ozone
New York	8-Hr Ozone
New York	PM-2.5
New York	8-Hr Ozone
Niagara	8-Hr Ozone
Ontario	8-Hr Ozone
Orange	PM-2.5
Orange	8-Hr Ozone

**New York**

Orleans	8-Hr Ozone
Putnam	8-Hr Ozone
Queens	8-Hr Ozone
Queens	PM-2.5
Rensselaer	8-Hr Ozone
Richmond	8-Hr Ozone
Richmond	PM-2.5
Rockland	8-Hr Ozone
Rockland	PM-2.5
Saratoga	8-Hr Ozone
Schenectady	8-Hr Ozone
Schoharie	8-Hr Ozone
Suffolk	PM-2.5
Suffolk	8-Hr Ozone
Wayne	8-Hr Ozone
Westchester	PM-2.5
Westchester	8-Hr Ozone

**Ohio**

County	Non-Attainment Pollutant
Adams	PM-2.5
Ashtabula	PM-2.5
Belmont	PM-2.5
Butler	PM-2.5
Clark	PM-2.5
Clermont	PM-2.5
Coshocton	PM-2.5
Cuyahoga	PM-2.5
Delaware	PM-2.5
Fairfield	PM-2.5
Franklin	PM-2.5
Gallia	PM-2.5
Greene	PM-2.5
Hamilton	PM-2.5
Jefferson	PM-2.5
Lake	PM-2.5
Lawrence	PM-2.5
Licking	PM-2.5
Lorain	PM-2.5
Medina	PM-2.5
Montgomery	PM-2.5
Portage	PM-2.5
Scioto	PM-2.5
Stark	PM-2.5
Summit	PM-2.5
Warren	PM-2.5
Washington	PM-2.5

**Pennsylvania**

County	Non-Attainment Pollutant
Allegheny	PM-2.5
Allegheny	8-Hr Ozone
Armstrong	8-Hr Ozone
Armstrong	PM-2.5
Beaver	PM-2.5
Beaver	8-Hr Ozone
Berks	PM-2.5
Bucks	PM-2.5
Bucks	8-Hr Ozone
Butler	PM-2.5
Butler	8-Hr Ozone
Cambria	PM-2.5
Chester	PM-2.5
Chester	8-Hr Ozone
Cumberland	PM-2.5
Dauphin	PM-2.5
Delaware	PM-2.5
Delaware	8-Hr Ozone
Fayette	8-Hr Ozone
Greene	PM-2.5
Indiana	PM-2.5
Lancaster	PM-2.5
Lawrence	PM-2.5
Lebanon	PM-2.5
Lehigh	PM-2.5
Montgomery	PM-2.5
Montgomery	8-Hr Ozone
Northampton	PM-2.5
Philadelphia	PM-2.5
Philadelphia	8-Hr Ozone
Washington	PM-2.5
Washington	8-Hr Ozone
Westmoreland	PM-2.5
Westmoreland	8-Hr Ozone
York	PM-2.5

**Texas**

County	Non-Attainment Pollutant
Brazoria	8-Hr Ozone
Chambers	8-Hr Ozone
Collin	8-Hr Ozone
Dallas	8-Hr Ozone
Denton	8-Hr Ozone
El Paso	PM-10
Ellis	8-Hr Ozone
Fort Bend	8-Hr Ozone
Galveston	8-Hr Ozone
Harris	8-Hr Ozone
Johnson	8-Hr Ozone
Kaufman	8-Hr Ozone
Liberty	8-Hr Ozone
Montgomery	8-Hr Ozone
Parker	8-Hr Ozone
Rockwall	8-Hr Ozone
Tarrant	8-Hr Ozone
Waller	8-Hr Ozone

# Required NRCS Practices To Address Air Quality Issues - FY 2012

## Attachment B - Approved AQI Conservation Practices

<b>Conservation Activity Plans (CAP) to be Offered:</b>	<b>Code</b>
<b>Comprehensive Air Quality Management Plan</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>Ag Energy Management Plan-Headquarters</b>	<b>122</b>
<b>Ag Energy Management Plan-Landscape</b>	<b>124</b>

Note: The following practices are required to be offered in all FY12 approved AQI States to address identified air quality resource concerns. The actual predicted benefits are determined by the resource setting and practice design for the selected practice.

*Revised 10-31-11*

### Fiscal Year 2012 Air Quality Initiative Required practices:

Practice	Code	Approved Air Quality Natural Resource Concerns					
		PM 10	PM 2.5	Excessive Ozone (Oxides of Nitrogen [NOx] and/or Volatile Organic Compounds [VOCs])	Ammonia (NH3)	Excessive Greenhouse Gas CO2, N2O, CH4	Energy Conservation (Not EPA Regulated)
Access Control	472	X	X				
Agrichemical Handling Facility	309	X	X	X	X		
Air Filtration and Scrubbing	371	X	X	X	X	X	
Alley Cropping	311	X	X			X	X
Amendments for Treatment of Agricultural Waste	591	X	X		X		
Anaerobic Digester, Controlled Temperature	366			X		X	
Anionic Polyacrylamide (PAM) Erosion Control	450	X	X				X
Combustion System Improvement	372	X	X	X		X	X
Composting Facility	317			X	X	X	X
Conservation Cover	327	X	X			X	
Conservation Crop Rotation	328	X	X				X
Cover Crop	340	X	X				X
Critical Area Planting	342	X	X				
Cross Wind Ridges	588	X	X				
Cross Wind Trap Strips	589c	X	X				
Drainage Water Management	554	X	X			X	
Dust Control from Animal Activity on Open Lot Surfaces	375	X	X				
Dust Control on Unpaved Roads and Surfaces	373	X	X				
Farmstead Energy Improvement	374						X
Feed Management	592				X	X	
Field Border	386	X	X			X	
Forest Stand Improvement	666					X	
Hedgerow Planting	422	X	X			X	
Herbaceous Wind Barriers	603	X	X				
Integrated Pest Management	595	X	X	X			
Irrigation System, Microirrigation	441						X
Irrigation System, Sprinkler	442	X	X				X
Irrigation System, Surface & Subsurface	443						X
Irrigation Water Management	449	X	X				X
Mulching	484	X	X			X	X
Multi-Story Cropping	379					X	
Nutrient Management	590	X	X	X	X	X	
Prescribed Burning	338					X	
Pumping Plant	533	X	X	X		X	X
Range Planting	550	X	X			X	
Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till	345	X	X			X	X
Residue and Tillage Management, No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed	329	X	X			X	X
Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till	346	X	X			X	X
Residue Management, Seasonal	344	X	X				X
Riparian Forest Buffer	391					X	
Riparian Herbaceous Cover	390					X	
Roofs and Covers	367	X	X	X	X	X	
Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops	798					X	
Silvopasture Establishment	381					X	
Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility	632	X	X	X	X	X	
Stripcropping	585	X	X				
Surface Roughening	609	X	X				
Tree/Shrub Establishment	612					X	X
Waste Recycling	633			X	X		X
Waste Storage Facility	313	X	X	X	X	X	
Waste Treatment	629			X	X	X	
Waste Treatment Lagoon	359			X	X	X	
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	380	X	X		X	X	X
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation	650	X	X		X	X	X
Woody Residue Treatment	384	X	X	X		X	

## Attachment C – Required State FY 2012 EQIP AQI ProTracts AERT Questions

### State Issues AERT Guidance:

Maximum points allowed: 400 points for questions.

Multiplier: Set by State to meet CPM 440 512.25(D), 512.26, and NB300-11-31.

The following nationally approved ranking criteria will be populated in ProTracts for the FY 2012 State AERT issues.

Sub-heading 1. If applicable, answer one of the following questions regarding location of the EQIP contract for PM 10 dust treatment on farm roads. Maximum points 30.

1a Greater than 75% of the EQIP contract is located within 0.25 miles of a public use area – 30 points

1b Between 51% to 75% of the EQIP contract is located within 0.25 miles of a public use area– 20 points

1c Between 25% to 50% of the EQIP contract is located within 0.25 miles of a public use area– 10 points

41d Less than 25% of the EQIP contract is located within 0.25 miles of a public use area - 5 points

Sub-heading 2. If applicable, answer one of the following questions regarding the extent to which the EQIP contract will address PM 10 dust treatment on farm roads in the EQIP project. Maximum points 20.

12a Greater than 75% of the roads needing treatment will be addressed and are included in the EQIP Schedule of Operations. 20 - points

2b Between 51% and 75% of the roads needing treatment will be addressed and are included in the EQIP Schedule of Operations. – 15 points

2c Between 25% and 50% of the roads needing treatment will be addressed and are included in the EQIP Schedule of Operations. – 10 points

2d Less than 25% of the roads needing treatment will be addressed and are included in the EQIP Schedule of Operations. – 5 points

Sub-heading 3. If applicable, answer one of the following questions regarding the EQIP contracts potential to address PM10 related to utilization of farm roads. Maximum points 20.

3a On average, greater than 75% of the roads are utilized by vehicles at a rate greater than 75 trips per day at any one time during the calendar year and will be addressed in the EQIP Schedule of Operations. – 20 points

3b On average, less than 75% of the roads are utilized by vehicles at a rate of 50 to 74 trips per day at any one time during the calendar year and will be addressed in the EQIP Schedule of Operations. – 10 points

3c On average, less than 50% of the roads are utilized by vehicles at a rate of 25 to 49 trips per day at any one time during the calendar year and will be addressed in the EQIP Schedule of Operations. – 5 points

Sub-heading 4. If applicable, answer one of the following questions regarding the EQIP contracts potential to address PM10 related soil impacts on farm roads. Maximum points 20.

4a The majority of roads addressed in the EQIP contract are constructed with soils with a high clay content ( $\geq 40\%$  clay) and are highly Sodic (SAR  $>8.0$ ). – 20 points

4b The majority of roads addressed in the EQIP contract are constructed with soils with high clay content (20%-40%) and Sodic content (SAR  $>8$ ). – 15 points

4c The majority of roads addressed in the EQIP contract are constructed with soils with high clay content ( $\Rightarrow 20\%$  clay). – 10 points

4d The majority of roads addressed in the EQIP contract are constructed with soils classified as clay, clay loam, loam or other road which doesn't fit in factors questions 1 to 3. – 5 points

Sub-heading 5. If applicable, answer one of the following questions regarding the EQIP contracts potential for effective use of practices to address PM10 on farm roads. Maximum points 20.

5a Roads addressed in the EQIP contract will provide for permanent treatment; including: grading to design slopes, road base and surface treatments which provide PM10 reductions for over five years. – 20 points

5b Roads addressed in the EQIP contract will provide for substantial PM-10 reduction as the result of treatment; including: grading to design slopes, oil/sand surface treatments for periods of two to five years. – 10 points

5c Roads addressed in the EQIP contract will provide for substantial PM-10 reduction as the result of treatment; including: grading to design slopes, oil/sand surface treatments for periods of one to two years. – 5 points

Sub-heading 6. If the project will include use of residue management, answer one of the following questions regarding the EQIP contracts potential to address PM10 on farm fields. Maximum points 20.

6aThe EQIP contract will result in greater than 50% residue cover remaining on the soil surface during critical erosion periods for the treatment unit to address PM10 on farm fields (Residue measured prior to planting). – 20 points

6bThe EQIP contract will result in 30% to 49% residue cover remaining on the soil surface during critical erosion periods for the treatment unit to address PM10 on farm fields (Residue measured prior to planting). - 15 points

6cThe EQIP contract will result in 15% to 29% residue cover remaining on the soil surface during critical erosion periods for the treatment unit to address PM10 on farm fields (Residue measured prior to planting). – 10 points

6dThe EQIP contract will result in less than 15% residue cover remaining on the soil surface during critical erosion periods for the treatment unit to address PM10 on farm fields (Residue measured prior to planting). - 5 points

Sub-heading 7. If the EQIP contract will include use of residue management and crop rotation, answer one of the following questions regarding the projects potential to address PM10 on farm fields. Maximum points 20.

7a Greater than 75% of the farm fields in the EQIP application needing treatment will include residue management and crop rotation which will reduce PM10 pollutants. – 20 points

7b Between 51% and 75% of the farm fields in the EQIP application needing treatment will include residue management and crop rotation which will reduce PM10 pollutants. – 15 points

7cBetween 25% and 50% of the farm fields in the EQIP application needing treatment will include residue management and crop rotation which will reduce PM10 pollutants. – 10 points

7dLess than 25% of the farm fields in the EQIP application needing treatment will include residue management and crop rotation which will reduce PM10 pollutants. – 5 points

Sub-heading 8. If the EQIP contract includes residue management practices, answer one of the following questions regarding the projects potential to address PM10 and highly erodible farmland on farm fields. Maximum points 20.

8aThe conservation treatment unit contains 75% or greater soils in fields which are classified HEL – 20 points

8b The conservation treatment unit contains 50% to 74% soils in fields which are classified HEL – 15 points

8c The conservation treatment unit contains 25% to 49% soils in fields which are classified HEL – 10 points

8d The conservation treatment unit contains less than 25% soils in fields which are classified HEL – 5 points

Sub-heading 9. If applicable, answer one of the following questions regarding the projects potential to address PM10 and utilization of farm fields. Maximum points 20.

9a The EQIP contract will result in a reduction of 75% or more of the normally scheduled cultural equipment field passes during critical erosion periods. – 20 points

9bThe EQIP contract will result in a reduction of 50% to 74% of the normally scheduled cultural equipment field passes during critical erosion periods. – 15 points

9cThe EQIP contract will result in a reduction of 25% to 49% of the normally scheduled cultural equipment field passes during critical erosion periods. – 10 points

Sub-heading 10. If contract includes tillage practices such as no-till, ridge-till or strip-till, answer one of the following questions regarding the projects potential to address PM10 and soil impacts on farm fields. Maximum points 15.

10a The EQIP contract includes tillage practice(s) which results in 5% to 10% disturbance of soil surface residues. – 15 points

10b The EQIP contract includes tillage practice(s) which results in 10% to 25% disturbance of soil surface residues. – 10 points

10c The EQIP contract includes tillage practice(s) which results in 25% to 39% disturbance of soil surface residues. – 5 points

Sub-heading 11. If applicable, answer one of the following questions regarding the projects potential to address PM10 and energy impacts on farm fields. Maximum points 15.

11a The EQIP contract results in a reduction of field passes in the treatment unit by 60% or greater from baseline levels. - 15 points

11b The EQIP contract results in a reduction of field passes in the treatment unit by 40% to 59% from baseline levels. - 10 points

11c The EQIP contract results in a reduction of field passes in the treatment unit by 20% to 39% from baseline levels. – 5 points

11d The EQIP contract results in a reduction of field passes in the treatment unit by less than 20% from baseline levels. - 3 points

Sub-heading 12. If applicable, answer one of the following questions regarding the EQIP contracts potential to replace existing pollution generating diesel engines used on farm – All retired engines must be destroyed. Maximum points 50.

1 2aThe EQIP contract results in replacement of one or more existing diesel engines with energy efficient electric. – 50 points

12b The EQIP contract results in replacement of two or more existing pre-1980 diesel engine(s) with the most current Tier-level diesel engines. – 44 points

12cThe EQIP contract results in replacement of one existing pre-1980 diesel engine with the most current Tier-level diesel engine. – 30 points

12d The EQIP contract results in replacement of one existing 1980 or newer diesel engine with the most current Tier-level diesel engine. – 20 points

12e The EQIP contract results in retrofit of an existing diesel engine with approved devices. – 10 points

Sub-heading 13. Select one of the following questions regarding the project location in EPA NAAQS designations. Maximum points 30.

13a EQIP contract is located in EPA NAAQS Designation “Extreme” nonattainment area. - 30 points

13b EQIP contract is located in EPA NAAQS Designation “Severe” or “Serious” nonattainment area. - 20 points

13c EQIP contract is located in EPA NAAQS Designation “Moderate” or “Marginal” nonattainment area. - 10 points

13d EQIP contract is not located in any EPA NAAQS Designated nonattainment area. – (-10 points) **(negative points)**

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Sub-heading 14. If applicable, select one of the following questions regarding the projects potential to conserve energy. Maximum points 25.

14a EQIP contract includes two or more practices which will conserve on-farm energy? – 25 points

14b EQIP contract includes one practice which will conserve on-farm energy? – 10 points

Sub-heading 15. If applicable, select one of the following questions regarding the projects potential to address greenhouse gas pollution. Maximum points 25.

15a EQIP contract includes practices which will address all three greenhouse gas pollutant (N<sub>2</sub>O, CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>) resource concerns? – 25 points

15b EQIP contract includes practices which will address two greenhouse gas pollutant (N<sub>2</sub>O, CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>) resource concerns? – 15 points

15c EQIP contract includes practices which will address one greenhouse gas pollutant (N<sub>2</sub>O, CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>) resource concern? – 10 points

Sub-heading 16. If applicable, answer one of the following questions regarding the EQIP application is supported by a Comprehensive Air Quality Plan developed by a certified TSP. Maximum points 25.

16a EQIP application is supported by a certified TSP prepared Comprehensive Air Quality Management Plan (CAP). – 25 points

16b EQIP application is not supported by any Comprehensive Air Quality Management Plan (CAP). – (-10 points) **(negative points)**

Sub-heading 17. If applicable, answer one of the following questions regarding the EQIP contracts potential to address multiple air quality resource concerns on agricultural operations. Only approved practices in Attachment B. Maximum points 25.

17a Application includes three or more approved air quality practices in this EQIP application. 25 points

17b Application includes two approved air quality practices in this EQIP application. 15 points

17c Application includes one approved air quality practice in this EQIP application. 5 points