

U.S. Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)

Funding Opportunity Number #DTPH56-09-SN-0003
“Technical Assistance Grants to Communities”

Emergency Response Technical Assistance Project - Kansas Municipal Gas Utilities
Kansas Municipal Utilities

Project Proposal

The State of Kansas has experienced a number of disasters and emergency situations over the last several years that have caused significant damage to the utility infrastructure of communities, utilities, and other organizations across the state. These situations have demonstrated the need for a more effectively coordinated effort to respond to emergencies impacting utilities specifically municipal natural gas utilities.

Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU), the statewide association for municipally-owned and operated utilities in Kansas, proposes bring together the 62 municipal natural gas systems in Kansas to provide technical assistance to aid them in preparing to respond to system emergencies. KMU, in association with other statewide utility associations, the Kansas Corporation Commission, the Kansas Department of Health & Environment, and the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, developed a mutual aid emergency response program – Kansas Mutual Aid Program for Utilities (KSMAP). KSMAP provides a coordinated effort to provide assistance to affected utilities when the necessary response outstrips their ability to respond on their own. More information can be found online at <http://www.ksmap.org/general/about.asp>.

Recent flooding, tornadoes, and winter storms have demonstrated the necessity of emergency response plans and coordinated mutual aid response for municipal gas systems. Kansas is primarily a rural state with many small communities that operate their own municipal gas utilities. KMU recognizes that these small communities often do not have the resources and staffing to develop programs and systems without technical assistance, and KMU will serve as that resource through this program.

Under this proposal, KMU will provide personnel for technical assistance to aid communities that own and operate municipal natural gas systems to review and develop emergency response plans and to promote participation in the KSMAP mutual aid program to aid their response to natural gas emergencies with proper equipment and qualified personnel.

The technical assistance provided by KMU under this grant will target many very small systems that could be considered at somewhat higher risk with limited staffing and

resources available in the local community where sharing resources through a mutual aid response can provide assistance when and where needed. The KSMAP program can provide improved communication between systems and operators to know what resources and assistance may be available from area gas systems in an emergency.

Project Goal

The project goal is to provide direct technical assistance to prepare 62 Kansas municipal gas utilities for emergency or disaster response affecting the natural gas pipeline system. The project will also target 100 percent participation in the KSMAP mutual aid program for Kansas utilities.

Project Objective

The proposed project will provide direct onsite technical assistance to review and revise as appropriate emergency response plans for the 62 municipal gas systems. Further, the onsite assistance will guide the utility systems through the registration and data entry process for the KSMAP mutual aid program.

Project Milestones

- 1st Quarter - Organize, develop, and implement staffing plan for providing technical assistance to municipal natural gas utilities.
Provide training to technical assistance providers on program specific information and requirements.
Schedule and provide onsite technical assistance and training to 25% of the municipal natural gas utility systems.
Prepare progress reports.
- 2nd Quarter - Schedule and provide onsite technical assistance and training to 25% of the municipal natural gas utility systems.
Prepare progress reports.
- 3rd Quarter - Schedule and provide onsite technical assistance and training to 25% of the municipal natural gas utility systems.
Prepare progress reports.
- 4th Quarter - Schedule and provide onsite technical assistance and training to 25% of the municipal natural gas utility systems.
Prepare progress reports.
Prepare report on transferability of program and program components to other parties.
Prepare final report documents.