Department of
Environment &
Conservation

October 1, 2025

Steven George
Hickman County School System
115 Murphree Ave., Centerville, TN 37033
steven.george@hickmank12.org

RE: Notification of Award --State of Tennessee Volkswagen Diesel Settlement Environmental Mitigation Trust (VW Settlement EMT) Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicle Grant Program

Dear Mr. George:

Thank you for submitting an application in response to the State of Tennessee VW Settlement EMT Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicle Grant Programs solicitation. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has completed its evaluation of all applications received. We are pleased to inform you that the Hickman County School System has been selected to move forward with grant contract negotiations.

Specifically, TDEC will provide up to $223,483.50 for the replacement of the following (3) vehicles with propane vehicles proposed within the grant application:

- VIN: 4DRBUSKN49A135048, School Bus
- VIN: 4DRBUAFN58B530126, School Bus
- VIN: 4UZAAXDC67CX24858, School Bus

At this time, please do not publicize or share your organization's receipt of this award notification until TDEC has made a corresponding public funding announcement. Such an announcement will occur following the execution of the Grant Contract. We will notify you when you have permission to publicize your award.

Over the course of the next several weeks, you will receive a draft Grant Contract(s) and a Grant Program Manual, which will outline the terms and conditions of your award and include detailed information on reporting requirements, financial reimbursement / invoicing procedures, and project monitoring. Once the Grant Contract has been approved by TDEC Contracts and executed by the State and the Grantee, it will be routed for additional approvals by the State Central Procurement Office, Department of Finance & Administration, and the State Comptroller's Office. You will receive a copy of the final, executed Grant Contract for your records after the additional approvals have been obtained. **Please note that this notification of award does not constitute a Grant Contract agreement with the State.**

Please keep in mind the following regarding this award:

1. **TDEC cannot reimburse expenditures that are incurred prior to the begin date of your**

Grant Contract. Once the Grant Contract begins, the Grantee may request State approval for procuring vehicles or equipment, including applicable charging infrastructure. Further details on the procurement process will be provided in the upcoming Grant Program Manual. **Until you receive procurement approval from TDEC under an active Grant Contract, do not submit any purchase orders, complete any vehicle purchases, and/or take delivery of any vehicles you intend to pay for with funds from this award.**

2. All eligible Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicles to be replaced under this program must be Scrapped within ninety (90) days of new vehicle delivery. "Scrapped" shall mean to render inoperable and available for recycle, and, at a minimum, to specifically cut a 3-inch hole in the engine block and to disable the chassis by cutting the vehicle's frame rails completely in half. **Failure to provide the required photographic proof and documentation of vehicle scrappage may impact the State's ability to provide reimbursement for the project. As such, do not move forward with vehicle and engine scrappage until you receive guidance on the process in the forthcoming Grant Program Manual;** this resource will include explicit instructions and templates to help you capture all proof of scrappage documentation required for this award.
3. **Additional Title VI Nondiscrimination requirements must be met by your organization now that you have been selected to receive funding from the State.** First, grantees must complete the TDEC Subrecipient Title VI training (https://tdec.tn.gov/title6/index.html) and provide TDEC with a copy of the certificate of training completion no later than 30 days after the draft Grant Contract has been submitted to TDEC Contracts for approval. Second, grantees must also complete and submit to TDEC a completed Title VI Training Certification form no later than 30 days after the draft Grant Contract has been submitted to TDEC Contracts for approval. Further guidance on this process will be sent to you shortly.
4. **TDEC will schedule a mandatory grant program compliance webinar within the next few weeks. At least one representative from your staff's project team must attend the webinar,** which will include information on the considerations noted above, the information contained within the Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicle Grant Program Manual, and other project requirements. Additional information on this compliance webinar will be sent to you shortly.

Again, congratulations! We are pleased to support your commitment to integrate newer, cleaner vehicles into your fleet. If you have any questions, please contact me at 615-772-6011 or Mark.Finlay@tn.gov.

Sincerely,

Mark Finlay, Senior Energy Analyst
TDEC Office of Energy Programs