

(4) The construction of replacement homes, repairs or additions;

(5) The development of farm, ranch or aquaculture, including soil and water conservation;

(6) The enhanced construction, reconstruction, operation and maintenance of revenue-producing improvements intended to benefit occupants of Hawaiian home lands;

(7) The making of investments in water and other utilities, supplies, equipment, and goods, as well as professional services needed to plan, implement, develop or operate such projects that will improve the value of Hawaiian home lands for their current and future occupants; and,

(8) The establishment and maintenance of an account to serve as a reserve for loans issued or backed by the Federal Government.

(b) The Secretary will determine if the proposed amendment or any other legislative action decreases the above-described or similar benefits to the beneficiaries, now or in the future, by weighing the answers to the following questions:

(1) How would the proposed amendment impact the benefits to current lessees of Hawaiian home lands?

(2) How would the proposed amendment impact the benefits to beneficiaries currently on a waiting list for a Hawaiian home lands lease?

(3) How would the proposed amendment impact the benefits to beneficiaries who have not yet applied for a Hawaiian home lands lease?

(4) If the interests of the beneficiaries who have not been awarded a Hawaiian home lands lease and the lessees differ, how does the proposed amendment weigh the interests of beneficiaries who have not been awarded a Hawaiian home lands lease with the interests of Hawaiian home lands lessees?

(5) If the interests of the beneficiaries who have not been awarded a Hawaiian home lands lease and the lessees differ, do the benefits to the lessees outweigh any detriment to the beneficiaries who have not been awarded a Hawaiian home lands lease?

(6) If the interests of the beneficiaries differ from the interests of the lessees, do the benefits to the beneficiaries outweigh any detriment to the lessees?

**§ 48.30 How does the Secretary determine if Congressional approval is unnecessary?**

The Secretary will determine that Congressional approval is unnecessary if the proposed amendment meets none of the criteria in § 48.20.

**§ 48.35 When must the Secretary determine if the proposed amendment requires Congressional approval?**

The Secretary will review the documents submitted by the Chairman, and if they meet the requirements of § 48.15, the Secretary will determine within 60 days after receiving them if the proposed amendment requires Congressional approval.

**§ 48.40 What notification will the Secretary provide?**

(a) If the Secretary determines that Congressional approval of the proposed amendment is unnecessary, the Secretary will:

(1) Notify the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and of the House Committee on Natural Resources, the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives and President of the Senate of the State of Hawai'i, and the Chairman of the Hawaiian Homes Commission; and

(2) Include, if appropriate, an opinion on whether the proposed amendment advances the interests of the beneficiaries.

(b) If the Secretary determines that Congressional approval of the proposed amendment is required, the Secretary will notify the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and of the House Committee on Natural Resources, the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives and President of the Senate of the State of Hawai'i, and the Chairman of the Hawaiian Homes Commission. The Secretary will also submit to the Committees the following:

(1) A draft joint resolution approving the proposed amendment;

(2) A description of the change made by the proposed amendment and an explanation of how the proposed amendment advances the interests of the beneficiaries;

(3) A comparison of the existing law with the proposed amendment;

(4) A recommendation on the advisability of approving the proposed amendment;

(5) All documentation concerning the proposed amendment received from the Chairman; and

(6) All documentation concerning the proposed amendment received from the beneficiaries.

(c) The Secretary will post notice of the determination on the Department of the Interior's Web site.

**§ 48.45 When is a proposed amendment deemed effective?**

(a) If the Secretary determines that a proposed amendment meets none of the criteria in § 48.20, the effective date of

the proposed amendment is the date of the notification letter to the Congressional Committee Chairmen.

(b) If the Secretary determines that the proposed amendment requires congressional approval then the effective date of the proposed amendment is the date that Congress's approval becomes law.

**§ 48.50 Can the State of Hawai'i amend the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act without Secretarial review?**

The Secretary must review all proposed amendments to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. Any proposed amendments to any terms or provisions of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act by the State must also specifically state that the proposed amendment proposes to amend the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. Any state enactment that impacts any of the criteria in § 48.20 shall have no effect on the provisions of the HHCA or administration of the Trust, except pursuant to this part.

[FR Doc. 2016-11146 Filed 5-11-16; 12:00 pm]

BILLING CODE 4334-63-P

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**48 CFR Parts 1519 and 1552**

[EPA-HQ-OARM-2015-0550; FRL 9945-69-OARM]

**Environmental Protection Agency Acquisition Regulation; Small Business Programs, Solicitation Provisions and Contract Clauses**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Direct final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing a final rule to remove outdated information and make administrative changes to the Environmental Protection Agency Acquisition Regulation (EPAAR). EPA does not anticipate any adverse comments.

**DATES:** This rule is effective on July 12, 2016 without further action, unless EPA receives adverse comment by June 13, 2016. If EPA receives adverse comment, a timely withdrawal will be published in the **Federal Register** informing the public that the rule will not take effect.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OARM-2015-0550, at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Once submitted, comments cannot be

edited or removed from *Regulations.gov*. The EPA may publish any comment received to its public docket. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Multimedia submissions (audio, video, etc.) must be accompanied by a written comment. The written comment is considered the official comment and should include discussion of all points you wish to make. The EPA will generally not consider comments or comment contents located outside of the primary submission (*i.e.* on the Web, cloud, or other file sharing system). For additional submission methods, the full EPA public comment policy, information about CBI or multimedia submissions, and general guidance on making effective comments, please visit <http://www2.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Julianne Odend'hal, Policy, Training, and Oversight Division, Acquisition Policy and Training Service Center (3802R), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (202) 564-5218; email address: [odend'hal.julianne@epa.gov](mailto:odend'hal.julianne@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Why is EPA using a direct final rule?**

EPA is publishing this rule without a prior proposed rule because EPA views this as a noncontroversial action and anticipates no adverse comments. EPAAR Parts 1519 and 1552 are being amended to remove outdated information and to make administrative changes. If EPA receives adverse comment, a timely withdrawal will be published in the **Federal Register** informing the public that the rule will not take effect. Any parties interested in commenting must do so at this time.

**II. Does this action apply to me?**

The EPAAR applies to contractors who have a contract with the EPA.

**III. What should I consider as I prepare my comments for EPA?**

A. *Submitting CBI.* Do not submit this information to EPA through <http://www.regulations.gov> or email. Clearly mark the part or all of the information that you claim to be CBI. For CBI information in a disk or CD-ROM that you mail to EPA, mark the outside of the disk or CD-ROM as CBI, and then identify electronically within the disk or CD-ROM the specific information that is claimed as CBI. In addition to one complete version of the comment that

includes information claimed as CBI, a copy of the comment that does not contain the information claimed as CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public docket. Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2.

B. *Tips for Preparing Your Comments.* When submitting comments, remember to:

- Identify the rulemaking by docket number and other identifying information (subject heading, **Federal Register** date and page number).
- Follow directions—The agency may ask you to respond to specific questions or organize comments by referencing a Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part or section number.
- Explain why you agree or disagree, suggest alternatives, and substitute language for your requested changes.
- Describe any assumptions and provide any technical information and/or data that you used.
- If you estimate potential costs or burdens, explain how you arrived at your estimate in sufficient detail to allow for it to be reproduced.
- Provide specific examples to illustrate your concerns, and suggest alternatives.
- Explain your views as clearly as possible, avoiding the use of profanity or personal threats.
- Make sure to submit your comments by the comment period deadline identified.

**IV. Background**

EPAAR Parts 1519 and 1552 are being amended to remove outdated information and to make administrative changes.

**V. Final Rule**

This direct final rule makes the following changes: (1) Updates outdated terms throughout EPAAR Parts 1519 and 1552 by removing “Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU)” and adding “Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP)” in its place, removing “Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Specialists” and adding “Small Business Specialists” in its place, removing “Subcontracting with Small Business and Small Disadvantaged Business Concerns” and adding “Small Business Subcontracting Program” in its place; (2) amends section 1519.201 by removing the words “and the local” and adding the words “(CCO)s or Regional Acquisitions Managers (RAMs), the assigned” in its place; (3) amends section 1519.201–72, paragraph (a), by removing the words “for each contracting office”, and

adding the words “The appointing authorities for regional SBS are the RAMs. The SBSs for EPA headquarters, Research Triangle Park (RTP), and Cincinnati shall be appointed by the OSBP Director.”, and removing the words “The appointing authorities are the Chiefs of the Contracting Offices.”; (4) Amends Section 1519.201–72, paragraph (c), by removing subparagraph (6) and re-numbering subparagraphs (7) through (10) to read (6) through (9), and amends re-numbered subparagraph (9) to read “Act as liaison with the appropriate SBA office or representative in connection with matters concerning the small business programs including set-asides.”; (5) amends section 1519.202–5, *Data Collection and Reporting Requirements*, by removing and reserving the section because this section is outdated; (6) amends section 1519.204, *Small Disadvantaged Business Participation*, by removing and reserving the section to conform to the FAR; (7) amends section 1552.219–70, paragraph (f), by removing the words “Standard Form 294, Subcontracts Report for Individual Contracts” and adding the words “Individual Subcontract Reports (ISR)” in its place; (8) amends section 1552.219–71, paragraph (e), by removing from subparagraph (4) the words “If recently required to submit a SF 295, provide copies of the two preceding year’s reports;” (9) amends section 1552.219–71, paragraph (k) by removing the text and adding new text in its place; (10) amends section 1552.219–72, *Small Disadvantaged Business Participation Program*, section 1552.219–73, *Small Disadvantaged Business Targets*, section 1552.219–74, *Small Disadvantaged Business Participation Evaluation Factor*, by removing and reserving the sections to conform to the FAR.

**VI. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews**

A. *Executive Order 12866: Regulatory Planning and Review and Executive Order 13563: Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review*

This action is not a significant regulatory action and was therefore not submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review.

B. *Paperwork Reduction Act*

This action does not impose an information collection burden under the PRA because it does not contain any information collection activities.

*C. Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), as Amended by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (SBREFA), 5 U.S.C. 601 et seq.*

I certify that this action will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the RFA. In making this determination, the impact of concern is any significant adverse economic impact on small entities. An agency may certify that a rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities if the rule relieves regulatory burden, has no net burden or otherwise has a positive economic effect on the small entities subject to the rule. This action amends EPAAR parts 1519 and 1552 to remove outdated information and to make administrative changes. We have therefore concluded that this action will have no net regulatory burden for all directly regulated small entities.

*D. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act*

This action does not contain an unfunded mandate of \$100 million or more as described in UMRA, 2 U.S.C. 1531–1538, and does not significantly or uniquely affect small governments. The action imposes no enforceable duty on any state, local or tribal governments or the private sector.

*E. Executive Order 13132: Federalism*

This action does not have federalism implications. It will not have substantial direct effects on the states, on the relationship between the national government and the states, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.

*F. Executive Order 13175: Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments*

This action does not have tribal implications, as specified in Executive Order 13175 (65 FR 67249, November 9, 2000). Thus, Executive Order 13175 does not apply to this action. In the spirit of Executive Order 13175, and consistent with EPA policy to promote communication between EPA and Tribal governments, EPA specifically solicits additional comment on this rule from Tribal officials.

*G. Executive Order 13045: Protection of Children From Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks*

EPA interprets Executive Order 13045 (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997) as applying only to those regulatory actions that concern health or safety risks, such that the analysis required under section 5–501 of the Executive

Order has the potential to influence the regulation. This action is not subject to Executive Order 13045 because it does not establish an environmental standard intended to mitigate health or safety risks.

*H. Executive Order 13211: Actions Concerning Regulations That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use*

This action is not subject to Executive Order 13211 (66 FR 28355 (May 22, 2001)), because it is not a significant regulatory action under Executive Order 12866.

*I. National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995*

This rulemaking does not involve technical standards.

*J. Executive Order 12898: Federal Actions To Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*

Executive Order 12898 (59 FR 7629 (February 16, 1994)) establishes federal executive policy on environmental justice. Its main provision directs federal agencies, to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law, to make environmental justice part of their mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations in the United States. EPA has determined that this final rule will not have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority or low-income populations because it does not affect the level of protection provided to human health or the environment.

*K. Congressional Review*

The Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*, as added by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, generally provides that before a rule may take effect, the agency promulgating the rule must submit a rule report, which includes a copy of the rule, to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States. Section 804 exempts from section 801 the following types of rules (1) rules of particular applicability; (2) rules relating to agency management or personnel; and (3) rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice that do not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties. 5 U.S.C. 804(3). EPA is not required to submit a rule report regarding this action under section 801

because this is a rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice that does not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties.

**List of Subjects in 48 CFR Parts 1519 and 1552**

Government procurement.

Dated: May 2, 2016.

**John R. Bashista,**

*Director, Office of Acquisition Management.*

For the reasons stated in the preamble, 48 CFR parts 1519 and 1552 are amended as set forth below:

■ 1. Revise part 1519 to read as follows:

**PART 1519—SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS**

**Subpart 1519.2—Policies**

Sec.

1519.201 Policy.

1519.201–71 Director of the Office of Small Business Programs.

1519.201–72 Small business specialists.

1519.202–5 [Reserved]

1519.203 Mentor-protégé.

1519.204 [Reserved]

**Subpart 1519.5—Set-Asides for Small Business**

1519.501 Review of acquisitions.

1519.503 Class set-aside for construction.

**Subpart 1519.7—The Small Business Subcontracting Program**

1519.705–2 Determining the need for a subcontract plan.

1519.705–4 Reviewing the subcontracting plan.

1519.705–70 Synopsis of contracts containing Pub. L. 95–507 subcontracting plans and goals.

**Authority:** Sec. 205(c), 63 Stat. 390, as amended, 40 U.S.C. 486(c).

**Subpart 1519.2—Policies**

**1519.201 Policy.**

Each program's Assistant or Associate Administrator shall be responsible for developing its socioeconomic goals on a fiscal year basis. The goals shall be developed in collaboration with the supporting Chiefs of Contracting Offices (CCOs) or Regional Acquisition Managers (RAMs), the assigned Small Business Specialist (SBS), and the Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP). The goals will be based on advance procurement plans and past performance. The goals shall be submitted to the Director of OSBP, at least thirty (30) days prior to the start of the fiscal year.

**1519.201–71 Director of the Office of Small Business Programs.**

The Director of the Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP) provides guidance and advice, as appropriate, to

Agency program and contracts officials on small business programs. The OSBP Director is the central point of contact for inquiries concerning the small business programs from industry, the Small Business Administration (SBA), and the Congress; and shall advise the Administrator and staff of such inquiries as required. The OSBP Director shall represent the Agency in the negotiations with the other Government agencies on small business programs matters.

#### 1519.201–72 Small business specialists.

(a) Small Business Specialists (SBSs) shall be appointed in writing. Regional SBSs will normally be appointed from members of staffs of the appointing authority. The appointing authorities for regional SBSs are the RAMs. The SBSs for EPA headquarters, Research Triangle Park (RTP), and Cincinnati shall be appointed by the OSBP Director. The SBS is administratively responsible directly to the appointing authority and, on matters relating to small business programs activities, receives technical guidance from the OSBP Director.

(b) A copy of each appointment and termination of all SBSs shall be forwarded to the OSBP Director. In addition to performing the duties outlined in paragraph (c) of this section that are normally performed in the activity to which assigned, the SBS shall perform such additional functions as may be prescribed from time to time in furtherance of overall small business programs goals. The SBS may be appointed on either a full- or part-time basis; however, when appointed on a part-time basis, small business duties shall take precedence over collateral responsibilities.

(c) The SBS appointed pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section shall perform the following duties as appropriate:

- (1) Maintain a program designed to locate capable small business sources for current and future acquisitions;
- (2) Coordinate inquiries and requests for advice from small business concerns on acquisition matters;
- (3) Review all proposed solicitations in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold, assure that small business concerns will be afforded an equitable opportunity to compete, and, as appropriate, initiate recommendations for small business set-asides, or offers of requirements to the Small Business Administration (SBA) for the 8(a) program, and complete EPA Form 1900–37, “Record of Procurement Request Review,” as appropriate;
- (4) Take action to assure the availability of adequate specifications

and drawings, when necessary, to obtain small business participation in an acquisition. When small business concerns cannot be given an opportunity on a current acquisition, initiate action, in writing, with appropriate technical and contracting personnel to ensure that necessary specifications and/or drawings for future acquisitions are available;

(5) Review proposed contracts for possible breakout of items or services suitable for acquisition from small business concerns;

(6) Participate in the evaluation of a prime contractor’s small business subcontracting programs;

(7) Assure that adequate records are maintained, and accurate reports prepared, concerning small business participation in acquisition programs;

(8) Make available to SBA copies of solicitations when so requested;

(9) Act as liaison with the appropriate SBA office or representative in connection with matters concerning the small business programs including set-asides.

#### 1519.202–5 [Reserved]

#### 1519.203 Mentor-protégé.

(a) The contracting officer shall insert the clause at 1552.219–70, *Mentor-Protégé Program*, in all contracts under which the contractor has been approved to participate in the EPA Mentor-Protégé Program.

(b) The contracting officer shall insert the provision at 1552.219–71, *Procedures for Participation in the EPA Mentor-Protégé Program*, in all solicitations valued at \$500,000 or more which will be cost-plus-award-fee or cost-plus fixed-fee contracts.

#### 1519.204 [Reserved]

### Subpart 1519.5—Set-Asides for Small Business

#### 1519.501 Review of acquisitions.

(a) If no Small Business Administration (SBA) representative is available, the Small Business Specialist (SBS) shall initiate recommendations to the contracting officer for small business set-asides with respect to individual acquisitions or classes of acquisitions or portions thereof.

(b) When the SBS has recommended that all, or a portion, of an individual acquisition or class of acquisitions be set aside for small business, the contracting officer shall:

- (1) Promptly concur in the recommendation; or
- (2) Promptly disapprove the recommendation, stating in writing the reasons for disapproval. If the

contracting officer disapproves the recommendation of the SBS, the SBS may appeal to the appropriate appointing authority, whose decision shall be final.

#### 1519.503 Class set-aside for construction.

(a) Each proposed acquisition for construction estimated to cost between \$10,000 and \$1,000,000 shall be set-aside for exclusive small business participation. Such set-asides shall be considered to be unilateral small business set-asides, and shall be withdrawn in accordance with the procedure of FAR 19.506 only if found not to serve the best interest of the Government.

(b) Small business set-aside preferences for construction acquisitions in excess of \$1,000,000 shall be considered on a case-by-case basis.

### Subpart 1519.7—The Small Business Subcontracting Program

#### 1519.705–2 Determining the need for a subcontract plan.

One copy of the determination required by FAR 19.705–2(c) shall be placed in the contract file and one copy provided to the Director of the Office of Small Business Programs.

#### 1519.705–4 Reviewing the subcontracting plan.

In determining the acceptability of a proposed subcontracting plan, the contracting officer shall obtain advice and recommendations from the Office of Small Business Programs, which shall in turn coordinate review by the Small Business Administration Procurement Center Representative (if any).

#### 1519.705–70 Synopsis of contracts containing Pub. L. 95–507 subcontracting plans and goals.

The synopsis of contract award, where applicable, shall include a statement identifying the contract as one containing Public Law 95–507 subcontracting plans and goals.

## PART 1552—SOLICITATION PROVISIONS AND CONTRACT CLAUSES

- 2. The authority citation for part 1552 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C 301; Sec. 205(c), 63 Stat. 390, as amended, 40 U.S.C. 486(c); and 41 U.S.C. 418b.

- 3. Revise section 1552.219–70 to read as follows:

#### 1552.219–70 Mentor-Protégé Program.

As prescribed in 1519.203(a), insert the following clause:

**Mentor-Protégé Program (JUL 2016)**

(a) The Contractor has been approved to participate in the EPA Mentor-Protégé Program. The purpose of the Program is to increase the participation of small disadvantaged businesses (SDBs) as subcontractors, suppliers, and ultimately as prime contractors; establish a mutually beneficial relationship with SDBs and EPA's large business prime contractors (although small businesses may participate as Mentors); develop the technical and corporate administrative expertise of SDBs which will ultimately lead to greater success in competition for contract opportunities; promote the economic stability of SDBs; and aid in the achievement of goals for the use of SDBs in subcontracting activities under EPA contracts.

(b) The Contractor shall submit an executed Mentor-Protégé agreement to the Contracting Officer, with a copy to the Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP) or the Small Business Specialist, within thirty (30) calendar days after the effective date of the contract. The Contracting Officer will notify the Contractor within thirty (30) calendar days from its submission if the agreement is not accepted.

(c) The Contractor as a Mentor under the Program agrees to fulfill the terms of its agreement(s) with the Protégé firm(s).

(d) If the Contractor or Protégé firm is suspended or debarred while performing under an approved Mentor-Protégé agreement, the Contractor shall promptly give notice of the suspension or debarment to the OSBP and the Contracting Officer.

(e) Costs incurred by the Contractor in fulfilling their agreement(s) with the Protégé firm(s) are not reimbursable on a direct basis under this contract.

(f) In an attachment to Individual Subcontract Reports (ISR), the Contractor shall report on the progress made under their Mentor-Protégé agreement(s), providing:

- (1) The number of agreements in effect; and
- (2) The progress in achieving the developmental assistance objectives under each agreement, including whether the objectives of the agreement have been met, problem areas encountered, and any other appropriate information.

(End of clause)

■ 4. Revise section 1552.219–71 to read as follows:

**1552.219–71 Procedures for Participation in the EPA Mentor-Protégé Program.**

As prescribed in 1519.203(b), insert the following provision:

**Procedures for Participation in the EPA Mentor-Protégé Program (JUL 2016)**

(a) This provision sets forth the procedures for participation in the EPA Mentor-Protégé Program (hereafter referred to as the Program). The purpose of the Program is to increase the participation of concerns owned and/or controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals as subcontractors, suppliers, and ultimately as prime contractors; to establish a mutually beneficial relationship between these

concerns and EPA's large business prime contractors (although small businesses may participate as Mentors); to develop the technical and corporate administrative expertise of these concerns, which will ultimately lead to greater success in competition for contract opportunities; to promote the economic stability of these concerns; and to aid in the achievement of goals for the use of these concerns in subcontracting activities under EPA contracts. If the successful offeror is accepted into the Program they shall serve as a Mentor to a Protégé firm(s), providing developmental assistance in accordance with an agreement with the Protégé firm(s).

(b) To participate as a Mentor, the offeror must receive approval in accordance with paragraph (h) of this section.

(c) A Protégé must be a concern owned and/or controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals within the meaning of section 8(a)(5) and (6) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(a)(5) and (6)), including historically black colleges and universities. Further, in accordance with Public Law 102–389 (the 1993 Appropriation Act), for EPA's contracting purposes, economically and socially disadvantaged individuals shall be deemed to include women.

(d) Where there may be a concern regarding the Protégé firm's eligibility to participate in the program, the protégé's eligibility will be determined by the contracting officer after the SBA has completed any formal determinations.

(e) The offeror shall submit an application in accordance with paragraph (k) of this section as part of its proposal which shall include as a minimum the following information:

(1) A statement and supporting documentation that the offeror is currently performing under at least one active Federal contract with an approved subcontracting plan and is eligible for the award of Federal contracts;

(2) A summary of the offeror's historical and recent activities and accomplishments under any disadvantaged subcontracting programs. The offeror is encouraged to include any initiatives or outreach information believed pertinent to approval as a Mentor firm;

(3) The total dollar amount (including the value of all option periods or quantities) of EPA contracts and subcontracts received by the offeror during its two preceding fiscal years. (Show prime contracts and subcontracts separately per year);

(4) The total dollar amount and percentage of subcontract awards made to all concerns owned and/or controlled by disadvantaged individuals under EPA contracts during its two preceding fiscal years.

(5) The number and total dollar amount of subcontract awards made to the identified Protégé firm(s) during the two preceding fiscal years (if any).

(f) In addition to the information required by paragraph (e) of this section, the offeror shall submit as a part of the application the following information for each proposed Mentor-Protégé relationship:

(1) Information on the offeror's ability to provide developmental assistance to the

identified Protégé firm and how the assistance will potentially increase contracting and subcontracting opportunities for the Protégé firm.

(2) A letter of intent indicating that both the Mentor firm and the Protégé firm intend to enter into a contractual relationship under which the Protégé will perform as a subcontractor under the contract resulting from this solicitation and that the firms will negotiate a Mentor-Protégé agreement. The letter of intent must be signed by both parties and contain the following information:

(i) The name, address and phone number of both parties;

(ii) The Protégé firm's business classification, based upon the NAICS code(s) which represents the contemplated supplies or services to be provided by the Protégé firm to the Mentor firm;

(iii) A statement that the Protégé firm meets the eligibility criteria;

(iv) A preliminary assessment of the developmental needs of the Protégé firm and the proposed developmental assistance the Mentor firm envisions providing the Protégé. The offeror shall address those needs and how their assistance will enhance the Protégé. The offeror shall develop a schedule to assess the needs of the Protégé and establish criteria to evaluate the success in the Program;

(v) A statement that if the offeror or Protégé firm is suspended or debarred while performing under an approved Mentor-Protégé agreement the offeror shall promptly give notice of the suspension or debarment to the EPA Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP) and the Contracting Officer. The statement shall require the Protégé firm to notify the Contractor if it is suspended or debarred.

(g) The application will be evaluated on the extent to which the offeror's proposal addresses the items listed in paragraphs (e) and (f) of this section. To the maximum extent possible, the application should be limited to not more than 10 single pages, double spaced. The offeror may identify more than one Protégé in its application.

(h) If the offeror is determined to be in the competitive range, or is awarded a contract without discussions, the offeror will be advised by the Contracting Officer whether their application is approved or rejected. The Contracting Officer, if necessary, may request additional information in connection with the offeror's submission of its revised or best and final offer. If the successful offeror has submitted an approved application, they shall comply with the clause titled "Mentor-Protégé Program."

(i) Subcontracts of \$1,000,000 or less awarded to firms approved as Protégés under the Program are exempt from the requirements for competition set forth in FAR 44.202–2(a)(5), and 52.244–5(b). However, price reasonableness must still be determined and the requirements in FAR 44.202–2(a)(8) for cost and price analysis continue to apply.

(j) Costs incurred by the offeror in fulfilling their agreement(s) with a Protégé firm(s) are not reimbursable as a direct cost under the contract. Unless EPA is the responsible audit agency under FAR 42.703–1, offerors are

encouraged to enter into an advance agreement with their responsible audit agency on the treatment of such costs when determining indirect cost rates. Where EPA is the responsible audit agency, these costs will be considered in determining indirect cost rates.

(k) *Submission of Application and Questions Concerning the Program.* The application for the Program shall be

submitted to the Contracting Officer, and to the EPA Office of Small Business Programs at the following address: Socioeconomic Business Program Officer, Office of Small Business Programs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, William Jefferson Clinton Building (1230T), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20460, Telephone: (202) 566-2075, Fax: (202) 565-2473.

(End of provision)

**1552.219-72 through 1552.219-74  
[Removed and Reserved]**

■ 5. Remove and reserve sections 1552.219-72, 1552.219-73, and 1552.219-74.

[FR Doc. 2016-11378 Filed 5-12-16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6560-50-P**