



FY2025 West Virginia Water Research Institute 104(b) Request for Pre-Proposals

Application Deadline: February 28, 2025, 11:59 PM

OVERVIEW:

The West Virginia Water Research Institute (WVWRI) at West Virginia University invites research pre-proposals aimed at addressing contemporary water resources challenges within the state. This annual competition, conducted through the Water Resources Research Institute 104(b) Program, is designed for in-state researchers. The primary objective of these grants is to catalyze water-related research pertinent to West Virginia, with the ultimate goal of fostering the development of highly competitive external proposals.

FUNDING:

The projects require a cost share of one non-federal dollar for every federal dollar (1:1 ratio). Indirect costs are not supported by the sponsor but may be counted as part of the state/local match. Equipment purchases are not normally supported with federal dollars. Through this solicitation, we anticipate funding 2-3 projects. The maximum funding request is \$50,000 per proposal.

ELIGIBILITY:

Eligibility for application extends to any investigator holding principal investigator (PI) status at a higher learning institution in West Virginia. Each applicant is allowed to serve as the principal investigator for only one proposal in response to this Request for Proposals (RFP), while there is no limitation on participation as a co-PI on multiple proposals. Preference will be notably given to investigators in the early stages of their careers. Additionally, it is anticipated that each proposal will include support for graduate and/or undergraduate students as an integral component.

IMPORTANT DATES:

The application deadline for West Virginia pre-proposals is 11:59 PM, Friday, February 28. Pre-proposal decisions and an invitation to submit a full proposal will be announced in March. WVWRI will work with investigators to complete a full proposal following guidelines released by USGS in March. WVWRI will compile multiple proposals for submission to USGS via the WVU Office of Sponsored Programs in late April. Funding is anticipated to begin on September 1, 2025, and projects must end on August 31, 2026 (extensions beyond the end of August 31, 2026, will NOT be granted).

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Pre-proposals under this announcement will be accepted only through the WVWRI Email: wvwri@mail.wvu.edu. Pre-proposals submitted after the deadline will be rejected.

PRE-PROPOSAL COMPONENTS:

Each pre-proposal shall consist of the following elements:

1. **Cover Page.** (See Appendix A)
2. **Main Body.** (Proposed Work). This document shall not exceed 2 single-spaced pages using a 12-point font. The description shall include:

- a. **Objectives of the project.** Include a statement of the state water problem and benefits of the project. Specify the type of information that is to be gained and how the information will be transferred.
- b. **Methodology.** Describe the methods you will use to achieve the outlined objectives.
- c. **Technical merit.** Show by literature citations and communication the similarities and dissimilarities of the proposed project to completed or ongoing work on the same topic.
- d. **Budget Breakdown.** (See Appendix B) A formal budget is not required at the pre-proposal stage. However, an estimate of major project expenses is helpful in the evaluation.
- e. **Investigator's Qualifications.** Include the resume(s) of the principal investigator(s). No resume shall exceed two pages or list more than 15 pertinent publications.

PRE-PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS:

Pre-proposals that meet the requirements of this Announcement will be evaluated by the West Virginia Advisory Committee for Water Research - composed of the Institute director, scientists, and federal and state agency employees experienced in water resources research. Pre-proposals will be reviewed according to the following criteria:

- State benefit (relevance)
- Technical merit (scientifically sound, innovative)
- Investigator (early in career, cognizant of previous work)
- Feasibility (methods and budget)

RESEARCH AREAS:

The WVWRI will accept any pre-proposal related to West Virginia water resources issues but expects to give priority to proposals that address the following:

- Revisit gas wells such as Northeast Natural Energy's Morgantown Industrial Park and Boggess sites; collect produced water samples for comparison with previous data to evaluate changes in produced water over time.
- Long-term passive treatment system effectiveness:
 - Natural selenium attenuation at Hobet Mine; revisit previously studied sites to collect new data and provide insight on how selenium changes of time.
 - Acid mine drainage treatment sites; evaluate performance over time, noting any system maintenance or modifications. Ideally, look at treatment systems that have been in place for ~20 years.
- In-stream habitat restoration in AMD-remediated streams.

Note that previously collected datasets will be made available to researchers interested in the abovementioned topics.

INQUIRIES:

If you have any questions regarding this grant opportunity, please contact Melissa O'Neal (melissa.oneal@mail.wvu.edu or 304-293-7006).

Although Congress has not yet finalized the appropriation process for this fiscal year's program, this call for proposals must be made at this time in order to meet expected program deadlines. As noted earlier, WVWRI will work with investigators to complete a full proposal in March-April for submission to WVU OSP in late April. No Cost Extensions are not permitted. Project timelines are September 1, 2025 – August 31, 2026.