

TASK ORDER CONFLICT OF INTEREST CERTIFICATION AND ADMINISTRATION

The contractor shall provide conflict of interest certification and administration as shown below.

Conflict of Interest (COI) Certification

All Task Order offers shall include a conflict of interest (COI) certification. Before submitting the COI certification, the contractor shall search its records accumulated, at a minimum, over the past three years immediately prior to the receipt of the request for offer or similar tasking document. In the COI certification, the contractor must certify to the best of the contractor's knowledge and belief that all actual or potential organizational conflicts of interest have been reported to the Contracting Officer or that to the best of the contractor's knowledge and belief, no actual or potential organizational conflicts of interest exist.

In addition, the contractor must have all persons who are proposed to perform work under the particular Task Order, or work related to the Task Order, complete and submit the form in the contract Attachment entitled, "CONFIDENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE." After evaluating the information provided on this form, the contractor shall certify as follows:

1. The contractor has resolved all conflict of interest issues, by either eliminating a particular reviewer from the work to be performed under the Task Order or by determining that the interest will not impair the individual's objectivity or create an unfair competitive advantage for any person or organization;
2. The contractor recognizes its continuing obligation to identify and report any conflicts of interest arising during performance under the Task Order;
3. All personnel who perform under the Task Order or work related to the Task Order have been informed of their continuing obligation to identify and report conflicts of interest arising during contract performance to the contractor who shall, in turn, report this information to the Contracting Officer (CO); and
4. When the contractor recommends peer reviewers to the EPA, the contractor shall provide the EPA with a description that could be made public, describing its basis for concluding that there are no unresolved actual or potential conflict of interest issues among peer reviewers, and in the event of there being a panel, that the panel is suitably balanced with respect to any actual or apparent biases.

Continuing COI Reviews During Contract Administration

When individuals will be serving as peer reviewers under a subcontracting arrangement, the contractor shall include a clause in their contract providing, that, unless the contractor obtains permission from the CO, the reviewer shall not enter into any new professional

relationship or obtain new financial holdings that would create either an actual or apparent conflict of interest or bias during the period of the review without CO approval.

After consultation with the CO, the contractor shall generally disqualify a peer reviewer if conflict of interest information that warrants removal becomes available after member was selected. If the contractor believes that by doing so there will be substantial delay in completing a quality peer review in a timely fashion, the contractor may consult with the CO about options before taking action.

ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST CERTIFICATION, EPAAR 1552.209-72

The offeror [] is [] is not aware of any information bearing on the existence of any potential organizational conflict of interest. If the offeror is aware of information bearing on whether a potential conflict may exist, the offeror shall provide a disclosure statement describing this information. (See Section L of the solicitation for further information.)

ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, EPAAR 1552.209-71 (ALT I)

(a) The Contractor warrants that, to the best of the Contractor's knowledge and belief, there are no relevant facts or circumstances which could give rise to an organizational conflict of interest, as defined in FAR Subpart 9.5, or that the Contractor has disclosed all such relevant information.

(b) Prior to commencement of any work, the Contractor agrees to notify the Contracting Officer immediately that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, no actual or potential conflict of interest exists or to identify to the Contracting Officer any actual or potential conflict of interest the firm may have. In emergency situations, however, work may begin but notification shall be made within five (5) working days.

(c) The Contractor agrees that if an actual or potential organizational conflict of interest is identified during performance, the Contractor will immediately make a full disclosure in writing to the Contracting Officer. This disclosure shall include a description of actions which the Contractor has taken or proposes to take, after consultation with the Contracting Officer, to avoid, mitigate, or neutralize the actual or potential conflict of interest. The Contractor shall continue performance until notified by the Contracting Officer of any contrary action to be taken.

(d) Remedies - The EPA may terminate this contract for convenience, in whole or in part, if it deems such termination necessary to avoid an organizational conflict of interest. If the Contractor was aware of a potential organizational conflict of interest prior to award or discovered an actual or potential conflict after award and did not disclose it or misrepresented relevant information to the Contracting Officer, the Government may terminate the contract for default, debar the Contractor from Government contracting, or pursue such other remedies as may be permitted by law or this contract.

(e) The Contractor agrees to insert in each subcontract or consultant agreement placed hereunder provisions which shall conform substantially to the language of this clause, including this paragraph, unless otherwise authorized by the Contracting Officer.

PROJECT EMPLOYEE CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT, EPAAR 1552.227-76

(a) The Contractor recognizes that Contractor employees in performing this contract may have access to data, either provided by the Government or first generated during contract performance, of a sensitive nature which should not be released to the public without Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approval. Therefore, the Contractor agrees to obtain confidentiality agreements from all of its employees working on requirements under this contract.

(b) Such agreements shall contain provisions which stipulate that each employee agrees that the employee will not disclose, either in whole or in part, to any entity external to EPA, the Department of Justice, or the Contractor, any information or data (as defined in FAR Section 27.401) provided by the Government or first generated by the Contractor under this contract, any site-specific cost information, or any enforcement strategy without first obtaining the written permission of the EPA Contracting Officer. If a contractor, through an employee or otherwise, is subpoenaed to testify or produce documents, which could result in such disclosure, the Contractor must provide immediate advance notification to the EPA so that the EPA can authorize such disclosure or have the opportunity to take action to prevent such disclosure. Such agreements shall be effective for the life of the contract and for a period of five (5) years after completion of the contract.

(c) The EPA may terminate this contract for convenience, in whole or in part, if it deems such termination necessary to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information to outside entities. If such a disclosure occurs without the written permission of the EPA Contracting Officer, the Government may terminate the contract, for default or convenience, or pursue other remedies as may be permitted by law or this contract.

(d) The Contractor further agrees to insert in any subcontract or consultant agreement placed hereunder, except for subcontracts or consultant agreements for well drilling, fence erecting, plumbing, utility hookups, security guard services, or electrical services, provisions which shall conform substantially to the language of this clause, including this paragraph, unless otherwise authorized by the Contracting Officer.

NOTIFICATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST REGARDING PERSONNEL, EPAAR 1552.209-73
(ALT I)

(a) In addition to the requirements of the contract clause entitled "Organizational Conflicts of Interest," the following provisions with regard to employee personnel performing under this contract shall apply until the earlier of the following two dates: the termination date of the affected employee(s) or the expiration date of the contract.

(b) The Contractor agrees to notify immediately the EPA Project Officer and the Contracting Officer of (1) any actual or potential personal conflict of interest with regard to any of its employees working on or having access to information regarding this contract, or (2) any such conflicts concerning subcontractor employees or consultants working on or having access to information regarding this contract, when such conflicts have been reported to the Contractor. A personal conflict of interest is defined as a relationship of an employee, subcontractor employee, or consultant with an entity that may impair the objectivity of the employee, subcontractor employee, or consultant in performing the contract work.

(c) The Contractor agrees to notify each Project Officer and Contracting Officer prior to incurring costs for that employee's work when an employee may have a personal conflict of interest. In the event that the personal conflict of interest does not become known until after performance on the contract begins, the Contractor shall immediately notify the Contracting Officer of the personal conflict of interest. The Contractor shall continue performance of this contract until notified by the Contracting Officer of the appropriate action to be taken.

(d) The Contractor agrees to insert in any subcontract or consultant agreement placed hereunder provisions which shall conform substantially to the language of this clause, including this paragraph (d), unless otherwise authorized by the Contracting Officer.

LIMITATION OF FUTURE CONTRACTING, (Headquarters Support), EPAAR 1552.209-74
(ALT V)

(a) The parties to this contract agree that the Contractor will be restricted in its future contracting in the manner described below. Except as specifically provided in this clause, the Contractor shall be free to compete for contracts on an equal basis with other companies.

(b) If the Contractor, under the terms of this contract, or through the performance of work pursuant to this contract, is required to develop specifications or statements of work and such specifications or statements of work are incorporated into an EPA solicitation, the Contractor shall be ineligible to perform the work described in that solicitation as a prime Contractor or subcontractor under an ensuing EPA contract.

(c) Once peer review work has been ordered through a task order, the contractor shall not enter into a contract for the subject matter of the task order during the life of the contract unless prior written approval is obtained from the EPA Contracting Officer.

(d) The Contractor agrees in advance that if any bids/proposals are submitted for any work that would require written approval of the Contracting Officer prior to entering into a contract subject to the restrictions of this clause, then the bids/proposals are submitted at the Contractor's own risk. Therefore, no claim shall be made against the Government to recover bid/proposal costs as a direct cost whether the request for authorization to enter into the contract is denied or approved.

(e) To the extent that the work under this contract requires access to proprietary or confidential business or financial data of other companies, and as long as such data remains proprietary or confidential, the Contractor shall protect such data from unauthorized use and disclosure.

(f) The Contractor agrees to insert in each subcontract or consultant agreement placed hereunder, except for subcontracts or consultant agreements for nondiscretionary technical or engineering services, including treatability studies, well drilling, fence erecting, plumbing, utility hookups, security guard services, or electrical services, provisions which shall conform substantially to the language of this clause, including this paragraph (f) unless otherwise authorized by the Contracting Officer. The Contractor may request in writing that the Contracting Officer exempt from this clause a particular subcontract or consultant agreement for nondiscretionary technical or engineering services not specifically listed above, including laboratory analysis. The Contracting Officer will review and evaluate each request on a case-by-case basis before approving or disapproving the request.

(g) If the Contractor seeks an expedited decision regarding its initial future contracting request, the Contractor may submit its request to both the Contracting Officer and the next administrative level within the Contracting Officer's organization.

(h) A review process available to the Contractor when an adverse determination is received shall consist of a request for reconsideration to the Contracting Officer or a request for review submitted to the next administrative level within the Contracting Officer's organization. An adverse determination resulting from a request for reconsideration by the Contracting Officer will not preclude the Contractor from requesting a review by the next administrative level. Either a request for review or a request for reconsideration must be submitted to the appropriate level within 30 calendar days after receipt of the initial adverse determination.

ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST NOTIFICATION, EPAAR 1552.209-70

(a) The prospective Contractor certifies, to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it is not aware of any information bearing on the existence of any potential organizational conflict of interest. If the prospective Contractor cannot so certify, it shall provide a disclosure statement in its proposal which describes all relevant information concerning any past, present, or planned interests bearing on whether it (including its chief executives and directors, or any proposed consultant or subcontractor) may have a potential organizational conflict of interest.

(b) Prospective Contractors should refer to FAR Subpart 9.5 and EPAAR Part 1509 for policies and procedures for avoiding, neutralizing, or mitigating organizational conflicts of interest.

(c) If the Contracting Officer determines that a potential conflict exists, the prospective Contractor shall not receive an award unless the conflict can be avoided or otherwise resolved through the inclusion of a special contract clause or other appropriate means. The terms of any special clause are subject to negotiation.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST PLAN (RTP-L-7)

Offerors shall submit, along with their cost proposal, an Organizational Conflict of Interest Plan which outlines the procedures in place to detect and report conflicts of interest (COI), whether actual or potential, throughout the period of contract performance. The plan shall address step by step, the checks and balances in place to detect and report potential or actual COI at the organizational and personal level as set forth in the L provision entitled, "Minimum Standards for EPA Contractors' Conflict of Interest Plans". The minimum standards set forth the criteria which offerors' COI plans must meet in order to be acceptable to the Agency.

The plan shall be evaluated in accordance with the criteria set forth in the Section M provision entitled "Evaluation of Conflict of Interest Plan."

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR EPA CONTRACTORS' CONFLICT OF INTEREST PLANS (RTP-L-16)

1. PURPOSE

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified a need to avoid, neutralize, or mitigate actual and potential contractor conflicts of interest (COI). To accomplish this, contractors are required to have a COI plan for identifying and reporting actual and potential COI. The purpose of this document is to set forth the minimum standards for a contractor's COI plan.

2. COI PLAN

The contractor's COI Plan is a document which describes the procedures a company uses to identify and report COI. Generally, a contractor's corporate COI plan will describe how a company, in its entirety, addresses conflicts, and will not be contract or program specific. The plan may also describe the options a company will consider proposing to avoid, neutralize, or mitigate a COI whenever a conflict is identified. The plan will be evaluated and approved by the applicable EPA Contracting Officer (CO) if the COI Plan meets the EPA's minimum requirements for detecting and reporting conflicts of interest. Contractor's COI Plans should be identified by a version number, date, and applicable CO for any previously approved COI Plan.

3. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR CONTRACTORS' COI PLANS

A. Corporate Structure

The COI Plan shall describe any parent relationship and list all affiliates, subsidiaries, and sister companies, etc. Generally this need not exceed three corporate tiers, unless a relationship exists beyond three tiers that would potentially create a conflict. In such a case, relationships beyond three tiers should also be included in the COI Plan. Contractors should report changes in its corporate structure to the Agency throughout contract performance.

Contractors are invited to include under this section a company profile. The profile should discuss all pertinent information relevant to COI including a summary of a contractor's primary and/or environmental business functions and activities. This background information will be very useful to COs when evaluating whether or not a contractor has a COI.

B. Searching and Identifying COI

The COI Plan shall include a requirement describing when a COI search must be performed by company personnel and clearly identify the procedures to be followed. The searching requirement shall encompass all work related to all clients for whom work was performed over the last three years, all current work, all sites (if applicable) and any future work reflected in marketing proposals. Contractors must search their records over the past 36 months, or through all available records for a new company until 36 months of records are accumulated, from the time of receipt of the work from EPA. However, contractors are encouraged to search back as far as a company's records cover.

C. Data Base

The COI Plan shall require a data base that includes all necessary information for a contractor to review its past work (at a minimum over the past 36 months or through all available records for a new company until 36 months of records are accumulated), work in progress, and work the company may

be pursuing under any marketing proposals. This requirement does not establish any particular type or kind of retrieval system, however, the data base shall contain, at a minimum, the following information and capabilities.

- (1) a list of the company's past and public clients;
- (2) a description of the type(s) of work that was performed and any other pertinent information;
- (3) a list of the past sites (when applicable) a contractor has worked on;
- (4) a list of site name(s) (when applicable) related to any work performed;
- (5) the ability to search and retrieve the information in the data base; and
- (6) dollar value of work performed.

If applicable, the COI Plan shall include provisions for supplemental searches of parent, affiliate, subsidiary, or sister company records. The COI Plan shall also describe any cross-checks used by the company when searching COI issues.

D. Personal Certification

At a minimum, the COI Plan shall require ALL employees of the company performing work under an EPA Superfund and/or Non-Superfund contract, including work on a site, work relating to a site, work pertaining to a CERCLA/RCRA action, or work that may endanger a CERCLA enforcement action, to sign a personal certification. EPA recommends a policy whereby all company employees are required to sign such a certification rather than only those employees working under an EPA contract. The certification shall require at a minimum, that the individual agrees to report to the proper company authority any personal COI and that the individual has read and understands the company's COI Plan and procedures. Employee certifications shall be retained by the company.

E. Work Assignment (WA), Technical Direction Document (TDD), or Delivery Order (DO) Notification and Certification

The COI Plan shall describe the process the company requires for notifying the Agency prior to beginning work, and for submission of its WA/TDD/DO certification within 20 days of receipt of the work from EPA.

NOTE: WA/TDD/DO certifications are NOT required if the contract contains an annual certification requirement. Nevertheless, the contractor's COI Plan should address the procedures to be followed for WA/TDD/DO certifications.

F. Annual Certification

The COI Plan shall describe the process the company requires for submission of its annual certification.

NOTE: Annual certification is NOT required if the contract contains a WA/TDD/DO certification requirement. Nevertheless, the contractor's COI Plan should address the procedures to be followed for annual certifications.

G. Notification and Documentation

The COI Plan shall clearly delineate the official within the company responsible for making COI determinations. Generally, this would be someone at a middle to upper level of management. The responsible official shall be free of any personal conflicts for the purpose of making COI determination, e.g., a program manager who receives bonuses based on the total amount of sales may not be free of conflicts.

The plan shall clearly identify the process that is required when notifying the EPA of any actual or potential COI and the actions that the company has taken or will take to avoid, neutralize, or mitigate the conflict. In addition, the contractor shall document all COI searches related to EPA work, whether or not an actual or potential COI has been identified.

H. Training

The COI Plan shall require all employees of the company to receive basic COI training and that each employee receive COI awareness training at least annually. The company's COI Plan shall be available for all employees to review. Annual awareness training shall include, at a minimum, a review of the certification language and any changes that may have occurred in the company's COI Plan. In addition, companies are encouraged to routinely disseminate to their employees current COI information.

I. Subcontractor's COI Plans

The COI Plan shall describe the process and mechanism by which the company will monitor its subcontractors to ensure all subcontractors are complying with the COI provisions in their contracts. It is important that subcontractors identify and report COI as well as submit Limitation of Future Contracting (LOFC) requests for approval.

EVALUATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST PLAN

The plan described in Section L entitled, "Conflict of Interest Plan" will be evaluated as acceptable or not acceptable. Notwithstanding the evaluation of an offeror with respect to the technical evaluation criteria or the evaluation of an offeror's cost, an offeror that submits a plan that ultimately is unacceptable after the completion of negotiations will not be eligible for a contract award. The contractor's COI plan will be evaluated as part of the contractor's responsibility determination.

SCREENING BUSINESS INFORMATION FOR CLAIM OF CONFIDENTIALITY, EPAAR 1552.235-70

(a) Whenever collecting information under this contract, the Contractor agrees to comply with the following requirements:

(1) If the Contractor collects information from public sources, such as books, reports, journals, periodicals, public records, or other sources that are available to the public without restriction, the Contractor shall submit a list of these sources to the appropriate program office at the time the information is initially submitted to EPA. The Contractor shall identify the information according to source.

(2) If the Contractor collects information from a State or local Government or from a Federal agency, the Contractor shall submit a list of these sources to the appropriate program office at the time the information is initially submitted to EPA. The Contractor shall identify the information according to source.

(3) If the Contractor collects information directly from a business or from a source that represents a business or businesses, such as a trade association:

(i) Before asking for the information, the Contractor shall identify itself, explain that it is performing contractual work for the Environmental Protection Agency, identify the information that it is seeking to collect, explain what will be done with the information, and give the following notice:

(A) You may, if you desire, assert a business confidentiality claim covering part or all of the information. If you do assert a claim, the information will be disclosed by EPA only to the extent, and by means of the procedures, set forth in 40 CFR Part 2, Subpart B.

(B) If no such claim is made at the time this information is received by the Contractor, it may be made available to the public by the Environmental Protection Agency without further notice to you.

(C) The Contractor shall, in accordance with FAR Part 9, execute a written agreement regarding the limitations of the use of this information and forward a copy of the agreement to the Contracting Officer.

(ii) Upon receiving the information, the Contractor shall make a written notation that the notice set out above was given to the source, by whom, in what form, and on what date.

(iii) At the time the Contractor initially submits the information to the appropriate program office, the Contractor shall submit a list of these sources, identify the information according to source, and indicate whether the source made any confidentiality claim and the nature and extent of the claim.

(b) The Contractor shall keep all information collected from nonpublic sources confidential in accordance with the clause in this contract entitled "Treatment of Confidential Business Information" as if it had been furnished to the Contractor by EPA.

(c) The Contractor agrees to obtain the written consent of the Contracting Officer, after a written determination by the appropriate program office, prior to entering into any subcontract that will require the subcontractor to collect information. The Contractor agrees to include this clause, including this paragraph (c), and the clause entitled "Treatment of Confidential

Business Information" in all subcontracts awarded pursuant to this contract that require the subcontractor to collect information.

TREATMENT OF CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION, EPAAR 1552.235-71

(a) The Contracting Officer, after a written determination by the appropriate program office, may disclose confidential business information (CBI) to the Contractor necessary to carry out the work required under this contract. The Contractor agrees to use the CBI only under the following conditions:

(1) The Contractor and Contractor's employees shall: (i) use the CBI only for the purposes of carrying out the work required by the contract; (ii) not disclose the information to anyone other than properly cleared EPA employees without the prior written approval of the Assistant General Counsel for Contracts and Information Law; and (iii) return to the Contracting Officer all copies of the information, and any abstracts or excerpts therefrom, upon request by the Contracting Officer, whenever the information is no longer required by the Contractor for the performance of the work required by the contract, or upon completion of the contract.

(2) The Contractor shall obtain a written agreement to honor the above limitations from each of the Contractor's employees who will have access to the information before the employee is allowed access.

(3) The Contractor agrees that these contract conditions concerning the use and disclosure of CBI are included for the benefit of, and shall be enforceable by, both EPA and any affected businesses having a proprietary interest in the information.

(4) The Contractor shall not use any CBI supplied by EPA or obtained during performance hereunder to compete with any business to which the CBI relates.

(b) The Contractor agrees to obtain the written consent of the CO, after a written determination by the appropriate program office, prior to entering into any subcontract that will involve the disclosure of CBI by the Contractor to the subcontractor. The Contractor agrees to include this clause, including this paragraph (b), in all subcontracts awarded pursuant to this contract that require the furnishing of CBI to the subcontractor.