## www.epa.gov/superfund/community/tasc

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES FOR COMMUNITIES**

## Technical Assistance Provider Selection

EPA has entered into a contract with E<sup>2</sup> Inc. to provide independent and non-advocacy technical assistance to communities across the United States through the Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) contract. This federal contract was awarded after a competitive procurement process conducted according to the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

Under the TASC contract  $E^2$  Inc. is required to provide both high quality and cost-effective technical assistance to communities. Upon receiving technical direction,  $E^2$  Inc. consults with both EPA staff and community representatives. Each work request received by  $E^2$  Inc. is evaluated for what type or types of assistance are necessary, where those services need to be performed, and what the time frame is for providing these services.  $E^2$  Inc. then puts a plan together that outlines what services are to be provided by whom.

When choosing individuals to provide technical assistance,  $E^2$  Inc. chooses from a pool of staff that includes in-house employees, a staff of sub-contractors, and individuals registered in  $E^2$  Inc.'s technical expertise database. In cases where appropriate expertise cannot be identified from these sources,  $E^2$  Inc. will conduct a search that includes universities, federal agencies, and other consulting firms to identify the best possible providers. Factors considered in the selection process include:

- Relevant subject matter expertise.
- Relevant experience providing technical assistance to communities.
- Social and cultural capabilities relevant to the project.
- Understanding of environmental regulations, programs, and agencies.
- Education and training, including academic degrees and relevant certifications.
- Any potential conflicts of interest.
- Demonstrated ability to be impartial and objective.
- Demonstrated ability to work with a variety of stakeholders.
- Geographic location (with a preference for locally/regionally-based providers).
- Overall cost effectiveness.

Individuals interested in providing technical assistance either at a specific location or in general are encouraged to enter themselves into E<sup>2</sup> Inc.'s online database at <a href="www.tasc-portal.net">www.tasc-portal.net</a> or to contact Amanda Goyne (agoyne@e2inc.com; (434) 975-6700 ext. 231). In order to maintain high quality, independent, and non-advocacy technical assistance under this contract, all decisions regarding the selection of technical assistance providers are the responsibility of E<sup>2</sup> Inc.

Individuals interested in providing services under this contact must be prepared to:

- Enter into a sub-contract or employment agreement with E<sup>2</sup> Inc.
- Report to the E<sup>2</sup> Inc. TASC management team.
- Have all documents created under the TASC contract reviewed by the TASC team for technical accuracy and non-advocacy.