

**NRSP003 - The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP)
Proposal for Renewal, FY10 to FY14
Attachment One**

Letter to the National Research Support Project – Review Committee (NRSP-RC)

From: Dr. Richard Grant (Agricultural Advisor) and Dr. Eric Prestbo (Executive Committee Chair)

Date: November, 13, 2008



National Atmospheric Deposition Program

NADP Program Office

Illinois State Water Survey
2204 Griffith Drive
Champaign, Illinois 61820-7495
Phone (217) 333-7871
Fax (217) 333-0249
Web: <http://nadp.sws.uiuc.edu>
E-mail: nadp@sws.uiuc.edu

November 13, 2008

To the NRSP Review Committee:

In reading through the reasons for the recent denial of the NRSP-3 project continuance we realized that we were not as clear as we should have been as to how critically-important the NRSP-3 is to the *viability* of the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP). Over \$5,000,000 dollars in annual NADP research funding from a multitude of federal and state agencies and the ability to determine long-term trends in the chemical climate of the USA and impacts of climate mitigation on the USA is at stake in the \$50,000/year NRSP-3 renewal from SAES. Therefore, we offer the following clarifications of the value and leveraging that the NRSP-3 provides to the NADP and respectfully request reconsideration of the NADP's recent application for NRSP-3 renewal.

There are three primary aspects in which the SAES through the NRSP-3 and the NADP are contributing to their respective missions:

1. the NADP enhances the ability of the SAES to address pressing needs of agriculture,
2. the lack of NRSP-3 funding will result in the probable shutdown of monitoring at 50 monitoring locations, thereby dramatically reducing the ability of agriculture to understand the spatial and temporal variation in deposition of chemicals in precipitation, and
3. the funding provided through the NRSP-3 is heavily leveraged by other federal and state agencies and provides a critical service to the operation of the NADP.

Expanding on these points:

Point 1: Research and monitoring goals address pressing needs of Agriculture

The NADP is addressing highly relevant issues related to nitrogen, ammonia, transport of plant pathogens, among others, and provides a scientific forum for communication about agriculture research—evidenced by the recent fall symposium where three of the six presentation sessions were Ag-focused. At many locations we have a 30-year record of this deposition, and show increasing trends at many sites. These relationships were detailed specifically in our proposal.

Point 2: SAES Monitoring Site Losses

All NADP sites pay a management fee for operations. The SAES Hatch funding for the NRSP-3 project pays all or some of this fee for the SAES sites. Currently, 19 SAESs have these fees paid in full (charge = \$0), and all other sites have reduced fees (-\$840/site) relative to average federal site expenses. The remaining costs of operation are borne by the individual SAES sites (analytical costs of \$4,732/year at 11 sites, operator salary support at about 30 sites, travel and shipping costs at all sites). With a loss of NRSP status, the operational costs at the 50 SAES-supported sites would increase significantly and likely cause the closure of many of the sites located in the agricultural production areas of the USA due to the increasing cost. These closures would force management fees to rise and thereby increase the risk the closure of additional sites due to higher operation costs. The loss of the SAES sites would affect the ability to follow national trends in deposition related to agriculture since many of these SAES-supported sites are the oldest sites in the network (10 of the 50 having precipitation chemistry records dating back to 1978). Consequently, even though the \$50,000 is a relatively small part of the NRSP-3 total budget, the SAES

sites are very important to the NADP and to the United States.

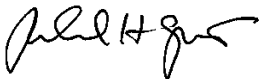
Point 3: Federal and State Leveraging

The continued active status of NRSP-3 allows funding contributions from many state and federal agencies (namely, USGS, EPA, NPS, NOAA, TVA, BLM) totaling \$1.8 million dollars annually, to flow through the CSREES to the University of Illinois and NADP by cooperative agreement. Without this mechanism, funding from state and federal agencies to NADP will be permanently disrupted and potentially lost due to increased indirect cost recoveries by other mechanisms. Consequently, if the NRSP-3 is terminated, then all NADP sites would likely see a 50% increase in total monitoring costs for each site and year. Not only does the NRSP status leverage large amounts of federal and state funding, but the NRSP-3 also leverages a lower cost for all NADP site sponsors.

To conclude, we would appreciate if, as a committee, you would reconsider our standing and original proposal for continued funding. We will be glad to answer any questions by phone, in writing, or through a presentation to your membership.

Thank you for your reconsideration.

Sincerely,



Dr. Richard H. Grant
NADP Agriculture Representative
Professor of Applied Meteorology
Dept. of Agronomy, Purdue University
915 W. State St.
West Lafayette, IN USA 47907-2054
rgrant@purdue.edu
(765) 494-0854



Dr. Eric Prestbo
NADP Exec. Committee Chair
Tekran Instruments Research & Dev.
2707 NE 125th Street
Seattle, WA 98125
eprestbo@tekran.com
206-755-0750

Cc: Administrative Advisors, Regional Executive Directors