

## GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

### Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for Construction of GSA Federal Laboratories, Prince George's County, Maryland

Reply to the Attention of: Dawud Abdur-  
Rahman, National Capital Region,  
General Services Administration, 7th  
and D Sts., SW., Washington, DC 20407

All comments must be received by  
April 13, 1999.

The General Services Administration will publish a Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on Friday, March 12, 1999 for Construction of Federal Laboratories in Beltsville, Maryland. The Final EA will be available for public review and comment at the Beltsville Library, 4319 Sellman Road, Beltsville, Maryland 20705.

The General Services Administration (GSA), acting as development manager for Federal facilities, proposes to construct and operate Federal Laboratories in Prince George's County, Maryland. The proposed action would consist of the construction a 150,000 gross square foot (gsf) (13,935 gross square meters) National Laboratory and a 50,000 gsf (4,645 gross square meters) Fire Investigation, Research, and Education (F.I.R.E.) Center. The facilities would employ approximately 152 people.

The new facilities would improve administrative and operational efficiency and would facilitate communication and interaction among staff. The proposed action would provide state-of-the-art laboratories and research facilities. The new facilities will alleviate overcrowding and provide safe, secure, and modern laboratories. The F.I.R.E. Center will be one of very few such facilities in the world and will enhance Federal fire scene investigations. The Center will serve as a training center for advanced fire investigation and a repository for technical data related to fire investigation and research.

#### Finding

Pursuant to the provision of GSA Order ACM 1095.1D, the HB PBS P 1095.4B and the regulations issued by the Council of Environmental Quality, November 29, 1978, (40 CFR Parts 1500 to 1508), this is to advise you of our finding, based on the Final Environmental Assessment (EA), that the action described above is considered a major Federal action not significantly

affecting the quality of the human environment.

#### Basis for Finding

The impacts of construction and operation of the proposed facilities on the environment were considered in an EA pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended. The Final EA, which is available for review at the location listed above, is incorporated by reference into this Finding of No Significant Impact. Construction and operation of the proposed project would not have a significant adverse effect on the human environment.

Two alternate sites, the Ammendale Site and the Konterra Site, along with the No Action Alternative, were studied in detail in the EA. The EA describes the existing natural, physical social and cultural environment associated with each alternative. The EA also describes potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts associated with construction of the proposed facilities on each alternate site. Impacts of the No Action Alternative have also been analyzed.

Regardless of which of the two alternate sites is selected, moderate impacts will occur to the following resources: soils, forested areas, land use, aesthetics, utilities, and transportation facilities. If the Ammendale Site is selected, moderate impacts would also occur to Interior Forest Dwelling Species habitat. To mitigate potential impacts, GSA will implement the measures that are discussed in the Environmental Assessment.

This Finding of No Significant Impact will become final April 13, 1999 provided that no information leading to a contrary finding is received or comes to light during the 30-day public review period.

**Nelson Alcalde,**

*Regional Administrator, National Capital  
Region, General Services Administration.*

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## GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

### Implementation of Changes to the Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program

**AGENCY:** Office of Acquisition Policy,  
GSA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Title VII of the "Business  
Opportunity Development Act of 1988"  
(Pub. L. 100-656) established the Small

#### Business Competitiveness

Demonstration Program to provide for the testing of specified innovative procurement methods and procedures. The program was conducted by nine (9) designated agencies, including GSA, over a four (4) year period from January 1, 1989 to December 31, 1992. Title VII of Public Law 100-656 was amended by the Small Business Opportunity Enhancement Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-366) to extend the demonstration program through the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act (Pub. L. 104-208) for one year to September 1997. In 1997, Congress also extended the aspect of the Program covering expansion of small business participation in the dredging industry. In December 1997, the Small Business Reauthorization Act of 1997, was enacted into law. As a result the program is extended indefinitely along with amendments to be implemented. The law designated four (4) industry groups for testing whether the competitive capabilities of the specified industry groups will enable them to successfully compete on an unrestricted basis. The four (4) industry groups are: construction (except dredging); architectural and engineering (A&E) services (including surveying and mapping); refuse systems and related services (limited to trash/garbage collection services); and non-nuclear ship repair. Under the program, when a participating agency misses its small business participation goals, restricted competition is reinstituted only for those designated industry groups that failed to attain the goal. The small business goal is 40 percent of the total contract dollars awarded for construction, trash/garbage collection services, non-nuclear ship repair and architect-engineer services. This notice announces modifications to GSA's solicitation practices under the demonstration program based on a review of the agency's performance during the period from October 1, 1998 through September 30, 1999. Modifications to solicitation practices are outlined in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below and apply to solicitations issued on or after February 1, 1999.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** February 1, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Cecelia L. Davis, Office of Acquisition  
Policy, (202) 219-0202.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Procurements of construction or trash/garbage collections with an estimated value of \$25,000 or less and procurement of A&E services with an estimated value of \$50,000 or less shall

be reserved for emerging small business when there is a reasonable expectation of obtaining offers from two or more (three or more for A&E procurements) that will be competitive in terms of market price, quality, and delivery. If no such expectation exists, the procurement shall be processed as a small business simplified acquisition set aside in accordance with FAR 13.105 or in accordance with FAR 19.5 or 19.8. If the contracting officer determines a procurement cannot be set aside for small business under FAR 19.5 or 19.8, the procurement may be made using unrestricted procedures. The use of simplified acquisition purchase procedures is not required under the reserve program; therefore, any procurement method may be used. The reserve program applies only to new awards. Modifications within the scope of work of contracts having an initial award value in excess of the \$25,000 for construction and trash/garbage collection service or \$50,000 for A&E service are not subject to the reserve program.

Procurements of construction or trash/garbage collection services with estimated value in excess of \$25,000 and procurements of A&E services with an estimated value in excess of \$50,000 shall be made on an unrestricted basis as long as annual reviews show that GSA (as an agency) has attained the 40 percent goal. The 40 percent goal will be applied to each of the three (3) major groups in construction (groups 15, 16, and 17), to trash/garbage collection, and to A&E services. However, if goal attainment (for GSA as an agency) in any major group drops below 40 percent, small business set asides will be imposed. The continued use of unrestricted procedures is unaffected by an agency's failure to meet the 15 percent goal for emerging small business. When annual reviews show that GSA as an agency has not attained the 40 percent goal, competition will be restricted to small business, in accordance with FAR 19.5, on future procurements by the GSA contracting activities (e.g., regions) that failed to attain the goal. Other GSA contracting activities that meet the goals will continue to use unrestricted procedures. Notwithstanding the Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program, contracts may be awarded under the 8(a) program at any time. These procurements shall be made in accordance with the following procedures.

#### **Construction Service in Groups 15, 16 and 17**

Procurements for construction services in SIC group 15 (except solicitations issued by Regions 4, 7, and 9), SIC group 16 and in SIC group 17 shall be conducted on an unrestricted basis.

Procurements for construction services in SIC group 15 issued by contracting activities in Regions 4, 7, and 9 shall be set-aside for small business when there is a reasonable expectation of obtaining competition from two or more small businesses. If no expectation exists, the procurements may be conducted on an unrestricted basis.

Region 4 (Southeast-Sunbelt) encompasses the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Region 7 (Greater Southwest) encompasses the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas.

Region 9 (Pacific Rim) encompasses the state of Arizona, California, Hawaii and Nevada.

#### **Trash/Garbage Collection Services in PSC S205**

Procurements for trash/garbage collection services in PSC S205 (except solicitations issued by contracting activities in Regions 4 and 6) shall be conducted on an unrestricted basis.

Procurements for trash/garbage collection services issued by contracting activities in Regions 4 and 6 shall be set aside for small business when there is a reasonable expectation of obtaining competition from two or more small businesses. If no expectation exists, the procurements may be conducted on an unrestricted basis.

Region 4 (Southeast-Sunbelt) encompasses the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Region 6 (Heartland) encompasses the states of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.

#### **Architect-Engineer Services (All PSC Codes Under the Demonstration Program)**

Procurements for architect-engineer services (except solicitations issued by contracting activities in Regions 2, 4, 7, 10 and NCR) shall be conducted on an unrestricted basis.

Procurements for architect-engineer services issued by contracting activities in Regions 2, 4, 7, 10 and NCR shall be set aside for small business when there

is a reasonable expectation of obtaining competition from two or more small businesses. If no expectation exists, the procurements may be conducted on an unrestricted basis.

Region 2 (Northeast and Caribbean) encompasses the states of New Jersey, New York and territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Region 4 (Southeast-Sunbelt) encompasses the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Region 7 (Greater Southwest) encompasses the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas.

Region 10 (Northwest-Arctic) encompasses the states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

The National Capitol Region (NCR) encompasses the District of Columbia, Montgomery and Prince Georges counties in Maryland the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William in Virginia.

#### **Non-Nuclear Ship Repair**

GSA does not procure for non-nuclear ship repair.

Dated: March 26, 1999.

**J. Les Davison,**

*Acting Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

### **President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports**

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, Office of Public Health and Science, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** As stipulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Department of Health and Human Service (DHHS) is hereby given notice that the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports will hold a meeting. This meeting is open to the public. A description of the Council's functions is included also with this notice.

**DATES:** May 3, 1999, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Department of Health and Human Services, Room 800 Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20201.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sandra Perlmutter, Executive Director,