

**GUIDELINES FOR PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS**

**1. PURPOSE**

These Guidelines for Procurement Contracts (“Guidelines”) set forth the policy of the Authority regarding the solicitation and awarding of procurement contracts. The provisions of Article 4-C of the Economic Development Law, §§ 2879 and 2879-a of the Public Authorities Law, Articles 15-A and 17-B of the Executive Law and §§ 139-j and 139-k of the State Finance Law were considered in developing these Guidelines. Departments and facilities may adopt further procedures to implement these Guidelines.

**2. DEFINITIONS**

- A. “Procurement Contracts” are contracts for the acquisition of goods and/or services in the actual or estimated amount of \$5,000 or more. Such goods and/or services are those necessary to support the Authority’s White Plains office, facilities, operations and maintenance (“O&M”) and capital projects, including but not limited to goods such as office supplies, major electrical equipment, construction and maintenance work and services as more fully described in Section 2.C below.
- B. “Non-Procurement Contracts” include contracts for energy with or without environmental attributes included, capacity, ancillary services, transmission, distribution or related services in support of providing service to Authority customers; contracts for differences; financial hedge contracts (including but not limited to swaps, calls, puts or swap options) and credit rating services. In addition, Non-Procurement Contracts include direct placement of advertisements with radio, television, print and electronic media, periodicals, subscriptions, reference materials or professional research tools, written materials, fees or tuition associated with continuing education courses, training courses, conferences, seminars and symposiums, funding agreements, co-funding agreements, grants or memberships in various industry groups, professional societies or similar cooperative associations, or any cooperative projects and procurement activities conducted or sponsored by such organizations in which the Authority participates.
- C. “Services Contracts” are Procurement Contracts for services of a consulting, professional or technical nature provided by outside consultants/contractors (individuals, partnerships or firms who are not and do not employ officers or employees of the Authority) for a fee or other compensation. Services Contracts comprise three specific types: Personal Services, Non-Personal Services and Construction. Personal Services include, but are not limited to: accounting, architectural, engineering, financial advisory, legal, public relations, planning,

management consulting, surveying, training (when specifically developed by consultant for the Authority) and construction management. Non-Personal Services include, but are not limited to: skilled or unskilled temporary personnel, including clerical office staff, technicians or engineers working under Authority supervision; maintenance, repairs, and printing services. Construction consists of craft labor and other services utilizing laborers and/or mechanics not otherwise considered Non-Personal Services.

Note: Use of such services may be appropriate (1) when a consultant/contractor possesses special experience, background or expertise; (2) when there is insufficient Authority staff and retention of a consultant/contractor is more appropriate or economical than hiring additional permanent staff; (3) to provide independent external review or a second opinion; (4) to meet unusual schedule requirements or emergencies or (5) for a combination of these factors.

- D. “Goods” include equipment, material and supplies of any kind. Procurement Contracts that include both equipment and services may be classified as “Equipment,” where 60% or more of the total projected contract value will be for the purchase of equipment, material or supplies.
- E. “Evaluation of Proposals,” as further set forth in Section 4 below, includes as evaluating factors the Authority’s consideration of a bidder’s skill, judgment and business integrity.
- F. “Contact” is any oral, written or electronic communication with the Authority under circumstances where a reasonable person would infer that the communication was intended to influence the procurement.
- G. “Relative” is any person living in the same household as the Authority employee and any person who is a direct descendant of the Authority employee’s grandparents or the spouse of such descendant, as referred to in Subsection 9.E.1 of these Guidelines.
- H. “Minority- and Women-owned Business Enterprise” (“MWBE”) is defined as any New York State-certified business enterprise at least 51% of which is owned by black persons, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asians, Pacific Islanders and/or women, and as further described in the Authority’s Supplier Diversity Program Policy and Procedures and Executive Law Article 15-A, and pursuant to the definition found in Executive Law § 310.
- I. “Small Business” (or Small Business Enterprise, “SBE”), pursuant to Executive Law § 310 and as used in these Guidelines, unless otherwise indicated, is a business that has a significant business presence (as defined at 5 NYCRR 140.1) in New York State, is independently owned and operated, not dominant in its field and employs not more than 300 people.

- J. “Single Source” is a procurement in which the Authority, upon written findings setting forth material and substantial reasons, may award a contract (or amendment to a contract) to one offerer over another that can supply the goods or services.
- K. “Sole Source” is a procurement in which only one offerer is capable of supplying the required goods or services.
- L. “Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business” (“SDVOB”) is a business enterprise, including a sole proprietorship, partnership, limited liability company or corporation that is at least 51% owned by one or more service-disabled veterans; in which such ownership is real, substantial and continuing, and also has and exercises the authority to control independently the day-to-day business decisions of the enterprise; is a Small Business and is certified by the New York State Office of General Services, as further set forth in Article 17-B of the Executive Law.
- M. “Discretionary Purchase” is a procurement made below statutorily established monetary threshold amounts (e.g., not exceeding \$200,000 for the purchase of commodities and/or services from Small Businesses or NYS-certified MWBE or SDVOB firms, and as further set forth in Sections 3.D and 3.K.5-7) and at the discretion of the Authority, without the need for a formal competitive bid process. For the purpose of determining whether a purchase is within the discretionary thresholds, the aggregate amount of all purchases of the same commodities and/or services to be made within the 12-month period commencing on the date of purchase shall be considered. A change to or a renewal of a discretionary purchase shall not be permitted if the change or renewal would bring the reasonably expected aggregate amount of all purchases of the same commodities and/or services from the same provider within the 12-month period commencing on the date of the first purchase to an amount greater than \$200,000, pursuant to State Finance Law § 163.

### 3. **SOLICITATION REQUIREMENTS**

- A. Preparation of the solicitation of proposals for Procurement Contracts is the joint responsibility of the White Plains Procurement Department, or the facilities’ Procurement Departments, and the initiating department. Except as otherwise authorized by these Guidelines, a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) or Request for Quotations (“RFQ”) will be made available to a minimum of three providers and/or firms (if available) for purchases valued under \$50,000 and a minimum of five providers and/or firms (if available) for purchases valued at \$50,000 and greater, commensurate with the magnitude and nature of the goods and/or services, and the schedule for performance. Whenever possible and practicable, notification of the availability of an RFP and RFQ on the Authority’s Procurement website should be sent to more than five providers.

- B. Prospective bidders on Procurement Contracts may be prequalified by invitation. In such cases, proposals are requested only from those providers and/or firms whose prequalification submittals demonstrate sufficient ability and competence (including, but not limited to, the bidder's skill, judgment and business integrity) to supply the particular goods and/or perform the particular services required.
- C. The Authority may withdraw any pending solicitation (including but not limited to RFPs and RFQs) at any time, for cause or no cause. Any person or entity submitting any responsive document to the Authority does so at its own cost or expense and will not be reimbursed by the Authority for the preparation of any responsive document, unless otherwise agreed to in writing and signed by an authorized Authority representative.
- D. In order to promote the use of Minority- and Women-owned Business Enterprises ("MWBEs"), Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses ("SDVOBs") and Small Business Enterprises ("SBEs"), the Authority will solicit offers from such firms known to have experience in the type of goods and/or services to be provided, regardless of the type of contract. For the purpose of these Guidelines, the definitions of NYS-certified MWBE or SDVOB firms and SBEs are set forth in Sections 2.H, 2.L and 2.I, respectively.

To foster increased use of MWBEs, SDVOBs and SBEs, a single proposal may be sought, negotiated and accepted for discretionary purchases of goods and/or services not exceeding \$200,000, in the aggregate including all amendments, from a NYS-certified MWBE or SDVOB firm or an SBE that offers a reasonable price for such goods and/or services. The award of such proposal requires the written approval of the Vice President of Procurement. Any subsequent alteration to the accepted proposal, including, but not limited to, change orders, amendments, or supplemental terms shall also necessitate the written approval of the Vice President of Procurement. Furthermore, the award of such procurement contracts will be noticed on the *Contract Reporter* website, as further set forth in Section 3.H.

- E. It is the policy of New York State to promote the participation of and maximize the opportunities for New York State Business Enterprises and New York State residents in Procurement Contracts. The Authority will endeavor to promote such participation and to comply with the applicable statutory provisions. In furtherance of Public Authorities Law § 2879, the following definitions and actions apply:
  - 1. "New York State Business Enterprise" is a business enterprise, including a sole proprietorship, partnership or corporation that offers for sale or lease or other form of exchange, goods sought by the Authority that are substantially manufactured, produced or assembled in New York State or services, excluding construction services, sought by the Authority that are substantially performed within New York State as further described in Public Authorities Law § 2879.

2. “New York State resident” is a person who maintains a fixed, permanent and principal home in New York State to which such person, whenever temporarily located, always intends to return as further described in Public Authorities Law § 2879.
  3. “Foreign Business Enterprise” is a business enterprise, including a sole proprietorship, partnership or corporation, that offers for sale, lease or other form of exchange, goods sought by the Authority that are substantially produced outside New York State, or services other than construction services, sought by the Authority that are substantially performed outside New York State as further described in Public Authorities Law § 2879. For purposes of construction services, Foreign Business Enterprise is a business enterprise, including a sole proprietorship, partnership or corporation, which has its principal place of business outside New York State.
  4. “Discriminatory Jurisdiction” is any country, nation, province, state or political subdivision thereof which employs a preference or price distorting mechanism to the detriment of, or otherwise discriminates against, a New York State Business Enterprise in the procurement of goods and/or services by the same or a non-governmental entity influenced by the same.
  5. Pursuant to Public Authorities Law § 2879, the Authority shall not enter into a contract with a Foreign Business Enterprise which has its principal place of business in a Discriminatory Jurisdiction contained on the list prepared by the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Economic Development (“DED”). The provisions of this section may be waived by the Authority’s President and CEO if the CEO determines in writing that it is in the best interests of the Authority to do so, as further set forth in the above-referenced law.
  6. Pursuant to Public Authorities Law § 2879, the Authority will, where feasible, make use of the stock item specification forms of New York State manufacturers, producers and/or assemblers, as made available by the Commissioner of General Services, for any Procurement Contract for the purchase of goods.
- F. Goods and/or services may be procured pursuant to Procurement Contracts let by any department, agency, officer, political subdivision or instrumentality of the State (e.g., the New York State Office of General Services (“OGS”)) or Federal government (e.g., General Services Administration (“GSA”)) or any city or municipality where the White Plains Procurement Department, or facility Procurement Departments, and the initiating department determine that a reasonable potential exists for cost savings or other benefits to the Authority and

have approved the specifications and proposed terms and conditions of such contract.

Certain Procurement Contracts established by the OGS or GSA require that authorized users conduct a “mini-bid” (i.e., an abbreviated supplemental competitive bid procurement process) among prequalified bidders identified in such established contracts. Certain other Procurement Contracts issued by the Authority (e.g., for on-call consulting or contracting services) may also utilize a mini-bid process, typically, in cases of a multiple award, where a contract is awarded to more than one bidder that meets the Authority’s bid requirements, in order to satisfy multiple factors and needs as set forth in the bid document. Such mini-bids shall be conducted by the Authority’s Procurement staff (or on behalf of the Authority by an Implementation Contractor) where applicable and practicable. Within a said multiple award group, work may be assigned to a specific firm without conducting a mini-bid, under certain circumstances, including but not limited to: where such firm possesses specialized expertise and is uniquely qualified to perform such work; where time constraints, emergency or other critical conditions exist or geographic location is of primary consideration in order to meet schedule requirements, respond to emergent issues or otherwise meet the Authority’s needs; or when the work scope is below a specified monetary threshold. The decision to assign work without conducting a mini-bid shall typically be made jointly by the Procurement and initiating departments, and shall be documented for the procurement record.

- G. Solicitations will include a scope of work that defines the goods required and/or the services to be performed; milestone dates; the Authority’s Supplier Diversity Program and SDVOB requirements, if applicable; all other applicable Authority requirements and any special methods or limitations that the Authority chooses to govern the work. Telephone solicitation, usually for procurements valued at less than \$50,000, may be used where time constraints do not permit issuance of an RFP, where issuance of an RFP is otherwise impracticable or for goods that are catalog items or do not require a detailed bill of materials or specification. All solicitations made by telephone shall be documented and made part of the Procurement Record.
  
- H. For all Procurement Contracts with a value equal to or greater than \$50,000 (except for those contracts noted below), the Authority will, prior to soliciting proposals, submit the following information to the Commissioner of the DED to be included on the New York State *Contract Reporter* website, ([www.nyscr.ny.gov](http://www.nyscr.ny.gov)) (unless such posting would serve no useful purpose): (1) the Authority’s name and address; (2) the solicitation number; (3) a brief description of the goods and/or services sought, the location where goods are to be delivered and/or services provided and the contract term; (4) the address where bids or proposals are to be submitted; (5) the due date for bids or proposals; (6) a description of any eligibility or qualification requirements or preferences; (7) a statement as to whether the contract requirements may be fulfilled by a subcontracting, joint venture or coproduction arrangement; (8) any other information deemed useful to potential

contractors; (9) the name, address, and phone number of the person to be contacted for additional information and (10) a statement as to whether the goods and/or services sought have, in the immediately preceding three-year period, been supplied by a Foreign Business Enterprise. Such information will be submitted to the DED Commissioner in accordance with the schedule set forth by the DED. The due date for bids or proposals will be a minimum of 15 business days after the date of publication of such notice on the *Contract Reporter* website, except where a shorter period is specifically authorized by law. For Procurement Contracts resulting from a Request for Proposal process, the Authority will submit the results of the bid opening, including the names of firms submitting proposals and the name/s of the awardee/s, for inclusion on the *Contract Reporter* website. For all other Procurement Contracts, the name of the awardee will be submitted.

This section 3.H does not apply to (i) Procurement Contracts awarded on an emergency basis as described below in Section 3.M, (ii) Procurement Contracts being rebid or re-solicited for substantially the same goods and/or services, within 45 business days after the original due date, and/or (iii) Procurement Contracts awarded to not-for-profit human services providers. (See Article 4-C, Economic Development Law)

Certain Procurement Contracts may require purchases: (1) on a spot market; (2) needed prior to the time limits for noticing on the Contract Reporter website or that do not lend themselves to the solicitation process. Such purchases are exempted from the noticing requirements of Article 4-C of the Economic Development Law subject to the approval of the Vice President of Procurement, and/or the head of the initiating department that does not complete its procurements through the Procurement Department. From time to time or where appropriate, generic notices may be published on the Contract Reporter website notifying potential bidders of such opportunities and soliciting qualification statements for consideration by the Authority.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, submittal of a notice / announcement of award for inclusion on the *Contract Reporter* website is required for Procurement Contracts with a value of \$50,000 or more awarded on a sole source or single source basis, including such discretionary contracts not exceeding \$200,000 awarded to Small Businesses or NYS-certified SDVOB or MWBE firms, or for the purchase of goods and/or technology that are recycled or remanufactured, or for the purchase of food, including milk and milk products that are grown, produced or harvested in New York State, and certain other Procurement Contracts exempt from the general advertising requirement for procurement contract bidding opportunities, in accordance with the afore-referenced law. Such notice shall specify the name of the awardee.

- I. In order to further increase participation of service-disabled veterans in New York State's contracting opportunities, the Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business ("SDVOB") Act was signed into law on May 12, 2014. The SDVOB program

provides for eligible Veteran business owners to become certified as a New York State Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business. The Division of Service-Disabled Veterans' Business Development within the New York State Office of General Services ("OGS") is responsible for certifying eligible SDVOBs, assisting agencies and authorities in complying with the law, and promoting SDVOB participation in the state's procurement activities. Under this program, contracts may be awarded on a non-competitive basis to NYS-certified SDVOBs for discretionary purchases not exceeding \$200,000 in the aggregate. Alternately, contracts may be competitively bid exclusively among NYS-certified SDVOBs regardless of value, and advertised as such on the *Contract Reporter* website.

- J. Proposals for certain Services Contracts may also be solicited by competitive search, as follows:

For contracts where the scope of work cannot be well defined or quantified, or where selection requires evaluation of factors such as breadth and depth of experience in a unique or highly specialized field and suitability as an Authority representative, a "competitive search" will be conducted to determine which consultants are most qualified, for reasonable compensation terms, to perform the work. Depending on market conditions, at least five potential sources should be evaluated; if there are fewer than five sources, all sources should be evaluated. The White Plains Procurement Department or the appropriate facility Procurement Department will work with the initiating department to gather information from potential sources, that will include a description of the consultant/firm's qualifications, résumés of key personnel, past experience and proposed billing rates.

- K. A Procurement Contract may be awarded on a Sole Source, Single Source, or other non-competitive basis where:

1. Compatibility of equipment, accessories or spare or replacement parts is the paramount consideration.
2. Services are required to extend or complement a prior procurement and it is impracticable or uneconomic to have a source other than the original source continue the work.
3. A sole supplier's item is needed for trial use or testing, or a proprietary item is sought for which there is only one source.
4. Other circumstances or work requirements exist that cause only one source to be available to supply the required goods and/or services.
5. The contract is awarded to a Small Business or to a NYS-certified SDVOB or MWBE firm for discretionary purchases not exceeding \$200,000, pursuant to Section 3.D and as further set forth in Section 2.M.
6. The contract is for the discretionary purchase of goods and/or technology that are recycled or remanufactured, in an amount not

exceeding \$200,000, as further set forth in Section 2.M and subject to the approvals stated in Section 3.D.

7. The contract is for the discretionary purchase of commodities that are food, including milk and milk products, which are grown, produced or harvested in New York State, in an amount not exceeding \$200,000, as further set forth in Section 2.M and subject to the approvals stated in Section 3.D.
  8. Purchases made on a Sole Source, Single Source, or other non-competitive basis are subject to Public Authorities Law § 2879-a, 2 NYCRR Part 206, entitled “Comptroller Approval of Contracts Made by State Authorities” (“Comptroller Regulations”) and the State Authority Contract Manual.
- L. Pursuant to Public Authorities Law § 2879-a, the Comptroller Regulations and the State Authority Contract Manual, the Authority may be required to submit certain contracts to the New York State Comptroller for approval that are awarded on a Sole Source, Single Source, or other non-competitive basis for the purchase of goods and/or services in an amount in excess of \$1 million, and shall notify the successful bidder therefor. Such contracts or contract amendments shall not be valid and enforceable unless approved by the Comptroller or until 90 days have elapsed from such submission without action by the Comptroller, as further set forth in the referenced law and regulations.
- M. Subject to the Authority’s Expenditure Authorization Procedures (“EAPs”), and Public Authorities Law § 2879-a, the Comptroller Regulations and the State Authority Contract Manual, a Procurement Contract may be awarded without following the solicitation requirements that ordinarily apply (but using such competitive selection procedures as are practicable under the circumstances) where emergency conditions exist, such as:
1. A threat to the health or safety of the public or Authority employees or workers.
  2. Proper functioning of the Authority facilities or construction or operating projects requires adherence to a schedule that does not permit time for an ordinary procurement solicitation.
- N. Whenever an initiating department determines that a Procurement Contract should be awarded on a Single Source, Sole Source, or an emergency basis, the department head or other authorized equivalent per the EAPs will provide a written statement explaining the reasons therefor to the White Plains Procurement Department or the appropriate facility Procurement Department. The award of such Procurement Contracts, regardless of value, requires the written approval of the Vice President of Procurement, except as noted in Section 3.H.

- O. Every potential Sole Source or Single Source contract with a value of \$1 million or more must be approved by the President and CEO or the COO prior to processing by the Procurement Department.
- P. In furtherance of Public Authorities Law § 2800, when a procurement is made on a non-competitive basis, and the price for goods or services purchased exceeds fair market value, prior to making the purchase, the Business Unit Head of the initiating department shall provide a detailed explanation of the justification for making the purchase and a certification shall be signed by the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the Authority stating that they have reviewed the terms of such purchase and determined that it complies with applicable law and procurement guidelines. The following definition shall apply: “Fair Market Value” shall mean the estimated dollar amount that a willing buyer would pay to a willing seller for property in an arms-length transaction in the appropriate marketplace and under similar circumstances. Fair market value may be determined by internal appraisals, industry-recognized sources, or other methods of valuation generally accepted in the industry in which such property is utilized, as may be approved by the Vice President of Procurement or authorized designee.
- Q. It is the policy of New York State to discourage improper communications intended to influence a governmental procurement. The Authority will endeavor to control such practices and will comply with the applicable statutory provisions. In furtherance of the State Finance Law §§ 139-j and 139-k, the following definitions shall apply:
1. A “Procurement Contract” is any contract or other agreement for a commodity, service, technology, public work, construction, revenue contract, the purchase, sale or lease of real property or an acquisition or granting of other interest in real property that is the subject of a governmental procurement, with an estimated annualized expenditure in excess of \$15,000. Grants, contracts between the Authority and non-profit organizations pursuant to Article 11-B of the State Finance Law, intergovernmental agreements, railroad and utility force accounts, utility relocation project agreements or orders and eminent domain transactions are not Procurement Contracts.
  2. The “Restricted Period” is the period of time commencing with the earliest written notice, advertisement or solicitation of a request for proposal, invitation for bids, or solicitation of proposals, or any other method for soliciting a response from bidders/contractors intending to result in a procurement contract with the Authority and ending with the final contract award.

3. The Authority shall designate a person or persons who may be contacted, with respect to each Authority procurement. The bidders/contractors or persons acting on their behalf, shall only contact the Authority's designated person or persons where a reasonable person would infer that the communication was intended to influence the procurement during the Restricted Period.
- R. In furtherance of the Authority's commitment to ensure transparency and accountability of its operations, every member, officer or employee of the Authority who is contacted by a lobbyist is required to make a contemporaneous record of such contact, pursuant to Public Authorities Law § 2987 and as further set forth in the Authority's Corporate Policy regarding this matter.
  - S. Project Sunlight (Chapter 399, Part A, Section 4 of the Laws of 2011) requires the Authority to record in a database maintained by the New York State Office of General Services certain appearances between the Authority and individuals, firms or other entities (excluding elected officials and representatives of federal, state and local agencies and authorities) relating to the procurement of a contract, with a value of \$25,000 or more, for real property, goods or services. Appearances are defined as an interaction through an in-person meeting or a video conference between covered individuals. Appearances related to emergency procurements and disposal of property through public auctions are excluded, as are appearances that take place during the formal "Restricted Period." Covered individuals at the Authority means an employee who has the power to exercise discretion in procurement matters or advises someone who exercises such discretion. A covered individual outside of the Authority means both "external" (e.g., a lobbyist) and "internal" (e.g., sales representative) representatives of an entity, individuals appearing on behalf of him/herself, advocacy groups or organizations or entities representing the interests or concerns of the organization or entity or of its members. All such appearances must be promptly reported to the Authority's Ethics and Compliance Office for recording in the Project Sunlight database.

#### **4. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS**

- A. Proposals will be evaluated using a fair and equitable comparison of all aspects of the proposals against the specifics of the solicitation and against each other, including an analysis of each offer that considers: the quality of the goods and/or the competence of the bidder (including, but not limited to, the bidder's skill, judgment and business integrity), the technical merit of the proposal and the price for which the goods and/or services are to be supplied.

In the event the price submitted by the bidder recommended to be awarded a contract exceeds the cost estimated, where a cost estimate is provided on the solicitation at the time of bidding, the initiating department will prepare a written explanation to be reviewed by the White Plains Procurement Department and/or the appropriate facility Procurement Department and appropriate managers as stipulated in the EAPs. The following options should be considered: (1) rejecting the bids, resoliciting proposals and/or modifying the scope of work; (2) revising the cost estimate and proceeding with the contract award and (3) negotiating with the low bidder(s), as determined by the Vice President of Procurement or equivalent(s) or designee, to reduce the price quoted. Factors to be considered in reaching the proper course of action include but are not limited to: the effects of a delay on both the schedule and the cost of the specific capital construction project or outage at an operating facility, the magnitude of the contract, available bidders, the ability to attract additional competition if the solicitation is reissued, and the accuracy of the original cost estimate. The recommended course of action and the reasons therefor must be fully documented in a memorandum for consideration by the appropriate level of management prior to approval and placed in the appropriate procurement file.

- B. Factors to be considered in evaluating the goods and/or services to be supplied and/or the competence of the bidder are: previous experience (including applicable experience in New York State and evaluations from other clients for whom the bidder has provided goods and/or services); the abilities and experience of the personnel to be assigned to the Authority's work and the ability to provide any needed advanced techniques such as simulation and modeling; and overall, the bidder's skill, judgment and business integrity. The approach proposed in meeting the exact requirements of the scope of work will be given consideration in evaluating the technical merit of the proposal, together with a well-organized task structure, the ability to timely supply the goods and/or perform the proposed services and the ability to meet Supplier Diversity Program goals, if any. The need to purchase the goods from and/or subcontract performance of services to others will be evaluated as to their effects on cost, as well as quality, schedule and overall performance.

Another Supplier Diversity Program factor to be considered in evaluating proposals may involve an assessment of the bidder's diversity practices, where applicable. Pursuant to Article 15-A of the Executive Law, diversity practices are the contractor's practices and policies with respect to utilizing NYS-certified MWBEs in contracts as subcontractors and suppliers, and entering into partnerships, joint ventures or other similar arrangements with NYS-certified MWBEs. A contractor's diversity practices may be assessed when: (1) a procurement is awarded on the basis of "Best Value" as described in Section 4.D. (but *not* when a procurement is awarded based upon "lowest price"); (2) the anticipated award is \$250,000 or greater; and (3) such assessment is practicable, feasible and appropriate. Such assessment shall not permit the automatic rejection of a bid or procurement contract proposal based on lack of adherence to diversity practices.

- C. For Services Contracts (as defined in Section 2.C of these Guidelines), the technical merits of the proposals and the experience and capabilities of the bidders will be the primary factors in determining the individual or firm to be awarded the contract, provided that the price for performing such work is reasonable and competitive.
- D. For Procurement Contracts other than Personal Services (as defined in Section 2.C of these Guidelines), the award should generally be made to the lowest-priced firm submitting a proposal that meets the commercial and technical requirements of the bid documents. (See also Section 4.F regarding award to “other than low bidder”.)

As a best practice and pursuant to State Finance Law § 163, the Authority will be transitioning to a “Best Value” basis for awarding contracts for services to the offerer that optimizes quality, cost and efficiency, among responsive and responsible offerers. Such basis shall reflect, wherever possible, objective and quantifiable analysis and may also identify a quantitative factor for offerers that are Small Businesses or NYS-certified SDVOB or MWBE firms.

- E. Pursuant to § 139-k of the State Finance Law, the Authority shall not award a Procurement Contract (as defined in Subsection 3.Q.1 of these Guidelines) to a bidder/contractor who fails to provide timely, accurate and complete responses to inquiries about past determinations of non-responsibility (unless awarding the contract is necessary to protect public property or public health or safety and the bidder/contractor is the only source capable of supplying the required article of procurement within the necessary timeframe.)

A bidder’s/contractor’s knowing and willful violation of the Authority’s policy providing for certain procurement disclosures shall result in a determination of non-responsibility of such bidder/contractor pursuant to State Finance Law §§ 139-j and 139-k only.

More than one determination of non-responsibility due to violations of State Finance Law § 139-k in a four-year period shall render a bidder/contractor ineligible to submit bids for four years from the second determination of non-responsibility.

- F. An award to “other than low bidder” can be made only with the approval of appropriate management as stipulated in the EAPs, and should be based on such a proposal providing a clear advantage to the Authority over the lower-priced proposal. Factors justifying an “other than low bidder” award may include, but are not limited to: improved delivery schedules that will reduce outages; longer warranty periods; improved efficiency over the usable life of the equipment; reduced maintenance costs; the bidders’ financial resources or the ability to meet or exceed Supplier Diversity Program and SDVOB goals; and overall, the bidder’s skill, judgment and business integrity.

- G. The specifications set forth in any solicitation prepared under these Guidelines were based upon information available at the time of the preparation of the solicitation. Thus, the Authority may diverge from the specifications of any solicitation if, after review of the proposals responsive to such solicitation, the Authority deems it prudent in light of its experience, the circumstances of the solicitation and/or potential cost savings.

## **5. RECOMMENDATION OF AWARD**

- A. A recommendation for approval of a proposed award of a Procurement Contract is usually prepared in the form of a memorandum or e-mail by the department requiring the goods and/or services. The recommendation must include an evaluation of proposals as specified in Article 4 above, as well as proposed specific compensation terms that provide a clear breakdown of cost factors and methods of calculation, including, as applicable:
  - 1. Lump sum and/or unit prices for equipment and construction work.
  - 2. Hourly or daily rates for personnel.
  - 3. Markups for payroll taxes, fringe benefits, overhead and fees, if the proposal is based on reimbursement of actual payroll costs.
  - 4. Terms for reimbursement of direct out-of-pocket expenses, such as travel and living costs, telephone charges, services of others and computer services.
  - 5. Provisions, if any, for bonus/penalty arrangements based on target person-hours and/or target schedule.
- B. The recommendation will also review any substantive exceptions to commercial and technical requirements of a price inquiry, RFP, RFQ or bidding documents, including but not limited to payment terms, warranties and bond requirements, if any, as well as Supplier Diversity Program requirements, as applicable.

## **6. AWARD OF CONTRACT**

- A. Services Contracts to be performed for a period of more than 12 months are approved and reviewed annually by the Trustees. Services Contracts for a period of less than 12 months are approved by authorized designees in accordance with existing EAPs. Extending a contract for services with an initial duration of less than 12 months beyond 12 months will be approved by the Trustees at the request of the initiating department and will be reviewed by the Trustees annually. Extending a contract for services, that has previously been approved by the

Trustees, for a cumulative term of more than 12 months requires further Trustees' approval. Extending a contract, previously approved by the Trustees, for 12 months or less ("grace period") requires approval by the Vice President of the requesting department or other authorized equivalent or designee in accordance with existing EAPs and concurrence by the Vice President of Procurement.

- B. For Services Contracts to be performed for a period of more than 12 months that must be awarded prior to the next quarterly Trustees' meeting, the initial contract will be issued for the entire intended term of the contract. Based on its total term and value, such contract must be approved in writing by the appropriate management as set forth in the EAPs. Such contract is subject to the Trustees' approval, at the next quarterly Trustees' meeting. If such approval is not granted, the contract will be terminated immediately.
- C. A contract or contract task is deemed to be for services in excess of 12 months where the contract does not specify a definite term and the work will not be completed within 12 months, and any "continuing services" contract with no fixed term that provides for the periodic assignment of specific tasks or particular requests for services. This includes Trustee-approved contracts for architect/engineering services with the original engineers of operating facilities, as well as the original supplier of steam supply systems or boilers and turbine generating equipment. Each task authorized under such contracts (which may be referred to as a "Change Order," "Purchase Order" or "Task Number") is considered a separate commitment and must be separately approved in accordance with the EAPs.
- D. The term of a Personal Services contract is limited to a maximum of five (5) years, including any extensions.
- E. When time constraints or emergency conditions require extending an existing contract with an initial duration of less than a year beyond a year, and the cumulative monetary change order value does not exceed the appropriate limit set forth in the EAPs, the Business Unit Head, with the prior concurrence of the Vice President of Procurement or equivalent(s) or designee, may authorize extending such contract, subject to the Trustees ratifying such action as soon as practicable.
- F. When the total estimated contract value or the value of the extension exceeds the monetary limits set forth in the EAPs, interim approval by the President and Chief Executive Officer or Chief Operating Officer or equivalent(s) or designee is required, subject to the Trustees ratifying such action as soon as practicable.
- G. When time constraints or emergency conditions require immediate commencement of services to be performed for a period of more than one year, and when the contract value exceeds the monetary approval limit for the President and Chief Executive Officer or Chief Operating Officer or equivalent(s), as set forth in the EAPs, the President and Chief Executive Officer or Chief Operating Officer or equivalent(s) or designee, with the prior concurrence of the Vice President of

Procurement or equivalent(s) or designee, may authorize in writing the commencement of such services. The initial compensation limitation may not exceed the authorization level for the President and Chief Executive Officer or equivalent(s) or Chief Operating Officer or equivalent(s) as set forth in the EAPs. Such contracts will be subject to the Trustees' approval, which will be solicited at their next scheduled Trustee meeting.

- H. The White Plains Procurement Department or the facilities' Procurement Departments prepare the contract for execution by the Authority and the successful bidder. No work by the selected contractor will commence until the contract is executed by both parties, except that mutually signed letters of award or intent may initiate work prior to formal execution. Authority signatories of such letters must be authorized to approve contract awards pursuant to the EAPs.
- I. Pursuant to Public Authorities Law § 2879, the Authority shall notify the Commissioner of Economic Development of the award of any Procurement Contract for the purchase of goods and/or services from a Foreign Business Enterprise (as defined in Subsection 3.E.3 of these Guidelines) in an amount equal to or greater than \$1 million simultaneously with notifying the successful bidder therefor. The Authority shall not enter into the Procurement Contract for said goods and/or services until at least 15 days have elapsed from the notification of the award, except for a Procurement Contract awarded on an emergency or critical basis. The notification to the Commissioner shall include the name, address, telephone and facsimile number of the Foreign Business Enterprise, the amount of the proposed Procurement Contract and the name of the individual at the Foreign Business Enterprise or acting on behalf of same who is principally responsible for the proposed Procurement Contract.

## **7. CONTRACT PROVISIONS**

- A. The following standard forms of contracts are available from the White Plains Procurement Department: purchase order format (for standard procurements of goods and/or services); furnish-and-deliver format (for major equipment purchases); long form agreements (for consulting services) and maintenance agreement formats; contract work orders (for construction work of small magnitude); construction contracts (for major construction work) and furnish, deliver and install contracts (for specialized, major procurements where single responsibility is required for procurement and installation). These contract forms are intended to govern the purchase of goods and/or performance of services.

Authority departments proposing to initiate a Procurement Contract should review these forms to suggest any modifications and additions that may be required for the particular goods and/or services. Under no circumstances should contract forms be shown to proposed bidders without the prior approval of the Procurement

Department, which, along with the facilities' Procurement Departments, is solely responsible for requesting proposals.

- B. The following types of provisions setting forth contractor responsibilities are to be contained in the standard forms of Procurement Contracts, except that any provisions listed below that are inapplicable or unnecessary because of the nature or duration of the work to be performed, the location(s) where the work is to be performed or the type of compensation being paid therefor, need not be included. Other provisions may be added as necessary and appropriate.

1. Schedule of Services or Specifications
2. Time of Completion
3. Compensation or Itemized Proposals
4. Relationship of Parties
5. Delays
6. Termination
7. Changes in the Work
8. Claims and Disputes
9. Warranty
10. Insurance
11. Records, Accounts, Inspection and Audit
12. Assignment
13. Notices
14. Indemnification
15. Governing Law
16. Proprietary Nature of Work
17. Testimony
18. MWBE requirements
19. SDVOB requirements
20. Entire Agreement

#### Contract Attachments

1. Compensation Schedule
2. Schedule of Services or Specifications
3. Appendix "A" (Miscellaneous Statutory Provisions)
4. Appendix "B" (Prompt Payment Provisions)
5. Appendix "C" (Minority- and Women-owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) Participation Goal Requirement)
6. Appendix "D" (Background Security Screening for Authority Contractors)
7. Appendix "E" (Omnibus Procurement Act of 1992 Requirements)
8. Appendix "F" (Computer Aided Design Requirements For New York Power Authority Drawings)
9. Appendix "G" (Equal Employment Opportunities Requirements)
10. Appendix "H" (Tax Law Requirements)

11. Appendix “I” (New York Power Authority (NYPA) North American Electric Reliability Corporation Critical Infrastructure Protection (NERC CIP) Cyber Access And/Or Unescorted Physical Access Training Requirements)
12. Appendix “J” (Bidder/Contractor Compliance with State Finance Law §§ 139-j and 139-k Providing for Certain Procurement Disclosures)
13. Appendix “K” (Additional State and Federal Provisions Required for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Pub. L. No. 111-5 Stat. 2009) (“ARRA”) Funded Projects) - inactive
14. Appendix “L” (DOE Federal Contract Provisions) - inactive
15. Appendix “M” (Use of Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel and Best Available Retrofit Technology (“BART”) for Heavy Duty Vehicles)
16. Appendix “N” (The New York State Iran Divestment Act of 2012 – Iranian Energy Sector Divestment)
17. Appendix “O” (Encouraging Use of New York State Businesses in Contract Performance) - inactive

C. If a vendor (firm, person or other entity) participates in the development or writing of the specifications for a procurement solicitation, such vendor shall not be permitted to bid on such procurement, either as a prime vendor or as a subcontractor at any level. Contracts for evaluation of offers for products or services shall not be awarded to a vendor that would then evaluate its own offers for products or services.

Furthermore, any firm, person or other entity retained by the Authority to provide conceptual studies, designs or specifications is prohibited from being awarded future phases of work, including implementation, related to the original work.

The above restrictions shall not apply where:

1. The vendor is the sole source or single source of the product or service;
2. More than one vendor has been involved in preparing the specifications for a procurement proposal;
3. There is no qualified response to the solicitation for future phases of work, including implementation; or
4. The originating Authority Business Unit determines in writing that the restrictions are not in the best interests of the Authority. Such originating Business Unit shall obtain the approval of the applicable Business Unit Head or equivalent(s), Vice President of Procurement or equivalent(s) or designee, Assistant General Counsel or equivalent(s) and President and Chief Executive Officer or designee or Chief Operating Officer or equivalent(s) to waive this restriction on a case-by-case basis.

**8. CHANGE ORDERS**

- A. Change Orders to existing contracts are justified in the following cases:
  - 1. To incorporate additional work related to the original scope, to delete work or to otherwise modify the original work scope;
  - 2. To exercise options previously included in the original contract to perform additional work or to extend the contract term;
  - 3. To accommodate emergency conditions, defined in Section 3.M herein, that require the immediate performance of work by a firm already under contract;
  - 4. When rebidding would not be practical or in the best interests of the Authority's customers; and
  - 5. To meet the Authority's Supplier Diversity and SDVOB Program goals in accordance with Executive Law Articles 15-A and 17-B, respectively.
- B. All Change Orders must be approved in accordance with the Authority's EAPs, and should include specific schedules for completion of work at the earliest possible time.
- C. Pursuant to Public Authorities Law § 2879-a, the Comptroller Regulations and the State Authority Contract Manual, the Authority may be required to submit certain Change Orders to the New York State Comptroller for filing or approval where the aggregate value of the contract as amended is in excess of \$1 million and the original contract was awarded on the basis of a competitive procurement, but the modification was neither contemplated nor provided for in the solicitation for such competitive procurement.

**9. CONTRACTING DECISIONS INVOLVING CURRENT OR FORMER EMPLOYEES**

- A. Former Authority officers and employees are eligible to be considered for direct engagement as contractors and/or consultants provided that they meet all criteria for contractors and/or consultants generally as specified in these Guidelines; their engagement is not barred by New York Public Officers Law § 73(8); they obtain an opinion by the New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics that such engagement is permissible; and upon approval of the President and Chief Executive Officer.
- B. Pursuant to the provisions of New York Public Officers Law § 73(8):

1. No Authority officer or employee is eligible, within a period of two years after the termination of Authority service to appear or practice before the Authority or receive compensation for any services rendered on behalf of any person, firm, corporation or association, in relation to any case, proceeding or application or other matter before the Authority.
  2. No Authority officer or employee is eligible, at any time after the termination of Authority service, to appear, practice, communicate or otherwise render services before the Authority or any other state agency or receive compensation for any such services rendered on behalf of any person, firm, corporation or other entity in relation to any case, proceeding, application or transaction that such person was directly concerned with and personally participated in during his or her period of service, or which was under his or her active consideration.
  3. Pursuant to the provisions of New York Public Officers Law § 73(8-b), notwithstanding the provisions of 1. and 2. above, a former Authority officer or employee may contract individually, or as a member or employee of a firm, corporation or association, to render services to the Authority, if, prior to engaging in such service, the President and Chief Executive Officer certifies in writing to the New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics that such former officer or employee has expertise, knowledge or experience with respect to a particular matter which meets the Authority's needs and is otherwise unavailable at a comparable cost. Where approval of the contract is required under § 112 of the New York State Finance Law, the Comptroller shall review and consider the reasons for such certification. The New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics must review and approve all such certifications.
- C. No Authority employee who is involved in the award of Authority grants or contracts may ask any officer, director or employee of such current or prospective contractor or grantee to reveal: (a) the political party affiliation of the individual; (b) whether the individual or entity has made campaign contributions to any political party, elected official or candidate for elective office or (c) whether the individual voted for or against any political party, elected official or candidate for elective office.
- D. No Authority employee may award or decline to award any grant or contract, or recommend, promise or threaten to do so because of a current or prospective grantee's or contractor's: (a) refusal to answer any inquiry prohibited by Section 9.C above or (b) giving or withholding or neglecting to make any contribution of money, service or any other valuable thing for any political purpose.
- E. No Authority employee may take part in any contracting process or decision: (i) to a Relative; or (ii) to any entity in which the Authority employee or a Relative of such Authority employee owns or controls 10% or more of the stock of such entity (or 1% in the case of a corporation whose stock is regularly traded on an

established securities exchange); or serves as an officer, director or partner of that entity. If a contracting matter arises relating to this Section 9.E, then the employee must advise in writing his or her supervisor and the Office of Ethics and Compliance of the relationship, and must be recused from any and all discussions or decisions relating to the matter.

1. For purposes of this Section 9.E, the term “Relative” is defined in Definitions, Section 2.G of these Guidelines.

## **10. SUPPLIER DIVERSITY PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

The Authority strives to continue to foster the development of business opportunities on Authority contracts for MWBEs. Article 15-A of the Executive Law established the NYS Office (now Division) of Minority and Women’s Business Development (“DMWBD”) that is responsible for developing rules and regulations for implementation of this statute, certifying MWBEs and reviewing and monitoring goal plans, compliance reports and contract provisions to be included in all non-construction contracts for more than \$25,000 and construction contracts for more than \$100,000. The definition of an MWBE is included in Section 2.H of these Guidelines. The Authority aims to solicit proposals from NYS-certified MWBEs that are qualified to perform the required work. In addition, specific goals may be included in certain contracts for consulting work, construction and procurement of goods and other services requiring the contractor/vendor to subcontract a portion of the work to NYS-certified MWBEs as required by law. Bidders’ proposals will include a completed Utilization Plan Form for MWBEs and applicable EEO Forms, where required, and such bidders’ failure to meet these requirements may be grounds for rejection of the proposal, or cancellation of the contract if a contractor did not make a good faith effort to meet its goals after contract award. MWBE Utilization Plans for Construction contracts valued at more than \$100,000 shall also be posted on the Procurement website by the successful vendor within ten business days of contract signing.

Pursuant to § 2879 of the Public Authorities Law and as further set forth in the Authority’s Supplier Diversity Program documents, the following guidelines apply:

1. Identify those areas or types of contracts for which MWBEs may best bid so as to promote and assist participation by such enterprises and facilitate a fair share of the awarding of contracts to such enterprises.
2. Provide notice, in addition to any other notice of procurement opportunities required by law, to professional and other organizations that serve MWBEs providing the types of services procured by the Authority.
3. Maintain lists of qualified NYS-certified MWBEs, including professional firms that have expressed an interest in doing business with the Authority and ensuring that such lists are updated regularly. The Authority shall also consult the lists of NYS-certified MWBEs maintained by the DED pursuant to Executive Law Article 15-A.

4. Establish appropriate goals for participation by MWBEs in procurement contracts awarded by the Authority and for the utilization of MWBEs as subcontractors and suppliers by entities having procurement contracts with the Authority. Statewide numerical participation target goals shall be established by the Authority based on the criteria set forth in Public Authorities Law § 2879.
5. Conduct procurements in a manner that will enable the Authority to achieve the maximum feasible portion of the goals established pursuant to Subdivision 4 of this Section and that eliminates barriers to participation by MWBEs in the Authority's procurements.
6. Designate one or more senior staff of the Authority to oversee the Authority's programs established to promote and assist participation by and utilization of NYS-certified MWBEs.

**11. SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESS ("SDVOB") PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

The Authority also strives to foster the development of business opportunities for NYS-certified SDVOBs and to further increase participation by SDVOBs in Authority contracts, as set forth in Sections 2.L and 3.I of these Guidelines and pursuant to Article 17-B of the Executive Law. One tool is the use of SDVOB discretionary purchasing, as further described in Sections 3.D, I and K of these Guidelines. Another tool authorized by the law is the use of set-asides, which permit the reservation in whole or in part of certain procurements by state agencies and authorities when more than one NYS-certified SDVOB is available and can provide the necessary goods or services to meet the Authority's form, function and utility. The same dollar limits apply to SDVOB contracts as those set forth for MWBEs in Article 10 of these Guidelines.

Pursuant to Article 17-B of the Executive Law, the following guidelines apply:

1. Identify contracts where SDVOBs may best perform and/or where SDVOB goals are practical, feasible and appropriate for the purpose of increasing the utilization of SDVOB participation on Authority contracts.
2. Submit regular reports with respect to SDVOB Program activity, including but not limited to, utilization reporting and contract monitoring and compliance.
3. Achieve an overall goal of six percent for SDVOB participation on Authority contracts.

## 12. **PROCUREMENT RECORD AND REPORTING**

### A. **Procurement Record**

The White Plains Procurement Department maintains records of Procurement Contracts. In addition to bid- and contract award-related documents for the goods provided and/or services performed, the Procurement Record includes, but is not limited to, documentation of the decisions made and the approach taken in the procurement process. Such records are transmitted to the Digital Warehouse for electronic storage and retrieval. At the facilities, such records are currently maintained and stored by the facilities' Procurement Departments.

### B. **Procurement Report**

After the end of each calendar year, the Vice President of Procurement or equivalent(s) will prepare and submit an annual report to the Trustees for their approval that will include:

1. A copy of the Guidelines;
2. An explanation of the Guidelines and any amendments thereto since the last annual report;
3. A list of all Procurement Contracts entered into since the last annual report, including all contracts entered into with New York State Business Enterprises and the subject matter and value thereof and all contracts entered into with Foreign Business Enterprises and the subject matter and value thereof;
4. A list of fees, commissions or other charges paid;
5. A description of work performed, the contract number, the date of the contract and its duration, the name, address and NYS-certified MWBE designation of the awardees, the total amount of the contract, the amount spent on the contract during the reporting period and for the term of the contract to date and the status of open Procurement Contracts during the report year;
6. The type of contract (equipment, services, personal services or construction);
7. The method of awarding the contract (e.g., competitive bidding, Sole Source, Single Source or competitive search);
8. The reasons why any procurements with a value equal to or greater than \$50,000 were not noticed in the Contract Reporter;
9. The number of bids received and
10. All referrals made and all penalties imposed, if any, pursuant to § 316 of the Executive Law.

- C. Such annual report, as approved by the Trustees, shall be submitted to the New York State Division of the Budget within 90 days of the end of such calendar year, and copies thereof shall be distributed to the New York State Department of Audit

and Control, the DED, the New York State Senate Finance Committee, and the New York State Assembly Ways and Means Committee and any other entity as may be required by law. The annual procurement report is posted on the Authority's website and copies shall be made available to the public upon reasonable written request therefor.

D. State Finance Law §§ 139-j and 139-k

1. A statement describing the basis for a determination of a bidder's/contractor's non-responsibility (per State Finance Law §§ 139-j and 139-k only) and the Authority's decision not to award a bidder/contractor the Procurement Contract must be included in the procurement record.
2. The Authority shall notify the New York State Office of General Services of bidders/contractors who have been determined to be non-responsible bidders (per State Finance Law §§ 139-j and 139-k only) or debarred due to violations of § 139-j of the State Finance Law.
3. All forms entitled "Record of Contact" shall be included in the respective procurement record.
4. A statement describing the basis for a termination of a Procurement Contract for providing an intentionally false certification must be included in the procurement record.

E. The Authority may be called upon periodically to submit information regarding the procurement of goods and/or services to organizations implementing the PAAA or other statutes regulating the procurement of goods and services, such as the Authorities Budget Office through the Public Authorities Reporting Information System ("PARIS").

F. The Vice President of Procurement or equivalent(s) will also prepare Annual Goal Plans for the MWBE and SDVOB programs and will submit them by January 15 of each year to Empire State Development - Division of Minority and Women Business Development and the New York State Office of General Services - Division of Service-Disabled Veterans' Business Development, respectively. Quarterly Utilization / Activity Reports for each program will also be prepared and submitted to the aforementioned respective state entities by the 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, October, January and April.

**13. THIRD PARTY RIGHTS: VALIDITY OF CONTRACTS**

A. These Guidelines are intended for the guidance of officers and employees of the Authority only. Nothing contained herein is intended, nor should it be construed,

to confer on any person, firm or corporation any right, remedy, claim or benefit under, or by reason of, any requirement or provision hereof.

- B. Nothing contained in these Guidelines alters or affects the validity of, modifies the terms of or impairs any contract or agreement entered into in violation of these Guidelines.