

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ALERT

Grants Available for Small Shipyards

Improving the infrastructure at your shipyard may have fallen to the bottom of your list in these tough economic times. However, there is a light at the end of the tunnel for some small shipyards – a total of \$98,000,000 is now available through a grant program administered by the Maritime Administration. Grants may be used for capital and infrastructure improvements or to facilitate maritime training programs, but not to construct physical facilities or to acquire land (unless special permission is obtained).

Eligible applicants are commercial facilities that build and deliver or repair completed vessels. The shipyard must have a single geographic location in or near a maritime community, and employ less than 1,200 production personnel.

Applicants can include multiple projects in one application. A “matching” requirement calls for the applicant to provide at least 25 percent of the total cost of the project, except if the Maritime Administration determines that a worthy project cannot be undertaken without a greater percentage of federal assistance.

In evaluating applications, the Maritime Administration will consider the economic circumstances of the surrounding community, whether the project will be effective in fostering efficiency, competition and quality ship construction and repair and whether the project will foster employee skills and productivity.

Eligible applicants may submit grant applications to the Maritime Administration from February 17, 2009, through April 20, 2009. Grants will be awarded no later than August 17, 2009.

Some intricacies exist with respect to the “single geographic location” and number of production employees qualifications. For more details concerning eligibility, application preparation and grant amounts, please contact one of the Pullman & Comley attorneys listed here.

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