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News Release

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Grants Available to Help Marinas Reduce Water Pollution

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) announced today that federal funds are available to marina owners in Oklahoma to reduce potential water pollution resulting from inadequate handling of on-board wastewater holding tanks. Proper disposal of recreational boat-related sewage is important in preserving and improving water quality.

The competitive grant program, established through the 1992 Clean Vessel Act, helps fund the construction, operation, and maintenance of pumpout facilities to service pleasure craft and help reduce pollution from vessel sewage discharges into the nation's waters. DEQ serves as the grant coordinator as part of its commitment to provide a clean, safe, and enjoyable environment in Oklahoma. Clean Vessel Act grant funds are from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife through the Sport Fish Restoration Account of the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund.

Clean Vessel Act grant funds are available on a competitive basis to both the public and private sector, including all local governmental entities and private businesses that own and operate boating facilities that serve the general public. The grant reimburses recipients for up to 75 percent of the installed cost of pumpout and dump stations, including new equipment, as well as pumps, piping, lift stations, on-site holding tanks, pier or dock modifications, signs, permits, and other miscellaneous equipment required to operate a complete and efficient station. Grant funds are not available for the construction or renovation of onshore restroom facilities or sewage treatment plants including septic tanks, subsurface treatment fields, private and municipal treatment plants and other special treatment devices.

Grant applications must be submitted to DEQ by **December 8, 2009**. To request a Clean Vessel Act application package, contact Robert Huber with DEQ at (405) 702-6100, email Robert.Huber@deq.ok.gov or write to the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, Clean Vessel Act Grant Program, 707 N. Robinson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118.

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