

WAGE RATE REQUIREMENTS UNDER PUBLIC LAW 111-88

Public Law 111-88 (effective 10/1/09) requires that all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors on projects funded directly by or assisted in whole or in part by and through the Federal Government via USEPA pursuant to Public Law 111-88 shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code.

Pursuant to Reorganization Plan No. 14 and the Copeland Act, 40 U.S.C. 3145, the Department of Labor has issued regulations at 29 CFR Parts 1, 3, and 5 to implement the Davis-Bacon (DB) and related Acts. Regulations in 29 CFR 5.5 instruct agencies concerning application of the standard DB contract clauses set forth in that section. Federal agencies providing grants, cooperative agreements, and loans under Public Law 111-88 shall ensure that the standard DB contract clauses found in 29 CFR 5.5(a) are incorporated in any resultant covered contracts that are in excess of \$2,000 for construction, alteration or repair (including painting and decorating).

For additional guidance on the wage rate requirements of Public Law 111-88, contact your awarding agency. Recipients of grants, cooperative agreements and loans should direct their initial inquiries concerning the application of DB requirements to a particular federally assisted project to the Federal agency funding the project. The Secretary of Labor retains final coverage authority under Reorganization Plan Number 14.

With respect to the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State revolving Funds, EPA provides capitalization grants to each State, which in turn provides subgrants or loans to eligible entities within the State. Typically, the subrecipients are municipal or other local governmental entities that manage the funds. For these types of recipients, the provisions set forth under Roman Numeral I, below, shall apply. Although EPA and the State remain responsible for ensuring subrecipients' compliance with the wage rate requirements set forth herein, those subrecipients shall have the primary responsibility to maintain payroll records as described in Section 3(ii)(A), below and for compliance as described in Section I-5.

I. Requirements for Subrecipients That Are Governmental Entities

The following terms and conditions specify how recipients will assist EPA in meeting its DB responsibilities when DB applies to EPA awards of financial assistance with respect to State recipients and subrecipients that are governmental entities. If a subrecipient has questions regarding when DB applies, obtaining the correct DB wage determinations, DB provisions, or compliance monitoring, it may contact the State recipient. If a State recipient needs guidance, the recipient may contact (insert name or organizational unit Regional EPA DB contact) for guidance. The recipient or subrecipient may also obtain additional guidance from DOL's web site at <http://www.dol.gov/whd/index.htm>.

1. Applicability of the Davis- Bacon (DB) prevailing wage requirements.

Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements apply to the construction, alteration, and repair activity of infrastructure, including all construction, alteration and repair activity involving wastewater or drinking water treatment plants is subject to DB. If a subrecipient encounters a unique situation at a site that presents uncertainties regarding DB applicability, the subrecipient must discuss the situation with the recipient State before authorizing work on that site.

2. Obtaining Wage Determinations.

(a) Subrecipients must obtain proposed wage determinations for specific localities at www.wdol.gov. After the Sub recipient obtains its proposed wage determination, it must submit the wage determination to NDEE, SRF Program's email at NDEQ.SRF@nebraska.gov for approval prior to inserting the wage determination into a

solicitation, contract or issuing task orders, work assignments, or similar instruments to existing contractors (ordering instruments unless subsequently directed otherwise by the State recipient Award Official). Questions and assistance can be directed to the NDEE SRF program at (402) 471-2186.

(b) Subrecipients shall obtain the wage determination for the locality in which a covered activity subject to DB will take place prior to issuing requests for bids, proposals, quotes or other methods for soliciting contracts (solicitation) for activities subject to DB. These wage determinations shall be incorporated into solicitations and any subsequent contracts. Prime contracts must contain a provision requiring that subcontractors follow the wage determination incorporated into the prime contract.

(i) While the solicitation remains open, the subrecipients shall monitor www.wdol.gov on a weekly basis to ensure that the wage determination contained in the solicitation remains current. The subrecipients shall amend the solicitation if DOL issues a modification more than 10 days prior to the closing date (i.e. bid opening) for the solicitation. If DOL modifies or supersedes the applicable wage determination less than 10 days prior to the closing date, the subrecipients may request a finding from the State recipient that there is not a reasonable time to notify interested contractors of the modification of the wage determination. The State recipient will provide a report of its findings to the subrecipients.

(ii) If the subrecipients are not awarded the contract within 90 days of the closure of the solicitation, any modifications or supersedes DOL makes to the wage determination contained in the solicitation shall be effective unless the State recipient, at the request of the subrecipients, obtains an extension of the 90 day period from DOL pursuant to [29 CFR Part 1 §1.6\(c\)\(3\)\(iv\)](#). The subrecipients shall monitor www.wdol.gov on a weekly basis if it does not award the contract within 90 days of closure of the solicitation to ensure that wage determinations contained in the solicitation remain current.

(c) If the subrecipient carries out activity subject to DB by issuing a task order, work assignment, or similar instrument to an existing contractor (ordering instrument) rather than by publishing a solicitation, the subrecipient shall insert the appropriate DOL wage determination from www.wdol.gov into the ordering instrument.

(d) Subrecipients shall review all subcontracts subject to DB entered into by prime contractors to verify that the prime contractor has required its subcontractors to include the applicable wage determinations.

(e) As provided in 29 CFR Part 1 §1.6(f), DOL may issue a revised wage determination applicable to a subrecipient's contract after the award of a contract or the issuance of an ordering instrument if DOL determines that the subrecipient has failed to incorporate a wage determination or has used a wage determination that clearly does not apply to the contract or ordering instrument. If this occurs, the subrecipient shall either terminate the contract or ordering instrument and issue a revised solicitation or ordering instrument or incorporate DOL's wage determination retroactive to the beginning of the contract or ordering instrument by change order. The subrecipient's contractor must be compensated for any increases in wages resulting from the use of DOL's revised wage determination.

3. Contract and Subcontract provisions.

(a) The Recipient shall ensure that the subrecipient(s) shall insert in full in any contract, for projects in excess of \$2,000, which is entered into for the actual construction, alteration and/or repair, including painting and decorating, of a public building or public work, or building or work financed in whole or in part from Federal funds or in accordance with guarantees of a Federal agency or financed from funds obtained by pledge of any contract of a Federal agency to make a loan, grant or annual contribution (except where a different meaning is expressly indicated), and which is subject to the labor standards provisions of any of the acts listed in [29 CFR Part 5 §5.1](#), the following clauses:

(1) Minimum wages.

(i) All laborers and mechanics employed or working upon the site of the work will be paid unconditionally and not less often than once a week, and without subsequent deduction or rebate on any account (except such payroll deductions as are permitted by regulations issued by the Secretary of Labor under the Copeland Act (29 CFR part 3)), the full amount of wages and bona fide fringe benefits (or cash equivalents thereof) due at time of payment computed at rates not less than those contained in the wage determination of the Secretary of Labor which is attached hereto and made a part hereof, regardless of any contractual relationship which may be alleged to exist between the contractor and such laborers and mechanics.

Contributions made or costs reasonably anticipated for bona fide fringe benefits under section 1(b)(2) of the Davis-Bacon Act on behalf of laborers or mechanics are considered wages paid to such laborers or mechanics, subject to the provisions of paragraph (a)(1)(iv) of this section; also, regular contributions made or costs incurred for more than a weekly period (but not less often than quarterly) under plans, funds, or programs which cover the particular weekly period, are deemed to be constructively made or incurred during such weekly period. Such laborers and mechanics shall be paid the appropriate wage rate and fringe benefits on the wage determination for the classification of work actually performed, without regard to skill, except as provided in [29 CFR Part 5 §5.5\(a\)\(4\)](#). Laborers or mechanics performing work in more than one classification may be compensated at the rate specified for each classification for the time actually worked therein; provided, that the employer's payroll records accurately set forth the time spent in each classification in which work is performed. The wage determination (including any additional classification and wage rates conformed under paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of this section) and the [Davis-Bacon poster \(WH-1321\)](#) shall be posted at all times by the contractor and its subcontractors at the site of the work in a prominent and accessible place where it can be easily seen by the workers.

Subrecipients may obtain wage determinations from the U.S. Department of Labor's web site, www.wdol.gov.

(ii) (A) The subrecipient(s), on behalf of EPA, shall require that any class of laborers or mechanics, including helpers, which is not listed in the wage determination and which is to be employed under the contract shall be classified in conformance with the wage determination. The EPA award official shall approve an additional classification and wage rate and fringe benefits therefore only when the following criteria have been met:

1. The work to be performed by the classification requested is not performed by a classification in the wage determination; and
2. The classification is utilized in the area by the construction industry; and
3. The proposed wage rate, including any bona fide fringe benefits, bears a reasonable relationship to the wage rates contained in the wage determination.

(B) If the contractor and the laborers and mechanics to be employed in the classification (if known), or their representatives, and the subrecipient(s) agree on the classification and wage rate (including the amount designated for fringe benefits where appropriate), a [Standard Form 1444, Request for Authorization of Additional Classification and Rate \(SF-1444\)](#) shall be sent by the subrecipient (s) to the State award official. The State award official will transmit the SF-1444 Form, to the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Employment Standards Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC 20210. The Administrator, or an

authorized representative, will approve, modify, or disapprove every additional classification action within 30 days of receipt and so advise the State award official or will notify the State award official within the 30-day period that additional time is necessary.

(C) In the event the contractor, the laborers or mechanics to be employed in the classification or their representatives, and the and the subrecipient(s) do not agree on the proposed classification and wage rate (including the amount designated for fringe benefits, where appropriate), the award official shall refer the questions, including the views of all interested parties and the recommendation of the State award official, to the Administrator for determination. The Administrator, or an authorized representative, will issue a determination within 30 days of receipt and so advise the contracting officer or will notify the contracting officer within the 30-day period that additional time is necessary.

(D) The wage rate (including fringe benefits where appropriate) determined pursuant to paragraphs (a)(1)(ii)(B) or (C) of this section, shall be paid to all workers performing work in the classification under this contract from the first day on which work is performed in the classification.

(iii) Whenever the minimum wage rate prescribed in the contract for a class of laborers or mechanics includes a fringe benefit which is not expressed as an hourly rate, the contractor shall either pay the benefit as stated in the wage determination or shall pay another bona fide fringe benefit or an hourly cash equivalent thereof.

(iv) If the contractor does not make payments to a trustee or other third person, the contractor may consider as part of the wages of any laborer or mechanic the amount of any costs reasonably anticipated in providing bona fide fringe benefits under a plan or program, provided, that the Secretary of Labor has found, upon the written request of the contractor, that the applicable standards of the Davis-Bacon Act have been met. The Secretary of Labor may require the contractor to set aside in a separate account assets for the meeting of obligations under the plan or program.

(2) Withholding. The subrecipient(s), shall upon written request of the EPA Award Official or an authorized representative of the Department of Labor, withhold or cause to be withheld from the contractor under this contract or any other Federal contract with the same prime contractor, or any other federally-assisted contract subject to Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements, which is held by the same prime contractor, so much of the accrued payments or advances as may be considered necessary to pay laborers and mechanics, including apprentices, trainees, and helpers, employed by the contractor or any subcontractor the full amount of wages required by the contract. In the event of failure to pay any laborer or mechanic, including any apprentice, trainee, or helper, employed or working on the site of the work, all or part of the wages required by the contract, the (Agency) may, after written notice to the contractor, sponsor, applicant, or owner, take such action as may be necessary to cause the suspension of any further payment, advance, or guarantee of funds until such violations have ceased.

(3) Payrolls and basic records.

(i) Payrolls and basic records relating thereto shall be maintained by the contractor during the course of the work and preserved for a period of three years thereafter for all laborers and mechanics working at the site of the work. Such records shall contain the name, address, and social security number of each such worker, his or her correct classification, hourly rates of wages paid (including rates of contributions or costs anticipated for bona fide fringe benefits or cash equivalents thereof of the types described in section 1(b)(2)(B) of the Davis-Bacon Act), daily and weekly number of hours worked, deductions made and actual wages paid. Whenever

the Secretary of Labor has found under [29 CFR Part 5 §5.5\(a\)\(1\)\(iv\)](#) that the wages of any laborer or mechanic include the amount of any costs reasonably anticipated in providing benefits under a plan or program described in section 1(b)(2)(B) of the Davis-Bacon Act, the contractor shall maintain records which show that the commitment to provide such benefits is enforceable, that the plan or program is financially responsible, and that the plan or program has been communicated in writing to the laborers or mechanics affected, and records which show the costs anticipated or the actual cost incurred in providing such benefits. Contractors employing apprentices or trainees under approved programs shall maintain written evidence of the registration of apprenticeship programs and certification of trainee programs, the registration of the apprentices and trainees, and the ratios and wage rates prescribed in the applicable programs.

(ii) (A) The contractor shall submit weekly, for each week in which any contract work is performed, a copy of all payrolls to the subrecipient, that is, the entity that receives the sub-grant or loan from the State capitalization grant recipient. Such documentation shall be available on request of the State recipient or EPA. As to each payroll copy received, the subrecipient shall provide written confirmation in a form satisfactory to the State indicating whether or not the project is in compliance with the requirements of [29 CFR Part 5 §5.5\(a\)\(1\)](#) based on the most recent payroll copies for the specified week. The payrolls shall set out accurately and completely all of the information required to be maintained under [29 CFR Part 5 §5.5\(a\)\(3\)\(i\)](#), except that full social security numbers and home addresses shall not be included on the weekly payrolls. Instead the payrolls shall only need to include an individually identifying number for each employee (e.g., the last four digits of the employee's social security number). The required weekly payroll information may be submitted in any form desired. Optional Form WH-347 is available for this purpose from the Wage and Hour Division Web site at <http://www.dol.gov/whd/forms/wh347.pdf> instructions are also found on-line at: <http://www.dol.gov/whd/forms/wh347instr.htm> or its successor site. The prime contractor is responsible for the submission of copies of payrolls by all subcontractors. Contractors and subcontractors shall maintain the full social security number and current address of each covered worker, and shall provide them upon request to the subrecipient(s) for transmission to the State or EPA if requested by EPA, the State, the contractor, or the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor for purposes of an investigation or audit of compliance with prevailing wage requirements.

It is not a violation of this section for a prime contractor to require a subcontractor to provide addresses and social security numbers to the prime contractor for its own records, without weekly submission to the subrecipient (s).

(B) Each payroll submitted shall be accompanied by a "Statement of Compliance," signed by the contractor or subcontractor or his or her agent who pays or supervises the payment of the persons employed under the contract and shall certify the following:

(1) That the payroll for the payroll period contains the information required to be provided under [29 CFR Part 5 §5.5 \(a\)\(3\)\(ii\)](#), the appropriate information is being maintained under [29 CFR Part 5 §5.5 \(a\)\(3\)\(ii\)](#), and that such information is correct and complete;

(2) That each laborer or mechanic (including each helper, apprentice, and trainee) employed on the contract during the payroll period has been paid the full weekly wages earned, without rebate, either directly or indirectly, and that no deductions have been made either directly or indirectly from the full wages earned, other than permissible deductions as set forth in Regulations, [29 CFR Part 3](#);

(3) That each laborer or mechanic has been paid not less than the applicable wage rates and fringe benefits or cash equivalents for the classification of work performed, as specified in the applicable wage determination incorporated into the contract.

(C) The weekly submission of a properly executed certification set forth on the reverse side of Optional Form WH-347 shall satisfy the requirement for submission of the "Statement of Compliance" required by paragraph [29 CFR Part 5 §5.5 \(a\)\(3\)\(ii\)\(b\)](#).

(D) The falsification of any of the above certifications may subject the contractor or subcontractor to civil or criminal prosecution under section 1001 of title 18 and section 231 of title 31 of the United States Code.

(iii) The contractor or subcontractor shall make the records required under paragraph [29 CFR Part 5 §5.5 \(a\)\(3\)\(i\)](#) available for inspection, copying, or transcription by authorized representatives of the State, EPA or the Department of Labor, and shall permit such representatives to interview employees during working hours on the job. If the contractor or subcontractor fails to submit the required records or to make them available, the Federal agency or State may, after written notice to the contractor, sponsor, applicant, or owner, take such action as may be necessary to cause the suspension of any further payment, advance, or guarantee of funds. Furthermore, failure to submit the required records upon request or to make such records available may be grounds for debarment action pursuant to [29 CFR Part 5 §5.12](#).

(4) Apprentices and trainees--

(i) Apprentices. Apprentices will be permitted to work at less than the predetermined rate for the work they performed when they are employed pursuant to and individually registered in a bona fide apprenticeship program registered with the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Apprenticeship Training, Employer and Labor Services, or with a State Apprenticeship Agency recognized by the Office, or if a person is employed in his or her first 90 days of probationary employment as an apprentice in such an apprenticeship program, who is not individually registered in the program, but who has been certified by the Office of Apprenticeship Training, Employer and Labor Services or a State Apprenticeship Agency (where appropriate) to be eligible for probationary employment as an apprentice. The allowable ratio of apprentices to journeymen on the job site in any craft classification shall not be greater than the ratio permitted to the contractor as to the entire work force under the registered program. Any worker listed on a payroll at an apprentice wage rate, who is not registered or otherwise employed as stated above, shall be paid not less than the applicable wage rate on the wage determination for the classification of work actually performed. In addition, any apprentice performing work on the job site in excess of the ratio permitted under the registered program shall be paid not less than the applicable wage rate on the wage determination for the work actually performed. Where a contractor is performing construction on a project in a locality other than that in which its program is registered, the ratios and wage rates (expressed in percentages of the journeyman's hourly rate) specified in the contractor's or subcontractor's registered program shall be observed. Every apprentice must be paid at not less than the rate specified in the registered program for the apprentice's level of progress, expressed as a percentage of the journeymen hourly rate specified in the applicable wage determination. Apprentices shall be paid fringe benefits in accordance with the provisions of the apprenticeship program. If the apprenticeship program does not specify fringe benefits, apprentices must be paid the full amount of fringe benefits listed on the wage determination for the applicable classification. If the Administrator determines that a different practice prevails for the applicable apprentice classification, fringes shall be paid in accordance with that determination. In the event the Office

of Apprenticeship Training, Employer and Labor Services, or a State Apprenticeship Agency recognized by the Office, withdraws approval of an apprenticeship program, the contractor will no longer be permitted to utilize apprentices at less than the applicable predetermined rate for the work performed until an acceptable program is approved.

(ii) Trainees. Except as provided in [29 CFR Part 5 §5.16](#), trainees will not be permitted to work at less than the predetermined rate for the work performed unless they are employed pursuant to and individually registered in a program which has received prior approval, evidenced by formal certification by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. The ratio of trainees to journeymen on the job site shall not be greater than permitted under the plan approved by the Employment and Training Administration. Every trainee must be paid at not less than the rate specified in the approved program for the trainee's level of progress, expressed as a percentage of the journeyman hourly rate specified in the applicable wage determination. Trainees shall be paid fringe benefits in accordance with the provisions of the trainee program. If the trainee program does not mention fringe benefits, trainees shall be paid the full amount of fringe benefits listed on the wage determination unless the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division determines that there is an apprenticeship program associated with the corresponding journeyman wage rate on the wage determination which provides for less than full fringe benefits for apprentices. Any employee listed on the payroll at a trainee rate who is not registered and participating in a training plan approved by the Employment and Training Administration shall be paid not less than the applicable wage rate on the wage determination for the classification of work actually performed. In addition, any trainee performing work on the job site in excess of the ratio permitted under the registered program shall be paid not less than the applicable wage rate on the wage determination for the work actually performed. In the event the Employment and Training Administration withdraws approval of a training program, the contractor will no longer be permitted to utilize trainees at less than the applicable predetermined rate for the work performed until an acceptable program is approved.

(iii) Equal employment opportunity. The utilization of apprentices, trainees and journeymen under this part shall be in conformity with the equal employment opportunity requirements of [Executive Order 11246](#), as amended, and [29 CFR Part 30](#).

(5) Compliance with Copeland Act requirements. The contractor shall comply with the requirements of [29 CFR Part 3](#), which are incorporated by reference in this contract.

(6) Subcontracts. The contractor or subcontractor shall insert in any subcontracts the clauses contained in [29 CFR Part 5 §5.5\(a\)\(1\) through \(10\)](#) and such other clauses as the EPA determines may be appropriate, and also a clause requiring the subcontractors to include these clauses in any lower tier subcontracts. The prime contractor shall be responsible for the compliance by any subcontractor or lower tier subcontractor with all the contract clauses in [29 CFR Part 5 §5.5](#).

(7) Contract termination: debarment. A breach of the contract clauses in [29 CFR Part 5 §5.5](#) may be grounds for termination of the contract, and for debarment as a contractor and a subcontractor as provided in [29 CFR Part 5 §5.12](#).

(8) Compliance with Davis-Bacon and Related Act requirements. All rulings and interpretations of the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts contained in 29 CFR parts [1](#), [3](#), and [5](#) are herein incorporated by reference in this contract.

(9) Disputes concerning labor standards. Disputes arising out of the labor standards provisions of this contract shall not be subject to the general disputes clause of this contract. Such disputes shall be resolved in accordance with the procedures of the Department of Labor set forth in 29 CFR parts [5](#), [6](#),

and [7](#). Disputes within the meaning of this clause include disputes between the contractor (or any of its subcontractors) and Subrecipient(s), State, EPA, the U.S. Department of Labor, or the employees or their representatives.

(10) Certification of eligibility.

(i) By entering into this contract, the contractor certifies that neither it (nor he or she) nor any person or firm who has an interest in the contractor's firm is a person or firm ineligible to be awarded Government contracts by virtue of section 3(a) of the Davis-Bacon Act or [29 CFR Part 5 §5.12\(a\)\(1\)](#).

(ii) No part of this contract shall be subcontracted to any person or firm ineligible for award of a Government contract by virtue of section 3(a) of the Davis-Bacon Act or [29 CFR Part 5 §5.12\(a\)\(1\)](#).

(iii) The penalty for making false statements is prescribed in the U.S. Criminal Code, 18 U.S.C. 1001.

4. Contract Provision for Contracts in Excess of \$100,000.

(a) Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act. The subrecipient shall insert the following clauses set forth in paragraphs (a)(1), (2), (3), and (4) of this section in full in any contract in an amount in excess of \$100,000 and subject to the overtime provisions of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act. These clauses shall be inserted in addition to the clauses required by Item 3 above, or [29 CFR Part 4 §4.6](#). As used in this paragraph, the terms laborers and mechanics include watchmen and guards.

(1) Overtime requirements. No contractor or subcontractor contracting for any part of the contract work which may require or involve the employment of laborers or mechanics shall require or permit any such laborer or mechanic in any workweek in which he or she is employed on such work to work in excess of forty hours in such workweek unless such laborer or mechanic receives compensation at a rate not less than one and one-half times the basic rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty hours in such workweek.

(2) Violation; liability for unpaid wages; liquidated damages. In the event of any violation of the clause set forth in paragraph (a)(1) of this section the contractor and any subcontractor responsible therefore shall be liable for the unpaid wages. In addition, such contractor and subcontractor shall be liable to the United States (in the case of work done under contract for the District of Columbia or a territory, to such District or to such territory), for liquidated damages. Such liquidated damages shall be computed with respect to each individual laborer or mechanic, including watchmen and guards, employed in violation of the clause set forth in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, in the sum of \$10 for each calendar day on which such individual was required or permitted to work in excess of the standard workweek of forty hours without payment of the overtime wages required by the clause set forth in paragraph (a)(1) of this section.

(3) Withholding for unpaid wages and liquidated damages. The subrecipient, upon written request of the EPA Award Official or an authorized representative of the Department of Labor, shall withhold or cause to be withheld, from any moneys payable on account of work performed by the contractor or subcontractor under any such contract or any other Federal contract with the same prime contractor, or any other federally assisted contract subject to the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, which is held by the same prime contractor, such sums as may be determined to be necessary to satisfy any liabilities of such contractor or subcontractor for unpaid wages and liquidated damages as provided in the clause set forth in paragraph (b)(2) of this section.

(4) Subcontracts. The contractor or subcontractor shall insert in any subcontracts the clauses set forth in paragraph (a)(1) through (4) of this section and also a clause requiring the subcontractors to include these clauses in any lower tier subcontracts. The prime contractor shall be responsible for compliance by any subcontractor or lower tier subcontractor with the clauses set forth in paragraphs (a)(1) through (4) of this section.

(b) In addition to the clauses contained in Item 3, above, in any contract subject only to the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act and not to any of the other statutes cited in [29 CFR Part 5 §5.1](#), the Subrecipient shall insert a clause requiring that the contractor or subcontractor shall maintain payrolls and basic payroll records during the course of the work and shall preserve them for a period of three years from the completion of the contract for all laborers and mechanics, including guards and watchmen, working on the contract. Such records shall contain the name and address of each such employee, social security number, correct classifications, hourly rates of wages paid, daily and weekly number of hours worked, deductions made, and actual wages paid. Further, the Subrecipient shall insert in any such contract a clause providing that the records to be maintained under this paragraph shall be made available by the contractor or subcontractor for inspection, copying, or transcription by authorized representatives of the (write the name of agency) and the Department of Labor, and the contractor or subcontractor will permit such representatives to interview employees during working hours on the job.

5. Compliance Verification.

(a) The subrecipient shall periodically interview a sufficient number of employees entitled to DB prevailing wages (covered employees) to verify that contractors or subcontractors are paying the appropriate wage rates. As provided in [29 CFR Part 5 §5.6\(a\)\(6\)](#), all interviews must be conducted in confidence. The subrecipient must use Standard Form 1445 or equivalent documentation to memorialize the interviews. Copies of the SF 1445 are available from EPA on request.

(b) The subrecipient shall establish and follow an interview schedule based on its assessment of the risks of noncompliance with DB posed by contractors or subcontractors and the duration of the contract or subcontract. Subrecipients must conduct more frequent interviews if the initial interviews or other information indicates that there is a risk that the contractor or subcontractor is not complying with DB. Subrecipients shall immediately conduct necessary interviews in response to an alleged violation of the prevailing wage requirements. All interviews shall be conducted in confidence.

(c) The subrecipient shall periodically conduct spot checks of a representative sample of weekly payroll data to verify that contractors or subcontractors are paying the appropriate wage rates. The subrecipient shall establish and follow a spot check schedule based on its assessment of the risks of noncompliance with DB posed by contractors or subcontractors and the duration of the contract or subcontract. At a minimum, the subrecipient must spot check payroll data within two weeks of each contractor or subcontractor's submission of its initial payroll data and two weeks prior to the completion date the contract or subcontract (see the following, November 16, 2012, EPA MEMORANDUM, Class Deviation – Prevailing Wage Interview Interval Requirement in Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF and DWSRF) Capitalization Grants). Subrecipients must conduct more frequent spot checks if the initial spot check or other information indicates that there is a risk that the contractor or subcontractor is not complying with DB. In addition, during the examinations the subrecipient shall verify evidence of fringe benefit plans and payments thereunder by contractors and subcontractors who claim credit for fringe benefit contributions.

(d). The subrecipient shall periodically review contractors and subcontractors use of apprentices and trainees to verify registration and certification with respect to apprenticeship and training programs approved by either the U.S Department of Labor or a state, as appropriate, and that contractors and subcontractors are not using

disproportionate numbers of, laborers, trainees and apprentices. These reviews shall be conducted in accordance with the schedules for spot checks and interviews described in Item 5(b) and (c) above.

(e). Subrecipients must immediately report potential violations of the DB prevailing wage requirements to the EPA DB contact listed above and to the appropriate DOL Wage and Hour District Nebraska Office listed at https://www.dol.gov/whd/WHD_district_offices.pdf.




UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
ADMINISTRATION
AND RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

November 16, 2012

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Class Deviation---Prevailing Wage Interview Interval Requirement in Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF and DWSRF) Capitalization Grants

FROM:  Denise A. Polk, Director
National Policy, Training and Compliance Division
Office of Grants and Debarment

TO: Randall Hill, Acting Director
Office of Wastewater Management (OWM)

Peter C. Grevatt, Director
Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW)

I am responding to your request for a class waiver from the prevailing wage interview interval requirement in EPA's State Revolving Fund (SRF) Davis-Bacon Act Terms and Conditions (T&C) included in Agency's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) grants that fund construction projects. This waiver would allow the Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) and the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW) to omit the reference to required timing of interviews in EPA's SRF Davis-Bacon T&C. Currently, both programs are subject to the prevailing wage provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act.

BACKGROUND

EPA's Appropriations Act language applies the Davis-Bacon Act prevailing wage requirements to the Agency's SRF programs. EPA's SRF Davis-Bacon T&C is based on the requirements of certain Department of Labor (DOL) regulations implementing the Act. The Director of the Office of Grants and Debarment has the authority to waive provisions in EPA's Davis-Bacon terms and conditions that are not specifically required by DOL regulations or the Act.

The language in EPA's SRF Davis-Bacon T&C from which OWM and OGWDW are seeking a waiver is as follows (in italics):

5. (b) The subrecipient shall establish and follow an interview schedule based on its assessment of the risks of noncompliance with DB posed by contractors or subcontractors and the duration of the contract or subcontract. *At a minimum, the subrecipient should conduct interviews with a representative group of*

covered employees within two weeks of each contractor or subcontractor's submission of its initial weekly payroll data and two weeks prior to the estimated completion date for the contract or subcontract. Subrecipients must conduct more frequent interviews if the initial interviews or other information indicates that there is a risk that the contractor or subcontractor is not complying with DB. Subrecipients shall immediately conduct necessary interviews in response to an alleged violation of the prevailing wage requirements. All interviews shall be conducted in confidence.

The provision for two week interview intervals is not a regulatory or statutory requirement.

Due to the large scope of most CWSRF and DWSRF projects, very few laborers and mechanics are typically on-site at the minimal intervals prescribed by the T&C. The DWSRF and CWSRF programs believe that recipients or sub-recipients should be allowed to conduct such interviews if and when the recipient finds it necessary to ensure that contractors are complying with the prevailing wage requirements.

CONCURRENCES

The Office of General Counsel concurs with the approval of this waiver.

ACTION

I have reviewed and approve this request for a waiver from the two week interview interval requirements contained in EPA's standard SRF Davis-Bacon Terms and Conditions. This approval exempts both new and existing CWSRF and DWSRF awards from these requirements.

For new awards, this means that EPA may modify the standard Terms and Condition to delete these requirements.

For existing awards, Project Officers must place a copy of this class deviation in their official project file, with a notation on the award stating that the requirements have been superseded by the class deviation. A formal amendment to the grant agreement is not required. Project Officers must also notify the recipient of the class deviation.

cc: Howard Corcoran, Office of Grants and Debarment
Laurice Jones, Office of Grants and Debarment
Joanne Hogan, Office of General Counsel
Jordan Dorfman, Office of General Counsel
Ellen O'Boyle, Office of Grants and Debarment
Alexandra Raver, Office of Grants and Debarment
George Ames, State Revolving Fund Branch
Chuck Job, Infrastructure Branch

LABOR STANDARDS INTERVIEW

CONTRACT NUMBER			EMPLOYEE INFORMATION		
NAME OF PRIME CONTRACTOR			LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MI
NAME OF EMPLOYER			STREET ADDRESS		
SUPERVISOR'S NAME			CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MI	WORK CLASSIFICATION	WAGE RATE	

ACTION	CHECK BELOW	
	YES	NO
Do you work over 8 hours per day?		
Do you work over 40 hours per week?		
Are you paid at least time and a half for overtime hours?		
Are you receiving any cash payments for fringe benefits required by the posted wage determination decision?		
WHAT DEDUCTIONS OTHER THAN TAXES AND SOCIAL SECURITY ARE MADE FROM YOUR PAY?		

HOW MANY HOURS DID YOU WORK ON YOUR LAST WORK DAY BEFORE THIS INTERVIEW?	TOOLS YOU USE	
DATE OF LAST WORK DAY BEFORE INTERVIEW (YYMMDD)		
DATE YOU BEGAN WORK ON THIS PROJECT (YYMMDD)		

THE ABOVE IS CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE			
EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURE			DATE (YYMMDD)
INTERVIEWER	SIGNATURE	TYPED OR PRINTED NAME	DATE (YYMMDD)

INTERVIEWER'S COMMENTS			
WORK EMPLOYEE WAS DOING WHEN INTERVIEWED	ACTION <i>(If explanation is needed, use comments section)</i>	YES	NO
	IS EMPLOYEE PROPERLY CLASSIFIED AND PAID?		
	ARE WAGE RATES AND POSTERS DISPLAYED?		

FOR USE BY PAYROLL CHECKER	
IS ABOVE INFORMATION IN AGREEMENT WITH PAYROLL DATA?	
<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
COMMENTS	

CHECKER			
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MI	JOB TITLE
SIGNATURE			DATE (YYMMDD)

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL CLASSIFICATION AND RATE

CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX

☐ SERVICE CONTRACT☐ CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT
OMB Control Number: 9000-0089
Expiration Date: 10/31/2019

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .5 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspects of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to U.S. General Services Administration, Regulatory Secretariat (MVCB)/IC 9000-0089, Office of Governmentwide Acquisition Policy, 1800 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20405.

INSTRUCTIONS: THE CONTRACTOR SHALL COMPLETE ITEMS 3 THROUGH 16, KEEP A PENDING COPY, AND SUBMIT THE REQUEST, IN QUADRUPLICATE, TO THE CONTRACTING OFFICER.

1. TO: ADMINISTRATOR, WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WASHINGTON, DC 20210			2. FROM: (REPORTING OFFICE)	
3. CONTRACTOR				4. DATE OF REQUEST
5. CONTRACT NUMBER	6. DATE BID OPENED (SEALED BIDDING)	7. DATE OF AWARD	8. DATE CONTRACT WORK STARTED	9. DATE OPTION EXERCISED (IF APPLICABLE) (SERVICE CONTRACT ONLY)
10. SUBCONTRACTOR (IF ANY)				

11. PROJECT AND DESCRIPTION OF WORK (ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEET IF NEEDED)

12. LOCATION (CITY, COUNTY AND STATE)

13. IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE WORK PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE ABOVE CONTRACT, IT IS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH THE FOLLOWING RATE(S) FOR THE INDICATED CLASSIFICATION(S) NOT INCLUDED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR DETERMINATION

NUMBER: _____	DATED: _____	
a. LIST IN ORDER: PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION TITLE(S); JOB DESCRIPTION(S); DUTIES; AND RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED CLASSIFICATIONS (Service contracts only) (Use reverse or attach additional sheets, if necessary)	b. WAGE RATE(S)	c. FRINGE BENEFITS PAYMENTS

14. SIGNATURE AND TITLE OF SUBCONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIVE (IF ANY)	15. SIGNATURE AND TITLE OF PRIME CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIVE	
16. SIGNATURE OF EMPLOYEE OR REPRESENTATIVE	TITLE	CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX-REFERENCING BLOCK 13. <input type="checkbox"/> AGREE <input type="checkbox"/> DISAGREE

TO BE COMPLETED BY CONTRACTING OFFICER (CHECK AS APPROPRIATE - SEE FAR 22.1019 (SERVICE CONTRACT LABOR STANDARDS) OR FAR 22.406-3 (CONSTRUCTION WAGE RATE REQUIREMENTS))

<input type="checkbox"/> THE INTERESTED PARTIES AGREE AND THE CONTRACTING OFFICER RECOMMENDS APPROVAL BY THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION. AVAILABLE INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS ARE ATTACHED.
<input type="checkbox"/> THE INTERESTED PARTIES CANNOT AGREE ON THE PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION AND WAGE RATE. A DETERMINATION OF THE QUESTION BY THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION IS THEREFORE REQUESTED. AVAILABLE INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS ARE ATTACHED. (Send 3 copies to the Department of Labor)

SIGNATURE OF CONTRACTING OFFICER OR REPRESENTATIVE	TITLE AND COMMERCIAL TELEPHONE NUMBER	DATE SUBMITTED

PAYROLL

(For Contractor's Optional Use; See Instructions at www.dol.gov/whd/forms/wh347instr.htm)

Persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.



Rev. Dec. 2008

NAME OF CONTRACTOR OR SUBCONTRACTOR				ADDRESS										OMB No.: 1235-0008 Expires: 04/30/2021						
PAYROLL NO.			FOR WEEK ENDING				PROJECT AND LOCATION						PROJECT OR CONTRACT NO.							
(1) NAME AND INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFYING NUMBER (e.g., LAST FOUR DIGITS OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER) OF WORKER	(2) NO. OF WITHHOLDING EXEMPTIONS	(3) WORK CLASSIFICATION	OT OR ST	(4) DAY AND DATE							(5) TOTAL HOURS	(6) RATE OF PAY	(7) GROSS AMOUNT EARNED	(8) DEDUCTIONS						(9) NET WAGES PAID FOR WEEK
				HOURS WORKED EACH DAY										FICA	WITH- HOLDING TAX	OTHER	TOTAL DEDUCTIONS			
			O																	
			S																	
			O																	
			S																	
			O																	
			S																	
			O																	
			S																	
			O																	
			S																	
			O																	
			S																	
			O																	
			S																	
			O																	
			S																	

While completion of Form WH-347 is optional, it is mandatory for covered contractors and subcontractors performing work on Federally financed or assisted construction contracts to respond to the information collection contained in 29 C.F.R. §§ 3.3, 5.5(a). The Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. § 3145) contractors and subcontractors performing work on Federally financed or assisted construction contracts to "furnish weekly a statement with respect to the wages paid each employee during the preceding week." U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) regulations at 29 C.F.R. § 5.5(a)(3)(ii) require contractors to submit weekly a copy of all payrolls to the Federal agency contracting for or financing the construction project, accompanied by a signed "Statement of Compliance" indicating that the payrolls are correct and complete and that each laborer or mechanic has been paid not less than the proper Davis-Bacon prevailing wage rate for the work performed. DOL and federal contracting agencies receiving this information review the information to determine that employees have received legally required wages and fringe benefits.

Public Burden Statement

We estimate that it will take an average of 55 minutes to complete this collection, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. If you have any comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of this collection, including suggestions for reducing this burden, send them to the Administrator, Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor, Room S3502, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20210

Date _____

I, _____
(Name of Signatory Party) (Title)

do hereby state:

(1) That I pay or supervise the payment of the persons employed by

_____, on the
(Contractor or Subcontractor)

_____; that during the payroll period commencing on the
(Building or Work)

_____ day of _____, _____, and ending the _____ day of _____, _____,
all persons employed on said project have been paid the full weekly wages earned, that no rebates have
been or will be made either directly or indirectly to or on behalf of said

_____ from the full
(Contractor or Subcontractor)

weekly wages earned by any person and that no deductions have been made either directly or indirectly
from the full wages earned by any person, other than permissible deductions as defined in Regulations, Part
3 (29 C.F.R. Subtitle A), issued by the Secretary of Labor under the Copeland Act, as amended (48 Stat. 948,
63 Stat. 108, 72 Stat. 967; 76 Stat. 357; 40 U.S.C. § 3145), and described below:

(2) That any payrolls otherwise under this contract required to be submitted for the above period are
correct and complete; that the wage rates for laborers or mechanics contained therein are not less than the
applicable wage rates contained in any wage determination incorporated into the contract; that the classifications
set forth therein for each laborer or mechanic conform with the work he performed.

(3) That any apprentices employed in the above period are duly registered in a bona fide apprenticeship
program registered with a State apprenticeship agency recognized by the Bureau of Apprenticeship and
Training, United States Department of Labor, or if no such recognized agency exists in a State, are registered
with the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, United States Department of Labor.

(4) That:

(a) WHERE FRINGE BENEFITS ARE PAID TO APPROVED PLANS, FUNDS, OR PROGRAMS

- in addition to the basic hourly wage rates paid to each laborer or mechanic listed in
the above referenced payroll, payments of fringe benefits as listed in the contract
have been or will be made to appropriate programs for the benefit of such employees,
except as noted in section 4(c) below.

(b) WHERE FRINGE BENEFITS ARE PAID IN CASH

- Each laborer or mechanic listed in the above referenced payroll has been paid,
as indicated on the payroll, an amount not less than the sum of the applicable
basic hourly wage rate plus the amount of the required fringe benefits as listed
in the contract, except as noted in section 4(c) below.

(c) EXCEPTIONS

EXCEPTION (CRAFT)	EXPLANATION

REMARKS:

--

NAME AND TITLE	SIGNATURE
THE WILLFUL FALSIFICATION OF ANY OF THE ABOVE STATEMENTS MAY SUBJECT THE CONTRACTOR OR SUBCONTRACTOR TO CIVIL OR CRIMINAL PROSECUTION. SEE SECTION 1001 OF TITLE 18 AND SECTION 231 OF TITLE 31 OF THE UNITED STATES CODE.	

STANDARD FEDERAL EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT SPECIFICATIONS

[\(EXECUTIVE ORDER 11246\)](#)

1. As used in these specifications:
 - a. “Covered area” means the geographical area described in the solicitation from which this contract resulted:
 - b. “Director” means Director, Office of Federal Contract compliance Programs, United States Department of Labor, or any person to whom the Director delegates authority:
 - c. “Employer Identification Number” means the Federal Social Security number used on the Employer’s Quarterly Federal Tax Return, U.S. Treasury Department Form 941:
 - d. “Minority” includes:
 - i. Black (all persons having origins in any of the Black African racial groups not of Hispanic origin);
 - ii. Hispanic (all persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American or other Spanish Culture or origin, regardless of race):
 - iii. Asian and Pacific Islander (all persons having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian Sub-continent, or the Pacific Islands); and
 - iv. American Indian or Alaskan Native (all persons having origins in any of the original peoples of North America and maintaining identifiable tribal affiliations through membership and participation or community identification).
2. Whenever the Contractor, or any Subcontractor at any tier subcontracts a portion of the work involving any construction trade, it shall physically include in each subcontract in excess of \$10,000 the provisions of these specifications and the Notice which contains the applicable goals for minority and female participation and which is set forth in the solicitations from which this contract resulted.
3. If the Contractor is participating (pursuant to 41 CFR 60-4.5) in a Hometown Plan approved by the U.S. Department of Labor in the covered area either individually or through an association, its affirmative action obligations on all work in the Plan area (including goals and timetables) shall be in accordance with that Plan area (including goals and timetables) shall be in accordance with that Plan for those trades which have unions participating in the Plan. Contractors must be able to demonstrate their participation in and compliance with the provisions of any such Hometown Plan. Each Contractor or Subcontractor participation in an approved Plan is individually required to comply with its obligations under the EEO clause, and to make a good faith effort to achieve each goal under the Plan in each trade in which it has employees. The overall good faith performance by other Contractors or Subcontractors toward a goal in an approved Plan does not excuse any covered Contractor’s or Subcontractor’s failure to take good faith efforts to achieve the Plan goals and timetables.
4. The Contractor shall implement the specific affirmative action standards provide in paragraphs 7(a) through (p) of these specifications. The goals set forth in the solicitation from which this contract resulted are expressed as percentages of the total hours of employment and training of minority and female utilization the Contractor should reasonable be able to achieve in each construction trade in

which it has employees in the covered areas. Covered construction contractors performing construction work in geographical areas where they do not have a Federal or Federally assisted construction contract shall apply the minority and female goals established for the geographical area where the work is being performed. Goals are published periodically in the Federal Register in notice form, and such notices may be obtained from any Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs office or from Federal procurement contracting officers. The Contractor is expected to make substantially uniform progress in meeting its goals in each craft during the period specified.

5. Neither the provisions of any collective bargaining agreement, nor the failure by a union with whom the Contractor has a collective bargaining agreement, to refer either minorities or woman shall excuse the Contractor's obligations under these specifications, Executive Order 11246, or the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.
6. In order for the nonworking training hours of apprentices and trainees to be counted in meeting the goals, such apprentices and trainees must be employed by the Contractor during the training period, and the Contractor must have made a commitment to employ the apprentices and trainees at the completion of their training, subject to the availability of employment opportunities. Trainees must be trained pursuant to training programs approved by the U. S. Department of Labor.
7. 7. The Contractor shall take specific affirmative actions to ensure equal employment opportunity. The evaluation of the Contractor's compliance with these specifications shall be based upon its effort to achieve maximum results from its actions. The Contractor shall document these efforts fully, and shall implement affirmative action steps at least as extensive as the following:
 - a. Ensure and maintain a working environment free of harassment, intimidation, and coercion at all sites, and in all facilities at which the Contractor's employees are assigned to work. The Contractor, where possible, will assign two or more women to each construction project. The contractor shall specifically ensure that all foreman, superintendents, and other onsite supervisory personnel are aware of and carry out the Contractor's obligation to maintain such a working environment, with specific attention to minority or female individuals working at such sites or in such facilities.
 - b. Establish and maintain a current list of minority and female recruitment sources, provide written notification to minority and female recruitment sources and to community organizations when the Contractor or its unions have employment opportunities available and maintain a record of the organizations' responses.
 - c. Maintain a current file of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of each minority and female off-the-street applicant and minority or female referral from a union, a recruitment source or community organization and of what action was taken with respect to each such individual. If such individual was sent to the union hiring hall for referral and was not referred back to the Contractor by the union or, if referred, not employed by the contractor, this shall be documented in the file with the reason therefore; along with whatever additional actions the Contractor may have taken.
 - d. Provide immediate written notification to the Director when the union or unions with which the Contractor has collective bargaining agreement has not referred to the Contractor a minority person or woman sent by the Contractor, or when the Contractor has other information that the union referral process has impeded the Contractor's efforts to meet its obligations.
 - e. Develop on-the-job training opportunities and/or participate in training programs for the area which expressly include minorities and women, including upgrading programs and

apprenticeship and trainee programs relevant to the Contractor's employment needs, especially those programs funded or approved by the Department of Labor. The contractor shall provide notice of these programs to the sources compiled under 7(b) above.

- f. Disseminate the Contractor's EEO policy by providing notice of the policy to unions and training programs and requesting their cooperation in assisting the Contractor in meeting its EEO obligations; by including it in any policy manual and collective bargaining agreement; by publicizing it in the company newspaper, annual report, etc.; by specific review of the policy with all management personnel and with all minority and female employees at least once a year; and by posting the company EEO policy on bulletin boards accessible to all employees at each location where construction work is performed.
- g. Review, at least annually, the company's EEO policy and affirmative action obligations under these specifications with all employees having any responsibility for hiring, assignment, layoff, termination or other supervisory personnel such as Superintendents, General Foremen, etc., prior to the initiation of construction work at any job site. A written record shall be made and maintained identifying the time and place of these meetings, persons attending, subject matter discussed, and disposition of the subject matter.
- h. Disseminate the Contractor's EEO policy externally by including it in any advertising in the news media, specifically including minority and female news media, and providing written notifications to and discussing the Contractor's EEO policy with other Contractors and Subcontractors with whom the Contractor does or anticipates doing business.
- i. Direct its recruitment efforts, both oral and written, to minority, female and community organizations, to schools with minority and female students and to minority and female recruitment and training organizations serving the Contractor's recruitment area and employment needs. Not later than one month prior to the date for the acceptance of applications for apprenticeship or other training by any recruitment source, the Contractor shall send written notification to organizations such as the above, describing the openings, screening procedures, and tests to be used in the selection process.
- j. Encourage present minority and female employees to recruit other minority persons and women and, where reasonable, provide after school, summer and vacation employment to minority and female youth both on the site and in other areas of a Contractor's workforce.
- k. Validate all tests and other selection requirements where there is an obligation to do so under 41 CFR Part 60-3.
- l. Conduct, at least annually an inventory and evaluation at least of all minority and female personnel for promotional opportunities and encourage these employees to seek or to prepare for, through appropriate training, etc., such opportunities.
- m. Ensure that seniority practices, job classifications, work assignments and other personnel practices, do not have a discriminatory effect by continually monitoring all personnel and employment related activities to ensure that the EEO policy and the Contractor's obligations under these specifications are being carried out.
- n. Ensure that all facilities and company activities are nonsegregated except that separate or single-user toilet and necessary changing facilities shall be provided to assure privacy between the sexes.

- o. Document and maintain a record of all solicitations of offers for subcontracts from minority and female construction contractors and suppliers, including circulation of solicitations to minority and female contractor associations and other business associations.
 - p. Conduct a review, at least annually, of all supervisors' adherence to and performance under the Contractor's EEO policies and affirmative action obligations.
- 8. Contractors are encouraged to participate in voluntary associations which assist in fulfilling one or more of these affirmative action obligations (7(a) through (p)). The efforts of a contractor association, joint contractor-union, contractor-community, or other similar group of which the contractor is a member and participant, may be assured as fulfilling any one or more of its obligations under 7(a) through (p) of these Specifications effort to assure that the group has a positive impact on the employment of minorities and women in the industry, ensures that the concrete benefits of the program are reflected in the Contractor's minority and female workforce participation, makes a good faith effort to meet its individual goals and timetables, and can provide access to documentation which demonstrates the effectiveness of actions taken on behalf of the Contractor. The obligation to comply, however, is the Contractor's and failure of such a group to fulfill and obligation shall not be a defense for the Contractor's noncompliance.
- 9. A single goal for minorities and a separate single goal for women have been established. The Contractor, however, is required to provide equal employment opportunity and to take affirmative action for all minority groups, both male and female, and all women, both minority and non-minority. Consequently, the Contractor may be in violation of the Executive Order if a particular group is employed in a substantially disparate manner (for example, even though the Contractor has achieved its goals for women generally, the Contractor may be in violation of the Executive Order if a specific minority group of women is underutilized).
- 10. The Contractor shall not use the goals and timetable or affirmative action standards to discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
- 11. The Contractor shall not enter into any Subcontract with any person or firm debarred from Government contracts pursuant to Executive Order 11246.
- 12. The Contractor shall carry out such sanctions and penalties for violation of these specifications and of the Equal Opportunity Clause, including suspension, termination and cancellation of existing subcontracts as may be imposed or ordered pursuant to Executive Order 11246, as amended, and its implementing regulations, by the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs. Any Contractor who fails to carry out such sanctions and penalties shall be in violation of these specifications and Executive Order 11246, as amended.
- 13. The Contractor, in fulfilling its obligations under these specifications, shall implement specific affirmative action steps at least as extensive as those standards prescribed in paragraph 7 of these specifications so as to achieve maximum results from its efforts to ensure equal employment opportunity. If the Contractor fails to comply with the requirements of the Executive Order, the implementing regulations, or these specifications, the Director shall proceed in accordance with 41 CFR 60-4.8.
- 14. The Contractor shall designate a responsible official to monitor all employment related activity to ensure that the company EEO policy is being carried out, to submit reports relating to the provisions hereof as may be required by the Government and to keep records. Records shall at least include for each employee the name, address, telephone numbers, construction trade, union affiliation if any, employee identification number when assigned, social security number, race, sex, status (e.g., mechanic,

apprentice, trainee, helper, or laborer), dates of changes in status, hours worked per week in the indicated trade, rate of pay, and locations at which the work was performed. Records shall be maintained in the easily understandable and retrievable form; however, to the degree that existing records satisfy this requirement, contractors shall not be required to maintain separate records.

15. Nothing herein provided shall be construed as a limitation upon the application of other laws, which establish different standards of compliance or upon the application of requirements for the hiring of local or other area residents (e.g., those under the Public Works Employment Act of 1977 and the Community Development Block Grant Program).

Federal Register, Vol. 43, No. 68 – Friday, April 7, 1978 (Corrected May 5, 1978) – Effective Date; May 8, 1978
Federal Register, Vol. 45, No. 194, Paragraph 4, revised October 3, 1980
Effective Date: September 30, 1980

NOTICE OF REQUIREMENT FOR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION TO ENSURE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

(EXECUTIVE ORDER 11246)

1. The Offeror's or Bidder's attention is called to the "Equal Opportunity Clause" and the "Standard Federal Equal Employment Specifications" set forth herein.

2. The goals and timetables for minority and female participation, expressed in percentage terms for the Contractor's aggregate workforce in each trade on all construction work in the covered area, are as follows:

Timetables	Goals for minority participation for each trade	Goals for female participation in each trade
All years	Insert goals for area	6.9%

These goals are applicable to all the Contractor's construction work (whether or not it is Federal or federally assisted) performed in the covered area. If the contractor performs construction work in a geographical area located outside of the covered area, it shall apply the goals established for such geographical area where the work is actually performed. With regard to this second area, the contractor also is subject to the goals for both its federally involved and non-federally involved construction. The Contractor's compliance with the Executive Order and the regulations in 41 CFR Part 60-4 shall be based on its implementation of the Equal Opportunity Clause, specific affirmative action obligations required by the specifications set forth in 41 CFR 60-4.3(a), and its efforts to meet the goals. The hours of minority and female employment and training must be substantially uniform throughout the length of the contract, and in each trade, and the contractor shall make a good faith effort to employ minorities and women evenly on each of its projects. The transfer of minority or female employees or trainees from Contractor to Contractor or from project to project for the sole purpose of meeting the Contractor's goals shall be a violation of the contract, the Executive Order and the regulations in 41 CFR Part 60-4. Compliance with the goals will be measured against the total work hours performed.

3. The Contractor shall provide written notification to the Director of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs within 10 working days of award of any construction subcontract in excess of \$10,000 at any tier for construction work under the contract resulting from this solicitation. The notification shall list the name, address and telephone number of the subcontractor; employer identification number of the subcontractor; estimated dollar amount of the subcontract; estimated starting and completion dates of the subcontract; and the geographical area in which the subcontract is to be performed.

4. As used in this Notice, and in the contract resulting from this solicitation, the "covered area" is (insert description of the geographical areas where the contract is to be performed giving the state, county and city, if any).

Department of Labor EEO Minority Goals for Contractor Workforce
as per the October 3, 1980 Federal Register by Region 7 Counties

Iowa	Jasper 2.4	Kansas	Labette 2.3
Adair 2.4	Jefferson 2.4	Allen 2.3	Lane 5.7
Adams 5.3	Johnson 1.5	Anderson 10.0	Leavenworth 10.0
Allamakee 0.5	Jones 1.5	Atchison 10.0	Lincoln 1.5
Appanoose 2.4	Keokuk 2.4	Barber 5.7	Linn 10.0
Audubon 5.3	Kossuth 0.4	Barton 5.7	Logan 1.5
Benton 1.5	Lee 3.4	Bourbon 2.3	Lyon 6.5
Black Hawk 4.7	Linn 1.7	Brown 10.0	Marion 5.7
Boone 2.4	Louisa 3.4	Butler 7.9	Marshall 6.5
Bremer 2.0	Lucas 2.4	Chase 5.7	McPherson 5.7
Buchanan 2.0	Lyon 0.8	Chautauqua 5.7	Meade 5.7
Buena Vista 0.4	Madison 2.4	Cherokee 2.3	Miami 10.0
Butler 2.0	Mahaska 2.4	Cheyenne 1.5	Mitchell 1.5
Calhoun 0.4	Marion 2.4	Clark 5.7	Montgomery 2.3
Carroll 0.4	Marshall 2.4	Clay 6.5	Morris 6.5
Cass 5.3	Mills 5.3	Cloud 1.5	Morton 5.7
Cedar 1.5	Mitchell 2.0	Coffey 6.5	Nemaha 6.5
Cerro Gordo 2.0	Monona 1.2	Comanche 5.7	Neosho 2.3
Cherokee 1.2	Monroe 2.4	Cowley 5.7	Ness 5.7
Chickasaw 2.0	Montgomery 5.3	Crawford 2.3	Norton 1.5
Clarke 2.4	Muscatine 3.4	Decatur 1.5	Osage 9.0
Clay 0.4	O'Brien 1.2	Dickinson 1.5	Osborne 1.5
Clayton 0.5	Osceola 0.8	Doniphan 10.0	Ottawa 1.5
Clinton 3.4	Page 5.3	Douglas 7.2	Pawnee 5.7
Crawford 1.2	Palo Alto 0.4	Edwards 5.7	Phillips 1.5
Dallas 2.4	Plymouth 1.2	Elk 5.7	Pottawatomie 6.5
Davis 2.4	Pocahontas 0.4	Ellis 1.5	Pratt 5.7
Decatur 2.4	Polk 4.5	Ellsworth 1.5	Rawlins 1.5
Delaware 0.5	Pottawattamie 7.6	Finney 5.7	Reno 5.7
Des Moines 3.4	Poweshiek 2.4	Ford 5.7	Republic 1.5
Dickinson 0.4	Ringgold 2.4	Franklin 10.0	Rice 5.7
Dubuque 0.6	Sac 0.4	Geary 6.5	Riley 6.5
Emmet 0.4	Scott 4.6	Gove 1.5	Rooks 1.5
Fayette 2.0	Shelby 5.3	Graham 1.5	Rush 5.7
Floyd 2.0	Sioux 1.2	Grant 5.7	Russell 1.5
Franklin 2.0	Story 2.4	Gray 5.7	Saline 1.5
Fremont 5.3	Tama 2.4	Greeley 5.7	Scott 5.7
Greene 0.4	Taylor 5.3	Greenwood 5.7	Sedgwick 7.9
Grundy 2.0	Union 2.4	Hamilton 5.7	Seward 5.7
Guthrie 2.4	Van Buren 2.4	Harper 5.7	Shawnee 9.0
Hamilton 0.4	Wapello 2.4	Harvey 5.7	Sheridan 1.5
Hancock 2.0	Warren 4.5	Haskell 5.7	Sherman 1.5
Hardin 2.0	Washington 1.5	Hodgeman 5.7	Smith 1.5
Harrison 5.3	Wayne 2.4	Jackson 6.5	Stafford 5.7
Henry 3.4	Webster 0.4	Jefferson 9.0	Stanton 5.7
Howard 2.0	Winnebago 2.0	Jewell 1.5	Stevens 5.7
Humboldt 0.4	Winneshiek 0.5	Johnson 12.7	Sumner 5.7
Ida 1.2	Woodbury 1.9	Kearny 5.7	Thomas 1.5
Iowa 1.5	Worth 2.0	Kingman 5.7	Trego 1.5
Jackson 0.5	Wright 0.4	Kiowa 5.7	Wabaunsee 6.5
			Wallace 1.5

Washington6.5
Wichita5.7
Wilson2.3
Woodson2.3
Wyandotte12.7

Missouri

Adair.....4.0
Andrew9.2
Atchison.....10.0
Audrain.....4.0
Barry.....2.3
Barton.....2.3
Bates.....10.0
Benton10.0
Bollinger.....11.4
Boone6.3
Buchanan.....9.2
Butler.....11.4
Caldwell.....10.0
Callaway.....4.0
Camden.....4.0
Cape Girardeau11.4
Carroll.....10.0
Carter.....11.4
Cass12.7
Cedar2.3
Chariton.....4.0
Christian2.0
Clark.....3.4
Clay12.7
Clinton.....10.0
Cole4.0
Cooper.....4.0
Crawford.....11.4
Dade2.3
Dallas.....2.3
Daviess10.0
De Kalb10.0
Dent.....11.4
Douglas2.3
Dunklin.....26.5
Franklin14.7
Gasconade11.4
Gentry.....10.0
Greene2.0
Grundy.....10.0
Harrison.....10.0
Henry.....10.0
Hickory.....2.3
Holt.....10.0
Howard.....4.0
Howell.....2.3
Iron11.4
Jackson12.7

Jasper2.3
Jefferson14.7
Johnson10.0
Knox.....4.0
Laclede2.3
Lafayette.....10.0
Lawrence2.3
Lewis3.1
Lincoln11.4
Linn4.0
Livingston10.0
McDonald2.3
Macon4.0
Madison11.4
Maries11.4
Marion3.1
Mercer.....10.0
Miller4.0
Mississippi11.4
Moniteau4.0
Monroe4.0
Montgomery11.4
Morgan.....4.0
New Madrid26.5
Newton2.3
Nodaway10.0
Oregon2.3
Osage.....4.0
Ozark2.3
Pemiscot26.5
Perry11.4
Pettis.....10.0
Phelps11.4
Pike3.1
Platte12.7
Polk2.3
Pulaski2.3
Putnam4.0
Ralls3.1
Randolph.....4.0
Ray12.7
Reynolds11.4
Ripley11.4
St. Charles14.7
St. Clair2.3
St. Francois11.4
Ste. Genevieve11.4
St. Louis14.7
St. Louis City14.7
Saline.....10.0
Schuyler4.0
Scotland.....4.0
Scott11.4
Shannon2.3
Shelby4.0

Stoddard11.4
Stone2.3
Sullivan.....4.0
Taney2.3
Texas2.3
Vernon2.3
Warren11.4
Washington.....11.4
Wayne.....11.4
Webster.....2.3
Worth.....10.0
Wright.....2.3

Nebraska

Adams.....1.4
Antelope1.2
Arthur1.4
Banner5.3
Blaine.....1.4
Boone.....1.4
Box Butte.....5.3
Boyd1.4
Brown1.4
Buffalo.....1.4
Burt.....5.3
Butler.....1.9
Cass5.3
Cedar1.2
Chase1.4
Cherry1.4
Cheyenne5.3
Clay1.4
Colfax5.3
Cuming1.2
Custer.....1.4
Dakota1.9
Dawes5.3
Dawson.....1.4
Deuel5.3
Dixon1.2
Dodge5.3
Douglas.....7.6
Dundy1.4
Fillmore1.9
Franklin.....1.4
Frontier1.4
Furnas1.4
Gage.....1.9
Garden5.3
Garfield.....1.4
Gosper1.4
Grant.....1.4
Greeley1.4
Hall1.4
Hamilton1.4

Harlan.....1.4
Hayes.....1.4
Hitchcock1.4
Holt1.4
Hooker.....1.4
Howard.....1.4
Jefferson1.9
Johnson.....1.9
Kearney1.4
Keith.....1.4
Keya Paha1.4
Kimball.....5.3
Knox.....1.2
Lancaster2.8
Lincoln1.4
Logan1.4
Loup1.4
McPherson1.4
Madison.....1.2
Merrick.....1.4
Morrill.....5.3
Nance1.4
Nemaha1.9
Nuckolls1.4
Otoe1.9
Pawnee1.9
Perkins.....1.4
Phelps.....1.4
Pierce.....1.2
Platte5.3
Polk1.9
Red Willow1.4
Richardson1.9
Rock1.4
Saline.....1.9
Sarpy7.6
Saunders5.3
Scotts Bluff5.3
Seward.....1.9
Sheridan5.3
Sherman1.4
Sioux5.3
Stanton1.2
Thayer1.9
Thomas.....1.4
Thurston1.2
Valley1.4
Washington5.3
Wayne1.2
Webster1.4
Wheeler1.4
York1.9

EPA DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) PROGRAM

(See http://www.epa.gov/osbp/dbe_team.htm for more information)

Prime Contractor Responsibilities:

1. The contractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin or sex in the performance of this contract. The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 40 CFR Part 33 (DBE regulations) in the award and administration of contracts awarded under EPA financial assistance agreements. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this contract which may result in the termination of this contract or other legally available remedies.
2. If the contractor awards subcontracts, the contractor should employ the good faith efforts in paragraph No. 3 to try to meet the following subcontracting goals: Minority business enterprise – 6% Women’s business enterprise – 8%.
3. If the contractor awards subcontracts, the contractor should take the following good faith efforts to subcontract with small business enterprises, minority business enterprises, and women’s business enterprises (i.e. DBEs):
 - a. Ensure DBEs are made aware of contracting opportunities to the fullest extent practicable through outreach and recruitment activities. For Indian Tribal, State, and local government grant recipients, this will include placing DBEs on solicitation lists and soliciting them whenever they are potential sources.
 - b. Make information on forthcoming opportunities available to DBEs and arrange time frames for contracts and establish delivery schedules, where the requirements permit, in a way that encourages and facilitates participation by DBEs in the competitive process. This includes, whenever possible, posting solicitations for bids or proposals for a minimum of 30 calendar days before the bid or proposal closing date.
 - c. Consider in the contracting process whether firms competing for large contracts could subcontract with DBEs. For Indian Tribal, State, and local government grant recipients, this will include dividing total requirements when economically feasible into smaller tasks or quantities to permit maximum participation by DBEs in the competitive process.
 - d. Encourage contracting with a consortium of DBEs when a contract is too large for one of these firms to handle individually.
 - e. Use the services and assistance of the SBA and the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce.
4. The contractor should provide the attached DBE subcontractor Participation Form (6100-2) and the attached DBE Subcontractor Performance Form (6100-3) to each DBE subcontractor when soliciting bid proposals.
5. The contractor should complete the attached DBE subcontractor Utilization Form (6100-4).
6. The contractor should submit to the Owner with the bid package the completed DBE Subcontractor Utilization Form (6100-4), plus a DBE Subcontractor Performance Form (6100-3) for each DBE subcontractor used in the contractor’s bid.

7. The contractor should pay DBE subcontractors for satisfactory performance no more than 30 days from receipt of payment from owner.
8. The contractor should notify the Owner in writing prior to the termination of a DBE subcontractor for convenience.
9. The contractor should employ the good faith efforts in paragraph No. 3 if soliciting a replacement after a DBE subcontractor fails to complete work under the subcontract for any reason.
10. The contractor should employ the good faith efforts in paragraph No. 3 even if the prime contractor has achieved its fair share objectives in paragraph No. 2.
11. The contractor should report to the Owner each April 5 and October 5, the DBE participation achieved in each semiannual period ending March 31 and September 30.
12. The contractor should maintain records documenting efforts to comply with DBE requirements, including documentation of good faith efforts. The records of the successful bidder will be requested by Owner to be maintained in Owner's file. Subcontractor Responsibilities:
 - a. A DBE must be certified as per the EPA regulation at 40 CFR 33.204. The DBE must first attempt to be certified by the U.S. Small Business Administration, the U.S. Department of Transportation, an Indian Tribal Government, State Government, local Government, or independent private organization. If unsuccessful, the DBE may apply to EPA.
 - b. The DBE may submit the attached DBE Subcontractor Participation Form (6100-2) to ATTN: Grant Assistant, EPA Region 7 PLMG, 901 N 5th St., Kansas City, KS 66101.
 - c. The DBE should complete the attached DBE Subcontractor Performance Form (6100-3), and submit it to the prime contractor soliciting services from the subcontractor prior to the opening of bids for the prime contract.

Attachments

Website for forms:

http://www.epa.gov/osbp/dbe_forms.htm under Contract Administration Forms section.

3/26/10

An EPA Financial Assistance Agreement Recipient must require its prime contractors to provide this form to its DBE subcontractors. This form gives a DBE¹ subcontractor² the opportunity to describe work received and/or report any concerns regarding the EPA-funded project (e.g. in areas such as termination by prime contractor, late payments, etc.). The DBE subcontractor can, as an option, complete and submit this form to the EPA DBE Coordinator at any time during the project period of performance.

Subcontractor Name		Project Name	
Bid/ Proposal No.	Assistance Agreement ID No. (if known)	Point of Contact	
Address			
Telephone No.		Email Address	
Prime Contractor Name		Issuing/Funding Entity:	

Contract Item Number	Description of Work Submitted to the Prime Contractor Involving Construction, Services , Equipment or Supplies	Amount Received by Prime Contractor
DBE Certified By: DOT SBA Other: _____		Meets/ exceeds EPA certification standards? YES NO Unknown

¹ A DBE is a Disadvantaged, Minority, or Woman Business Enterprise that has been certified by an entity from which EPA accepts certifications as described in 40 CFR 33.204-33.205 or certified by EPA. EPA accepts certifications from entities that meet or exceed EPA certification standards as described in 40 CFR 33.202.

² Subcontractor is defined as a company, firm, joint venture, or individual who enters into an agreement with a contractor to provide services pursuant to an EPA award of financial assistance.

[illegible]

Subcontractor Signature	Print Name
Title	Date



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JAN 24 2014

OFFICE OF WATER

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Application of Buy American Requirements to Fiscal Year 2014 Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Assistance Agreements

FROM: Nancy K. Stoner
Acting Assistant Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N.K. Stoner", is written over the name and title of the sender.

TO: Water Management Division Directors
Regions I- X

On January 17, 2014, H.R. 3547, "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014," (Appropriations Act) was enacted. This law provides appropriations for both the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) for Fiscal Year 2014, while adding a Buy American requirement to these already existing programs. Application of this new requirement is the focus of this memorandum.

H.R. 3547 includes the following language in Division G, Title IV, under the heading, "Use of American Iron and Steel,"

Sec. 436. (a)(1) None of the funds made available by a State water pollution control revolving fund as authorized by title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.) or made available by a drinking water treatment revolving loan fund as authorized by section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-12) shall be used for a project for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public water system or treatment works unless all of the iron and steel products used in the project are produced in the United States.

(2) In this section, the term "iron and steel products" means the following products made primarily of iron or steel: lined or unlined pipes and fittings, manhole covers and other municipal castings, hydrants, tanks, flanges, pipe clamps and restraints, valves, structural steel, reinforced precast concrete, and construction materials.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply in any case or category of cases in which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (in this section referred to as the "Administrator") finds that—

(1) applying subsection (a) would be inconsistent with the public interest;

(2) iron and steel products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality; or

(3) inclusion of iron and steel products produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

(c) If the Administrator receives a request for a waiver under this section, the Administrator shall make available to the public on an informal basis a copy of the request and information available to the Administrator concerning the request, and shall allow for informal public input on the request for at least 15 days prior to making a finding based on the request. The Administrator shall make the request and accompanying information available by electronic means, including on the official public Internet Web site of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(d) This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under international agreements.

(e) The Administrator may retain up to 0.25 percent of the funds appropriated in this Act for the Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds for carrying out the provisions described in subsection (a)(1) for management and oversight of the requirements of this section.

(f) This section does not apply with respect to a project if a State agency approves the engineering plans and specifications for the project, in that agency's capacity to approve such plans and specifications prior to a project requesting bids, prior to the date of the enactment of this Act.

In order to comply with this provision, States must include in all assistance agreements, whether in the form of a loan, bond purchase, grant, or any other vehicle to provide financing for a project, executed on or after January 17, 2014 (date of enactment of H.R. 3547), and prior to October 1, 2014, for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of treatment works under the CWSRF or for construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public water system under the DWSRF, a provision requiring the application of Buy American requirements for the entirety of the construction activities financed by the assistance agreement through completion of construction, no matter when construction commences. The one exception to this requirement is if a project has approved engineering plans and specifications, by a State agency, prior to enactment of the Appropriations Act.

Application of the Buy American requirements extend not only to assistance agreements funded with Fiscal Year 2014 appropriations, but to all assistance agreements executed on or after January 17, 2014 and prior to October 1, 2014, whether the source of the funding is prior year's appropriations, state match, bond proceeds, interest earnings, principal repayments, or any other source of funding so long as the project is financed by an SRF assistance agreement. If a project began construction prior to January 17, 2014, but is financed or refinanced through an assistance agreement executed on or after January 17, 2014 and prior to October 1, 2014, Buy American requirements will apply to all construction that occurs on or after January 17, 2014, through completion of construction, unless, as is likely, engineering plans and specifications were approved by a State agency prior to enactment of the Appropriations Act.

Notably, there is no application of the Buy American requirements where such a refinancing occurs for a project that has completed construction prior to January 17, 2014. This provision does not apply to any project for which an assistance agreement was executed prior to January 17, 2014, no matter when construction occurs.

Further information will be provided in the form of guidance as soon as possible.

We understand the complexity of this provision and the challenges involved in its application. If you have any questions, please contact Peter Grevatt or Andrew Sawyers, or have your staff contact Jordan Dorfman, Attorney-Advisor, State Revolving Fund Branch, Municipal Support Division, at dorfman.jordan@epa.gov or (202) 564-0614 and Kiri Anderer, Environmental Engineer, Infrastructure Branch, Drinking Water Protection Division, at anderer.kirsten@epa.gov or (202) 564-3134

ADDITIONAL AMERICAN IRON & STEEL REQUIREMENTS OF EPA AND NDEE FOR SRF PROJECTS

Implementation of American Iron and Steel (AIS) Provisions of P.L. 113-76, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014, in the form of EPA guidance questions and answers that address the types of products covered by the AIS requirement, and compliance. Also a step-by-step process for requesting waivers and the circumstances under which waivers may be granted.

Covered Iron and Steel Products

What is an iron or steel product?

For purposes of the CWSRF and DWSRF projects that must comply with the AIS requirement, an iron or steel product is one of the following made primarily of iron or steel that is permanently incorporated into the public water system or treatment works:

- Lined or unlined pipes or fittings;
- Manhole Covers;
- Municipal Castings (defined in more detail below);
- Hydrants;
- Tanks;
- Flanges;
- Pipe clamps and restraints;
- Valves;
- Structural steel (defined in more detail below);
- Reinforced precast concrete; and
- Construction materials (defined in more detail below).

What does the term ‘primarily iron or steel’ mean?

“Primarily iron or steel” places constraints on the list of products above. For one of the listed products to be considered subject to the AIS requirements, it must be made of greater than 50% iron or steel, measured by cost. The cost should be based on the material costs.

Can you provide an example of how to perform a cost determination?

For example, the iron portion of a fire hydrant would likely be the bonnet, body and shoe, and the cost then would include the pouring and casting to create those components. The other material costs would include non-iron and steel internal workings of the fire hydrant (i.e., stem, coupling, valve, seals, etc). However, the assembly of the internal workings into the hydrant body would not be included in this cost calculation. If one of the listed products is not made primarily of iron or steel, United States (US) provenance is not required. An exception to this definition is reinforced precast concrete, which is addressed in a later question.

If a product is composed of more than 50% iron or steel, but is not listed in the above list of items, must the item be produced in the US? Alternatively, must the iron or steel in such a product be produced in the US?

The answer to both question is no. Only items on the above list must be produced in the US. Additionally, the iron or steel in a non-listed item can be sourced from outside the US.

What is the definition of steel?

Steel means an alloy that includes at least 50 percent iron, between .02 and 2 percent carbon, and may include other elements. Metallic elements such as chromium, nickel, molybdenum, manganese, and silicon may be added during the melting of steel for the purpose of enhancing properties such as corrosion resistance, hardness, or strength. The definition of steel covers carbon steel, alloy steel, stainless steel, tool steel and other specialty steels.

What does ‘produced in the United States’ mean?

Production in the United States of the iron or steel products used in the project requires that all manufacturing processes, including application of coatings, must take place in the United States, with the exception of metallurgical processes involving refinement of steel additives. All manufacturing processes includes processes such as melting, refining, forming, rolling, drawing, finishing, fabricating and coating. Further, if a domestic iron and steel product is taken out of the US for any part of the manufacturing process, it becomes foreign source material. However, raw materials such as iron ore, limestone and iron and steel scrap are not covered by the AIS requirement, and the material(s), if any, being applied as a coating are similarly not covered. Non-iron or steel components of an iron and steel product may come from non-US sources. For example, for products such as valves and hydrants, the individual non-iron and steel components do not have to be of domestic origin.

Are the raw materials used in the production of iron or steel required to come from US sources?

No, raw materials, such as iron ore, limestone, scrap iron, and scrap steel, can come from non-US sources.

If an above listed item is primarily made of iron or steel, but is only at the construction site temporarily, must such an item be produced in the US?

No. Only the above listed products made primarily of iron or steel, permanently incorporated into the project must be produced in the US. For example trench boxes or scaffolding, which are removed from the project site upon completion of the project, are not required to be made of U.S. Iron or Steel.

What is the definition of ‘municipal castings’?

Municipal castings are cast iron or steel infrastructure products that are melted and cast. They typically provide access, protection, or housing for components incorporated into utility owned drinking water, storm water, wastewater, and surface infrastructure. They are typically made of grey or ductile iron, or steel. Examples of municipal castings are:

- Access Hatches;
- Ballast Screen;
- Benches (Iron or Steel);
- Bollards;
- Cast Bases;
- Cast Iron Hinged Hatches, Square and Rectangular;
- Cast Iron Riser Rings;
- Catch Basin Inlet;
- Cleanout/Monument Boxes;
- Construction Covers and Frames;
- Curb and Corner Guards;
- Curb Openings;

- Detectable Warning Plates;
- Downspout Shoes (Boot, Inlet);
- Drainage Grates, Frames and Curb Inlets;
- Inlets;
- Junction Boxes;
- Lampposts;
- Manhole Covers, Rings and Frames, Risers;
- Meter Boxes;
- Service Boxes;
- Steel Hinged Hatches, Square and Rectangular;
- Steel Riser Rings;
- Trash receptacles;
- Tree Grates;
- Tree Guards;
- Trench Grates; and
- Valve Boxes, Covers and Risers.

What is ‘structural steel’?

Structural steel is rolled flanged shapes, having at least one dimension of their crosssection three inches or greater, which are used in the construction of bridges, buildings, ships, railroad rolling stock, and for numerous other constructional purposes. Such shapes are designated as wide-flange shapes, standard I-beams, channels, angles, tees and zees. Other shapes include H-piles, sheet piling, tie plates, cross ties, and those for other special purposes.

What is a ‘construction material’ for purposes of the AIS requirement?

Construction materials are those articles, materials, or supplies made primarily of iron and steel, that are permanently incorporated into the project, not including mechanical and/or electrical components, equipment and systems. Some of these products may overlap with what is also considered “structural steel”. This includes, but is not limited to, the following products: wire rod, bar, angles, concrete reinforcing bar, wire, wire cloth, wire rope and cables, tubing, framing, joists, trusses, fasteners (i.e., nuts and bolts), welding rods, decking, grating, railings, stairs, access ramps, fire escapes, ladders, wall panels, dome structures, roofing, ductwork, surface drains, cable hanging systems, manhole steps, fencing and fence tubing, guardrails, doors, and stationary screens.

What is not considered a ‘construction material’ for purposes of the AIS requirement?

Mechanical and electrical components, equipment and systems are not considered construction materials. Mechanical equipment is typically that which has motorized parts and/or is powered by a motor. Electrical equipment is typically any machine powered by electricity and includes components that are part of the electrical distribution system.

The following examples (including their appurtenances necessary for their intended use and operation) are NOT considered construction materials: pumps, motors, gear reducers, drives (including variable frequency drives (VFDs)), electric/pneumatic/manual accessories used to operate valves (such as electric valve actuators), mixers, gates, motorized screens (such as traveling screens), blowers/aeration equipment, compressors, meters, sensors, controls and switches, supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA), membrane bioreactor systems, membrane filtration systems, filters, clarifiers and clarifier mechanisms, rakes, grinders, disinfection systems, presses (including belt presses), conveyors, cranes, HVAC (excluding ductwork), water heaters, heat exchangers, generators, cabinetry and housings (such as electrical boxes/enclosures), lighting fixtures, electrical

conduit, emergency life systems, metal office furniture, shelving, laboratory equipment, analytical instrumentation, and dewatering equipment.

If the iron or steel is produced in the US, may other steps in the manufacturing process take place outside of the US, such as assembly?

No. Production in the US of the iron or steel used in a listed product requires that all manufacturing processes must take place in the United States, except metallurgical processes involving refinement of steel additives.

What processes must occur in the US to be compliant with the AIS requirement for reinforced precast concrete?

While reinforced precast concrete may not be at least 50% iron or steel, in this particular case, the reinforcing rebar must be produced in the US and meet the same standards as for any other iron or steel product. Additionally, the casting of the concrete product must take place in the US. The cement and other raw materials used in the concrete production are not required to be of domestic origin. If the reinforced concrete is cast at the construction site, the reinforcing rebar is considered to be a construction material and must be produced in the US.

How should an assistance recipient document compliance with the AIS requirement?

In order to ensure compliance with the AIS requirement, EPA recommends that specific AIS contract language be included in each contract, starting with the assistance agreement, all the way down to the purchase agreements. Language for construction contracts can be found in Appendix 3.

EPA recommends the use of a step certification process, similar to one used by the Federal Highway Administration. The step certification process is a method to ensure adherence to AIS requirement and assistance recipients can verify that products comply with the AIS requirement. The process would also establish accountability and better enable States to take enforcement actions against violators.

Step certification creates a paper trail which documents the location of the manufacturing process involved with the production of steel and iron materials. A step certification is a process under which each handler (supplier, fabricator, manufacturer, processor, etc) of the iron and steel products certifies that their step in the process was domestically performed. Each time a step in the manufacturing process takes place, the manufacturer delivers its work along with a certification of its origin. A certification can be quite simple. It should include the name of the manufacturer, the location of the manufacturing facility where the product or process took place (not its headquarters), a description of the product or item being delivered, and a signature by a manufacturer's responsible party. Attached as appendix 4 is a sample certifications. These certifications should be collected and maintained by the assistance recipients.

Alternatively, the final manufacturer that delivers the iron or steel product to either the worksite, vendor, or contractor, may provide a certification asserting that all manufacturing processes occurred in the US. While this type of certification may be acceptable, it does not provide the same degree of assurance. Additional documentation may be needed if the certification is lacking important information. Step certification is the best practice.

What happens if a State or EPA finds a non-compliant iron and/or steel product permanently incorporated in the project?

If a potentially noncompliant product is identified, the State should notify the assistance recipient of the apparent unauthorized use of the non-domestic component, including a proposed corrective action, and should

be given the opportunity to reply. If unauthorized use is confirmed, the State can take one or more of the following actions: request a waiver where appropriate; require the removal of the non-domestic item; or withhold payment for all or part of the project. Only EPA can issue waivers to authorize the use of a non-domestic item. If EPA determines that the State is not enforcing the AIS requirements, EPA may use remedies available to it under the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and 40 CFR part 31 grant regulations, in the event of a violation of a grant term and condition.

It is recommended that the State work collaboratively with EPA to determine the appropriate corrective action, especially in cases where the State is the one who identifies the item in noncompliance or there is a disagreement with the assistance recipient.

If fraud, waste, abuse, or any violation of the law is suspected, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) should be contacted immediately. The OIG can be reached at 1-888-546-8740 or OIG_Hotline@epa.gov. More information can be found at this website:
<http://www.epa.gov/oig/hotline.htm>.

How do international trade agreements affect the implementation of the AIS requirements? The AIS provision applies in a manner consistent with United States obligations under international agreements. Typically, these obligations only apply to direct procurement by the entities that are signatories to such agreements. In general, SRF assistance recipients are not signatories to such agreements, so these agreements have no impact on this AIS provision. In the few instances where such an agreement applies to a municipality, that municipality is under the obligation to determine its applicability and requirements and document the actions taken to comply for the State.

Waiver Process

The statute permits EPA to issue waivers for a case or category of cases where EPA finds (1) that applying these requirements would be inconsistent with the public interest; (2) iron and steel products are not produced in the US in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality; or (3) inclusion of iron and steel products produced in the US will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

In order to implement the AIS requirements, EPA has developed an approach to allow for effective and efficient implementation of the waiver process to allow projects to proceed in a timely manner. The framework described below will allow States, on behalf of the assistance recipients, to apply for waivers of the AIS requirement directly to EPA Headquarters. Only waiver requests received from states will be considered. Pursuant to the Act, EPA has the responsibility to make findings as to the issuance of waivers to the AIS requirements.

Definitions

The following terms are critical to the interpretation and implementation of the AIS requirements and apply to the process described in this memorandum:

Reasonably Available Quantity: The quantity of iron or steel products is available or will be available at the time needed and place needed, and in the proper form or specification as specified in the project plans and design.

Satisfactory Quality: The quality of iron or steel products, as specified in the project plans and designs.

Assistance Recipient: A borrower or grantee that receives funding from a State CWSRF or DWSRF program.

Step-By-Step Waiver Process

Application by Assistance Recipient

Each local entity that receives SRF water infrastructure financial assistance is required by section 436 of the Act to use American made iron and steel products in the construction of its project. However, the recipient may request a waiver. Until a waiver is granted by EPA, the AIS requirement stands, except as noted above with respect to municipalities covered by international agreements.

The waiver process begins with the SRF assistance recipient. In order to fulfill the AIS requirement, the assistance recipient must in good faith design the project (where applicable) and solicit bids for construction with American made iron and steel products. It is essential that the assistance recipient include the AIS terms in any request for proposals or solicitations for bids, and in all contracts (see Appendix 3 for sample construction contract language). The assistance recipient may seek a waiver at any point before, during, or after the bid process, but before installation of the product, if one or a combination of three conditions is met:

1. Applying the American Iron and Steel requirements of the Act would be inconsistent with the public interest;
2. Iron and steel products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality; or
3. Inclusion of iron and steel products produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

Proper and sufficient documentation must be provided by the assistance recipient. A checklist detailing the types of information required for a waiver to be processed is attached as Appendix 1.

Additionally, it is strongly encouraged that assistance recipients hold pre-bid conferences with potential bidders. A pre-bid conference can help to identify iron and steel products needed to complete the project as described in the plans and specifications that may not be available from domestic sources. It may also identify the need to seek a waiver prior to bid, and can help inform the recipient on compliance options.

In order to apply for a project waiver, the assistance recipient should email the request in the form of a Word document (.doc) to the State SRF program. It is strongly recommended that the State designate a single person for all AIS communications. The State SRF designee will review the application for the waiver and determine whether the necessary information has been included. Once the waiver application is complete, the State designee will forward the application to either of two email addresses. For CWSRF waiver requests, please send the application to: cwsrfwaiver@epa.gov. For DWSRF waiver requests, please send the application to: dwsrfwaiver@epa.gov.

Evaluation by EPA

After receiving an application for waiver of the AIS requirements, EPA Headquarters will publish the request on its website for 15 days and receive informal comment. EPA Headquarters will then use the checklist in Appendix 2 to determine whether the application properly and adequately documents and justifies the statutory basis cited for the waiver – that it is quantitatively and qualitatively sufficient – and to determine whether or not to grant the waiver.

In the event that EPA finds that adequate documentation and justification has been submitted, the Administrator may grant a waiver to the assistance recipient. EPA will notify the State designee that a waiver

request has been approved or denied as soon as such a decision has been made. Granting such a waiver is a three-step process:

1. Posting – After receiving an application for a waiver, EPA is required to publish the application and all material submitted with the application on EPA’s website for 15 days. During that period, the public will have the opportunity to review the request and provide informal comment to EPA. The website can be found at:
http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/aisrequirement.cfm.
2. Evaluation – After receiving an application for waiver of the AIS requirements, EPA Headquarters will use the checklist in Appendix 2 to determine whether the application properly and adequately documents and justifies the statutory basis cited for the waiver – that it is quantitatively and qualitatively sufficient – and to determine whether or not to grant the waiver.
3. Signature of waiver approval by the Administrator or another agency official with delegated authority – As soon as the waiver is signed and dated, EPA will notify the State SRF program, and post the signed waiver on our website. The assistance recipient should keep a copy of the signed waiver in its project files.

Public Interest Waivers

EPA has the authority to issue public interest waivers. Evaluation of a public interest waiver request may be more complicated than that of other waiver requests so they may take additional time for a decision to be made. An example of a public interest waiver that might be issued could be for a community that has standardized on a particular type or manufacturer of a valve because of its performance to meet their specifications. Switching to an alternative valve may require staff to be trained on the new equipment and additional spare parts would need to be purchased and stocked, existing valves may need to be unnecessarily replaced, and portions of the system may need to be redesigned. Therefore, requiring the community to install an alternative valve would be inconsistent with public interest.

EPA also has the authority to issue a public interest waiver that covers categories of products that might apply to all projects.

EPA reserves the right to issue national waivers that may apply to particular classes of assistance recipients, particular classes of projects, or particular categories of iron or steel products. EPA may develop national or (U.S. geographic) regional categorical waivers through the identification of similar circumstances in the detailed justifications presented to EPA in a waiver request or requests. EPA may issue a national waiver based on policy decisions regarding the public’s interest or a determination that a particular item is not produced domestically in reasonably available quantities or of a sufficient quality. In such cases, EPA may determine it is necessary to issue a national waiver.

Split Funding

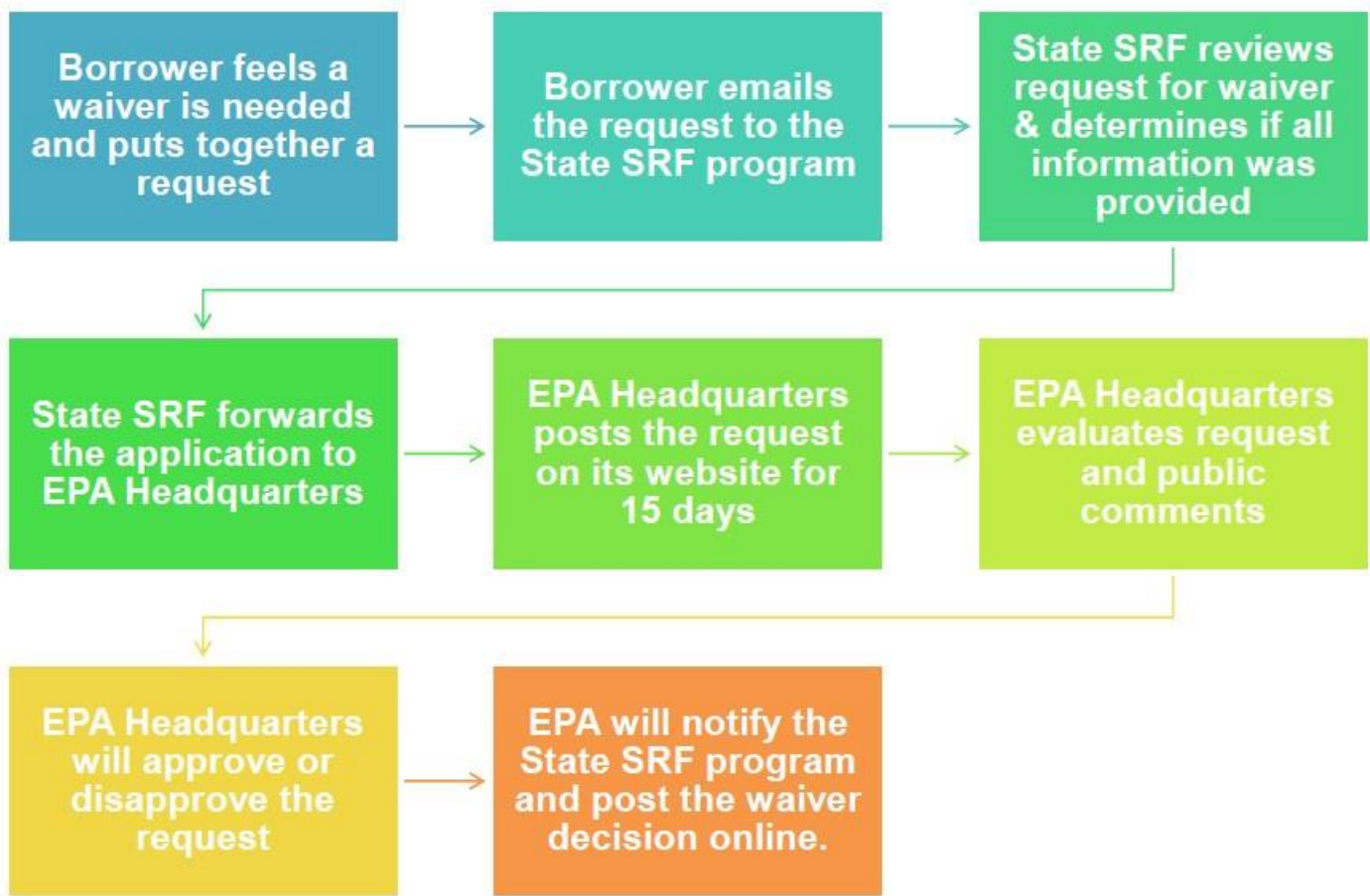
Many States intend to fund projects with “split” funding, from the SRF program and from State or other programs. Based on the Act language in section 436, which requires that American iron and steel products be used in any project for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public water system or treatment works receiving SRF funding between and including January 17, 2014 and September 30, 2014, any project that is funded in whole or in part with such funds must comply with the AIS requirement. A “project” consists of all construction necessary to complete the building or work regardless of the number of contracts or assistance agreements involved so long as all contracts and assistance agreements awarded are closely related in purpose, time and place. This precludes the intentional splitting of SRF projects into separate and smaller contracts or assistance agreements to avoid AIS coverage on some portion of a larger project, particularly where the

activities are integrally and proximately related to the whole. However, there are many situations in which major construction activities are clearly undertaken in separate phases that are distinct in purpose, time, or place, in which case, separate contracts or assistance agreement for SRF and State or other funding would carry separate requirements.

If you have any questions concerning the contents of this memorandum, you may contact us, or have your staff contact Jordan Dorfman, Attorney-Advisor, State Revolving Fund Branch, Municipal Support Division, at dorfman.jordan@epa.gov or (202) 564-0614 or Kiri Anderer, Environmental Engineer, Infrastructure Branch, Drinking Water Protection Division, at anderer.kirsten@epa.gov or (202) 564-3134.

Attachments

Waiver Process



Waiver Request

1. Assistance recipient may receive a waiver at any point before, during, or after the bid process if 1 of the 3 conditions are met.
2. Proper and sufficient documentation must be provided, see Appendix 1 checklist:

Appendix 1: Information Checklist for Waiver Request

The purpose of this checklist is to help ensure that all appropriate and necessary information is submitted to EPA. EPA recommends that waiver applicants review this checklist carefully and provide all appropriate information to EPA. This checklist is for information purposes only and does not need to be included as part of a waiver application.

Items	✓	Notes
<p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiver request includes the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Description of the foreign and domestic construction materials — Unit of measure — Quantity — Price — Time of delivery or availability — Location of the construction project — Name and address of the proposed supplier — A detailed justification for the use of foreign construction materials • Waiver request was submitted according to the instructions in the memorandum • Assistance recipient made a good faith effort to solicit bids for domestic iron and steel products, as demonstrated by language in requests for proposals, contracts, and communications with the prime contractor 		
<p>Cost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiver request includes the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Comparison of overall cost of project with domestic iron and steel products to overall cost of project with foreign iron and steel products — Relevant excerpts from the bid documents used by the contractors to complete the comparison — Supporting documentation indicating that the contractor made a reasonable survey of the market, such as a description of the process for identifying suppliers and a list of contacted suppliers 		
<p>Availability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiver request includes the following supporting documentation necessary to demonstrate the availability, quantity, and/or quality of the materials for which the waiver is requested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Supplier information or pricing information from a reasonable number of domestic suppliers indicating availability/delivery date for construction materials — Documentation of the assistance recipient's efforts to find available domestic sources, such as a description of the process for identifying suppliers and a list of contacted suppliers. — Project schedule — Relevant excerpts from project plans, specifications, and permits indicating the required quantity and quality of construction materials • Waiver request includes a statement from the prime contractor confirming the non-availability of the domestic construction materials for which the waiver is sought • Has the State received other waiver requests for the materials described in this waiver request, for comparable projects? 		

Appendix 2: HQ Review Checklist for Waiver Request

Instructions: To be completed by EPA. Review all waiver requests using the questions in the checklist, and mark the appropriate box as Yes, No or N/A. Marks that fall inside the shaded boxes may be grounds for denying the waiver. If none of your review markings fall into a shaded box, the waiver is eligible for approval if it indicates that one or more of the following conditions applies to the domestic product for which the waiver is sought:

1. The iron and/or steel products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality.
2. The inclusion of iron and/or steel products produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

Review Items	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Cost				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the waiver request include the following information? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Comparison of overall cost of project with domestic iron and steel products to overall cost of project with foreign iron and steel products — Relevant excerpts from the bid documents used by the contractors to complete the comparison — A sufficient number of bid documents or pricing information from domestic sources to constitute a reasonable survey of the market • Does the Total Domestic Project exceed the Total Foreign Project Cost by more than 25%? 				
Availability				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the waiver request include supporting documentation sufficient to show the availability, quantity, and/or quality of the iron and/or steel product for which the waiver is requested? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Supplier information or other documentation indicating availability/delivery date for materials — Project schedule — Relevant excerpts from project plans, specifications, and permits indicating the required quantity and quality of materials • Does supporting documentation provide sufficient evidence that the contractors made a reasonable effort to locate domestic suppliers of materials, such as a description of the process for identifying suppliers and a list of contacted suppliers? • Based on the materials delivery/availability date indicated in the supporting documentation, will the materials be unavailable when they are needed according to the project schedule? (By item, list schedule date and domestic delivery quote date or other relevant information) • Is EPA aware of any other evidence indicating the non-availability of the materials for which the waiver is requested? <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Multiple waiver requests for the materials described in this waiver request, for comparable projects in the same State — Multiple waiver requests for the materials described in this waiver request, for comparable projects in other States — Correspondence with construction trade associations indicating the non-availability of the materials • Are the available domestic materials indicated in the bid documents of inadequate quality compared those required by the project plans, specifications, and/or permits? 				

Appendix 3: Sample Construction Contract Language

ALL CONTRACTS MUST HAVE A CLAUSE REQUIRING COMPLIANCE WITH THE AIS REQUIREMENT. THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT COULD BE INCLUDED IN ALL CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS IN PROJECTS THAT USE SRF FUNDS. EPA MAKES NO CLAIMS REGARDING THE LEGALITY OF THIS CLAUSE WITH RESPECT TO STATE OR LOCAL LAW.

The Contractor acknowledges to and for the benefit of the City of _____ (“Purchaser”) and the _____ (the “State”) that it understands the goods and services under this Agreement are being funded with monies made available by the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and/or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund that have statutory requirements commonly known as “American Iron and Steel;” that requires all of the iron and steel products used in the project to be produced in the United States (“American Iron and Steel Requirement”) including iron and steel products provided by the Contractor pursuant to this Agreement. The Contractor hereby represents and warrants to and for the benefit of the Purchaser and the State that (a) the Contractor has reviewed and understands the American Iron and Steel Requirement, (b) all of the iron and steel products used in the project will be and/or have been produced in the United States in a manner that complies with the American Iron and Steel Requirement, unless a waiver of the requirement is approved, and (c) the Contractor will provide any further verified information, certification or assurance of compliance with this paragraph, or information necessary to support a waiver of the American Iron and Steel Requirement, as may be requested by the Purchaser or the State. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, any failure to comply with this paragraph by the Contractor shall permit the Purchaser or State to recover as damages against the Contractor any loss, expense, or cost (including without limitation attorney’s fees) incurred by the Purchaser or State resulting from any such failure (including without limitation any impairment or loss of funding, whether in whole or in part, from the State or any damages owed to the State by the Purchaser). While the Contractor has no direct contractual privity with the State, as a lender to the Purchaser for the funding of its project, the Purchaser and the Contractor agree that the State is a third-party beneficiary and neither this paragraph (nor any other provision of this Agreement necessary to give this paragraph force or effect) shall be amended or waived without the prior written consent of the State.

Appendix 4 – Sample Certification for Step Certification Process

Applicable to Iron and Steel Products Supplier

The following information is provided as a sample letter of **step** certification for AIS compliance. Documentation must be provided on company letterhead.

Date

Company Name

Company Address

City, State Zip

Subject: America Iron and Steel Step Certification for Project (XXXXX-XXXXXXA)

I, (company representative), certify that the (melting, bending, coating, galvanizing, cutting, etc.) process for (manufacturing or fabricating) the following products and/or materials shipped or provided for the subject project is in full compliance with the American Iron and Steel requirement as mandated in EPA's State Revolving Fund Programs.

Item, Products and/or Materials:

1. Xxxx
2. Xxxx
3. Such process took place at the following location: _____

If any of the above compliance statements change while providing material to this project we will immediately notify the prime contractor and the engineer.

Signed by company representative

Applicable for Iron and Steel Products from Prime Contractor

The following information is provided as a sample letter of certification for AIS compliance. Documentation must be provided on company letterhead.

Date

Company Name

Company Address

City, State Zip

Subject: America Iron and Steel Certification for Project (XXXXX-XXXXXXA)

I, (company representative), certify that the following products and/or materials shipped/provided to the subject project are in full compliance with the American Iron and Steel requirement as mandated in EPA's State Revolving Fund Programs.

Item, Products and/or Materials:

1. Xxxx
2. Xxxx
3. Such process took place at the following location: _____

If any of the above compliance statements change while providing material to this project we will immediately notify the engineer.

Signed by company representative



Documenting Compliance

- ◉ Certification letter
 - Final manufacturer that delivers the iron or steel product to the worksite, vendor, or contractor provides a certification asserting that all manufacturing processes occurred in the US
- ◉ Step Certification Process
 - Each handler (supplier, fabricator, manufacturer, processor, etc) of the iron and steel products certifies that their step in the process was performed domestically



Documenting Compliance (Continued)

- ◉ Five items in a certification letter:
 - **What is the product?** The letter should list the specific product(s) delivered to the project site.
 - **Where was it made?** The letter should include the location(s) of the foundry/mill/factory where the product was manufactured (City and State).
 - **To whom was it delivered?** The letter should include the name of the project and jurisdiction where the product was delivered.
 - **Signature** of company representative.
 - **Reference AIS requirements**

Certification Letter Example



633 Chestnut Street Suite 1200
Chattanooga, TN 37450

Certification of Compliance with American Iron and Steel (AIS) Provisions

November 12, 2014

Subject: [REDACTED] Construction, Custer Avenue, Lyons, IL

I, [REDACTED] certify that the following gate valves provided to the [REDACTED] project in Lyons, IL are in compliance with the American Iron and Steel requirement as mandated in the Environmental Protection Agency's State Revolving Fund Programs and as interpreted by the EPA.

Items, Products and/or Materials:

1. A-2360-19, FL x MJ Resilient Wedge Gate Valve, 6" qty. 1, 8" qty. 1
2. A-2360-23, MJ x MJ Resilient Wedge Gate Valve, 8" qty. 5

The products that are the subject of this certificate were manufactured in Chattanooga, TN.

All gate valve components are cast, machined, assembled and tested in the United States with the exception of fasteners, stem material and two small castings (stuffing box/op nut) which account for less than 10% of the manufacturing cost.

If any of the above compliance statements change while providing material to this project, we will promptly notify the prime contractor or the engineer.

[REDACTED]
VP Product Management & Marketing

Project
name/location

Specific items for
project

Where the items
were manufactured

Reference to AIS
requirements

Signature

Bonus Points for
Notary. Not required



Notarized By: *Amy E. Allen*

My Commission Expires: 5/27/18

Documenting Compliance (Continued)

- ◉ Common certification letter & compliance mistakes include:
 - Not updating old ARRA (2009) or DOT form letters
 - Not filling out specific project and product information
 - Having suppliers draft cert letters for goods they did not originally manufacture
 - Having suppliers or customers rely on 'made in the USA' stampings or stickers as proof of AIS compliance
 - Misinforming suppliers or consultants on AIS certification requirements (trade agreements, etc.)

42

Assemblies

- ◉ AIS requirements only apply to final products, as delivered to the work site and incorporated into the project
- ◉ Assemblies, such as a pumping assembly or a reverse osmosis packaged plant, are distinct products not listed and do not need to be made in the U.S. or composed of all U.S. parts
- ◉ If a listed iron and steel product is used as a part for an assembled product that is nondomestic, the components, even if specifically listed in the Act, do not have to be domestically produced

55



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

DECISION MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Plans and Specifications Waiver of Section 436 of P.L. 113-76, Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA), 2014

FROM: Nancy K. Stoner
Acting Assistant Administrator

The EPA is hereby granting a nationwide waiver of the American Iron and Steel requirement pursuant to Section 436(b)(1) (public interest waiver), of the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA), 2014, for eligible projects that had engineering plans and specifications submitted to an appropriate state agency prior to and including January 17, 2014, the date of enactment of the CAA, and approved between and including January 17, 2014, and the date of this waiver, where the state agency that approved such plans and specifications did so under the normal course of business for that agency. This action permits the use of non-domestic iron and steel products in such projects funded by a Clean or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund that may otherwise be prohibited under section 436.

If a project does not require approved engineering plans and specifications, the bid advertisement date will count in lieu of the plans and specifications approval date for purposes of this national waiver.

The basis for the nationwide waiver is that due to the uncertainty about whether an American Iron and Steel requirement would be included in this year's appropriation, potential assistance recipients did not have the opportunity to plan for a possible American Iron and Steel requirement. Until detailed guidance was issued, potential assistance recipients were unable to solicit bids from construction firms with appropriate definitions of key terms contained in the CAA language. Additionally, projects that submitted engineering plans and specifications prior to and including January 17, 2014, without knowledge of the American Iron and Steel requirement, and with the anticipation that such plans would be quickly approved, but such approval did not occur until on or after January 17, 2014, would be required to redesign elements of the project, investigate potential domestic products, revise engineering drawings and bid specifications, and resubmit such plans and specifications for approval, thereby delaying the initiation of construction substantially. Those projects which do not require approved plans and specifications, but were bid prior to the guidance being issued, also could be required to rebid the project or submit change orders to comply with the new requirements, which would also delay initiation of construction.

The imposition of CAA's American Iron and Steel requirement on projects eligible for SRF assistance whose assistance applicants had submitted complete engineering plans and specifications prior to and including January 17, 2014, the date on which those requirements were imposed, and had such plans and specifications approved prior to and including the date on which this waiver is signed, would require the time-consuming and expensive redesign of those projects. Specifically, those projects that can show a reasonable basis for the submission of plans and specification prior to the passage of the CAA would be harmed by the imposition of these requirements post submission. This imposition would conflict with both EPA's, as well as the states', interest in providing funding to eligible recipients in an expeditious and efficient manner, as required by the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Project delays would increase the time necessary to comply with CWA and SDWA requirements and adversely impact the protection of public health and the environment.

CAA Section 436(b) (1) authorized the Administrator to waive the requirements of Section 436(a) in any case or category of cases in which she finds that applying subsection (a) would be inconsistent with the public interest. Therefore, for the foregoing reasons, imposing American Iron and Steel requirements on projects that submitted engineering plans and specifications to an appropriate state agency for approval, or the bid advertisement date for a project that does not require approved engineering plans and specifications, prior to and including January 17, 2014, and approved between and including January 17, 2014, through the date on which this waiver was signed, is not in the public interest.

If you have any questions concerning the contents of this memorandum, please contact Jordan Dorfman, Attorney-Advisor, State Revolving Fund Branch, Municipal Support Division, at dorfman.jordan@epa.gov or (202) 564-0614 or Kirsten Anderer, Environmental Engineer, Infrastructure Branch, Drinking Water Protection Division, at anderer.kirsten@epa.gov or (202) 564-3134.

Issued on: APR 15 2014

Approved by: 

Nancy K. Stoner
Acting Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

DECISION MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: De Minimis Waiver of Section 436 of P.L. 113-76, Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA), 2014

FROM: Nancy K. Stoner
Acting Assistant Administrator

The EPA is hereby granting a nationwide waiver pursuant to the “American Iron and Steel (AIS)” requirements of P.L. 113-76, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Act), section 436 under the authority of Section 436(b)(1) (public interest waiver) for de minimis incidental components of eligible water infrastructure projects. This action permits the use of products when they occur in de minimis incidental components of such projects funded by the Act that may otherwise be prohibited under section 436(a). Funds used for such de minimis incidental components cumulatively may comprise no more than a total of 5 percent of the total cost of the materials used in and incorporated into a project; the cost of an individual item may not exceed 1 percent of the total cost of the materials used in and incorporated into a project.

P.L. 113-76, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Act), includes an “American Iron and Steel” (AIS) requirement in section 436 that requires Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF) assistance recipients to use specific domestic iron and steel products that are produced in the United States if the project is funded through an assistance agreement executed beginning January 17, 2014 (enactment of the Act), through the end of Fiscal Year 2014, unless the agency determines it necessary to waive this requirement based on findings set forth in Section 436(b). The Act states, “[the requirements] shall not apply in any case or category of cases in which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency... finds that— (1) applying subsection (a) would be inconsistent with the public interest” 436(b)(1).

In implementing section 436 of the Act, the EPA must ensure that the section's requirements are applied consistent with congressional intent in adopting this section and in the broader context of the purposes, objectives, and other provisions applicable to projects funded under the SRF. Water infrastructure projects typically contain a relatively small number of high-cost components incorporated into the project. In bid solicitations for a project, these high-cost components are generally described in detail via project specific technical specifications. For these major components, utility owners and their contractors are generally familiar with the conditions of availability, the potential alternatives for each detailed specification, the approximate cost, and the country of manufacture of the available components.

Every water infrastructure project also involves the use of thousands of miscellaneous, generally low-cost components that are essential for, but incidental to, the construction and are incorporated into the physical structure of the project. For many of these incidental components, the country of manufacture and the availability of alternatives is not always readily or reasonably identifiable prior to procurement in the normal course of business; for other incidental components, the country of manufacture may be known but the miscellaneous character in conjunction with the low cost, individually and (in total) as typically procured in bulk, mark them as properly incidental. Examples of incidental components could include small washers, screws, fasteners (i.e., nuts and bolts), miscellaneous wire, corner bead, ancillary tube, etc. Examples of items that are clearly not incidental include significant process fittings (i.e., tees, elbows, flanges, and brackets), distribution system fittings and valves, force main valves, pipes for sewer collection and/or water distribution, treatment and storage tanks, large structural support structures, etc.

The EPA undertook multiple inquiries to identify the approximate scope of de minimis incidental components within water infrastructure projects during the implementation of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) and its requirements (Buy American provisions, specifically). The inquiries and research conducted in 2009 applies suitably for the case today. In 2009, the EPA consulted informally with many major associations representing equipment manufacturers and suppliers, construction contractors, consulting engineers, and water and wastewater utilities, and performed targeted interviews with several well-established water infrastructure contractors and firms who work in a variety of project sizes, and regional and demographic settings to ask the following questions:

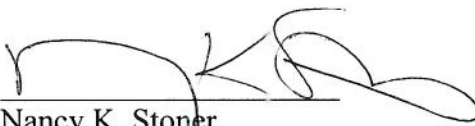
- What percentage of total project costs were consumables or incidental costs?
- What percentage of materials costs were consumables or incidental costs?
- Did these percentages vary by type of project (drinking water vs. wastewater treatment plant vs. pipe)?

The responses were consistent across the variety of settings and project types, and indicated that the percentage of total costs for drinking water or wastewater infrastructure projects represented by these incidental components is generally not in excess of 5 percent of the total cost of the materials used in and incorporated into a project. In drafting this waiver, the EPA has considered the de minimis proportion of project costs generally represented by each individual type of these incidental components within the many types of such components comprising those percentages, the fact that these types of incidental components are obtained by contractors in many different ways from many different sources, and the disproportionate cost and delay that would be imposed on projects if the EPA did not issue this waiver.

Assistance recipients who wish to use this waiver should in consultation with their contractors determine the items to be covered by this waiver and must retain relevant documentation (i.e., invoices) as to those items in their project files.

If you have any questions concerning the contents of this memorandum, please contact Timothy Connor, Chemical Engineer, Municipal Support Division, at connor.timothy@epa.gov or (202) 566-1059 or Kirsten Anderer, Environmental Engineer, Drinking Water Protection Division, at anderer.kirsten@epa.gov or (202) 564-3134.

Issued on: APR 15 2014

Approved by: 
Nancy K. Stoner
Acting Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 18 2015

OFFICE OF WATER

DECISION MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: National Product Waiver for Pig Iron and Direct Reduced Iron for State Revolving Fund Projects

FROM: *for Ellen Delaney*
Kenneth J. Kopocis
Deputy Assistant Administrator

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is hereby granting a national product waiver pursuant to the "American Iron and Steel" provisions of the Clean Water Act and Public Law 113-235, the "Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015," for certain intermediate goods used in the manufacture of iron and steel products.¹ This waiver permits the use of pig iron and direct reduced iron manufactured outside of the United States in domestic manufacturing processes for iron and steel products used in projects funded by a Clean Water or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund that may otherwise be prohibited absent this waiver. The waiver is retroactive and thus also applies to the use of non-domestic pig iron and direct reduced iron before the signature date.

Background: Pig iron and direct reduced iron are intermediate products of iron and steel manufacturing used as material feed sources in iron and steel foundries and steel mills. Pig iron is a product of iron ore smelting in a blast furnace. It is made from molten iron, which has been cast in the shape of "pigs" as it comes from the blast furnace. Direct reduced iron ore is produced from iron ore, pellets or fines, which are reduced in a solid state using natural gas. Hot briquetted iron, or HBI, is a compacted form of direct reduced iron with enhanced physical characteristics for shipment and storage.

Coverage: This waiver permits the use of iron and steel products that were manufactured using non-domestic pig iron and direct reduced iron in projects that receive funds from either the CWSRF or DWSRF. Any project that received or will receive funds from the CWSRF or DWSRF beginning with the enactment of P.L. 113-76, the "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014," may use this waiver for iron and steel that use these intermediate goods.

Rationale: The AIS provisions require CWSRF and DWSRF assistance recipients to use specific domestic iron and steel products that are produced in the United States if the project is funded

¹ Absent a waiver, all treatment works and drinking water facilities that are constructed, in whole or in part, with funds from the CWSRF or the DWSRF, must use American made iron and steel. EPA is allowed under certain circumstances to provide waivers of this requirement.

through an SRF assistance agreement unless the Agency determines that it is necessary to waive this requirement. EPA has authority to issue waivers in accordance with Section 608(c)(2) of the Clean Water Act and the AIS provisions extended by P.L. 113-235, the “Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015,” under the authority of Section 424(b)(2). The provision states in part: “[the requirements] shall not apply in any case or category of cases in which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency...finds that – iron and steel products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality.”

Product manufacturers and suppliers informed EPA of concerns about the sufficient availability of domestically produced pig iron and direct reduced iron. The iron and steel products produced at steel mills and foundries that use non-domestic intermediate goods are not compliant with the AIS requirements. AIS compliant products used at water and wastewater projects could be in extremely short supply should a waiver of the intermediate goods not be available.

EPA conducted extensive market research on the supply of pig iron and direct reduced iron and found that domestic supplies of these goods sold on the open market are generally not available. There are three major types of facilities that manufacture iron and steel finished products: basic oxygen furnace steel mills (BOF), electric arc furnace steel mills (EAF) and foundries. BOF steel mills undertake both iron making and steel making, as molten iron from the blast furnace is the required feedstock for BOF steel production. EAF steel mills and foundries, on the other hand, use iron and steel scrap as their principal feedstock, which must be supplemented with the use of pig iron and/or direct reduced iron in their manufacturing processes to achieve required steel qualities.

EPA market research has shown that BOF steel mills are able to produce adequate amounts of pig iron to meet their own demands, but these mills use the bulk of this production for their own processes and do not sell pig iron on the open market in sufficient quantities. At this time, there is only one producer of direct reduced iron operating in the U.S. and the company uses the output internally for EAF steel production. Therefore, EAF steel mills and foundries must import pig iron and direct reduced iron to meet their iron needs.

At least 60 percent of the nation’s steel production comes from the EAF steel mills that use non-domestic pig iron and direct reduced iron in their manufacturing processes. Consequently, the majority of steel used in water and wastewater projects would not be compliant with the AIS requirements absent this waiver. Similarly, most, if not all, of the iron foundries in the United States use non-domestic pig iron and direct reduced iron to produce cast and ductile iron products used by water and wastewater projects. Therefore, the majority of iron used in water and wastewater projects would not be compliant with the AIS requirements absent this waiver. Hence, EPA is hereby providing a nationwide waiver pursuant to AIS requirements to cover the non-domestic intermediate iron goods used in the manufacture of iron and/or steel components and products for water and wastewater projects.

Public Comments: EPA requested comments on the draft national waiver and a majority of the comments received were supportive of a national waiver. The commenters in support of the waiver agreed with the Agency’s conclusion that pig iron and direct reduced iron are not

produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities to meet the needs of many domestic foundries and steel mills. These commenters believe that the waiver will ensure that pig iron and direct reduced iron are treated similarly to raw material inputs in iron and steel manufacturing and by doing so the EPA will preserve the viability of the AIS requirement. These commenters also state that the waiver would treat pig iron and direct reduced iron in a manner consistent with the implementation of other similar federal laws such as the Federal Highway Administration's Buy America requirement. The FHWA issued a similar nationwide waiver of the Buy America requirements in 1995 for pig iron and processed, pelletized and reduced iron ore.

A few commenters challenged the Agency's issuance of a nationwide waiver of the AIS requirements for pig iron and direct reduced iron. These commenters disagreed with the Agency's interpretation of the AIS requirements and stated that raw materials used in iron and steel production must also be produced in the United States. In addition, the commenters questioned whether the Agency could exempt iron and steel products that are composed of non-domestic materials.

The statutory language lists the categories of products that are considered "iron and steel products." The statutory requirements include provisions that allow the EPA to issue waivers under defined conditions, including the case where iron and steel products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities. The Agency's market research, supported by comments from manufacturers, has shown that pig iron and direct reduced iron are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities. Therefore the Agency is authorized to issue a waiver for iron and steel products composed of non-domestic pig iron and direct reduced iron.

Legal Authority: Legal authority for the AIS requirements for CWSRF projects is included under Sec. 608(c)(2) of the Clean Water Act and previously under P.L. 113-76, the "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014," under the authority of Section 436(b)(2). Legal authority for the AIS requirements for DWSRF projects is included under P.L. 113-235, the "Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015," under the authority of Section 424(b)(2) and also previously under P.L. 113-76. This waiver will continue in force for DWSRF projects under any continuing resolutions or statutes that use similar language as in Section 424 of the "Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015."

If you have questions concerning the contents of this memorandum, please contact Timothy Connor, Chemical Engineer, Municipal Support Division, at connor.timothy@epa.gov or (202) 566-1059 or Kiri Anderer, Environmental Engineer, Drinking Water Protection Division, at anderer.kirsten@epa.gov or (202) 564-3134.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

AUG 24 2018

DECISION MEMORANDUM

OFFICE OF WATER

SUBJECT: Final Extension of the Short-Term National Product Waiver for Stainless Steel Nuts and Bolts used in Pipe Couplings, Restraints, Joints, Flanges, and Saddles for State Revolving Fund Projects

FROM: David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hereby grants an extension of the Short-Term National Product Waiver for Stainless Steel Nuts and Bolts used in Pipe Couplings, Restraints, Joints, Flanges, and Saddles for State Revolving Fund Projects, pursuant to the “American Iron and Steel” (AIS) requirements of the Clean Water Act. The original waiver was signed on February 18, 2015, and was granted a one-year extension on February 22, 2016. A second extension was granted until February 18, 2018. With this third and final extension, the waiver will retroactively cover nuts and bolts purchased since February 18, 2018, and be extended 18 months from the signing date of this waiver (sunset date). This waiver will not be renewed after the sunset date. This waiver permits the purchase and use of non-domestically produced stainless steel nuts and bolts in bolting-type pipe couplings, restraints, joints, and repair saddles in iron and steel products for projects funded by a Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) that may otherwise be prohibited absent this waiver.

The original, approved waiver provides details regarding the specific types of products covered by and the rationale for issuance of the waiver (see: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/short-term-natl-waiver-for-ss-nuts-bolts-021815.pdf>). This national product waiver extension is short-term, applying to the covered products if those products are purchased by the assistance recipient or their representatives (i.e. construction contractor) up until the sunset date.

The EPA is granting this national product waiver extension on a short-term basis in order to provide the time U.S. manufacturers need to increase the domestic production of the specified stainless steel nuts and bolts. Upon the production of these parts, the EPA stands ready to provide assistance to states and others to help identify AIS compliant products consistent with the April 2017 Buy American and Hire American Executive Order.

Attachments:

1. Rationale and Legal Authority
2. Summary of Comments Received During 15-Day Informal Public Input Period on Short-Term Waiver Extension for Stainless-Steel Nuts and Bolts used in Pipe Couplings, Restraints, Joints, Flanges, and Saddles for State Revolving Fund (SRF) Projects

ATTACHMENT 1: Rationale and Legal Authority

Rationale: In 2017, the EPA updated and expanded its market research on fasteners of interest including stainless steel nuts and bolts used in pipe couplings, pipe restraints, expansion joints, dismantling joints, pipe flanges, flange adaptors, and pipe repair or service saddles. The EPA contacted all known domestic fastener manufacturers and raw material suppliers of domestic stainless steel wire/bar stock. Through the extensive research effort, the EPA found that the existing domestic supply of stainless steel nuts and bolts for the subject products was similar to the previous year's assessment, yet showed potential for production increases. The EPA received anecdotal evidence from two manufacturers (which the Agency then visited for confirmation) that there is potential capacity to significantly expand (by two- to three-fold) production of stainless steel fasteners within six months to one year. The EPA's research could not confirm whether the manufacturers could produce sufficient quantities to support the national demand subsequent to the potential future expansion. The EPA confirmed that adequate raw material supply of stainless steel wire and bar would be available for a potential domestic fastener expansion. Because of the uncertainty about market demand and supply of stainless steel fasteners, the EPA solicited informal public input on its research findings during a 15-day public input period. The EPA posed questions to the public (soliciting the attention of all known product manufacturers, industry suppliers, interested third parties, and potential users), attempting to obtain further information on the following subjects:

- The time frame required for fastener manufacturers to scale up to meet potential demand;
- The time frame for specific specialty fasteners to be produced should the waiver expire;
- Whether the EPA had identified all fastener manufacturers capable of, and interested in, producing the size and quantity of orders for water and wastewater project purposes;
- Whether a targeted waiver for only a portion of the supply would be viable; and
- Whether the EPA had identified and correctly assessed the domestic raw material sources of stainless-steel wire and bar stock.

The EPA received 20 public comments from suppliers and distributors of products containing stainless steel nuts and bolts and downstream users of those products. Based on the EPA's research and the consensus of public comments, the Agency cannot confirm an adequate supply of domestic nuts and bolts for project and market demand. Currently, the comments and the EPA's research indicate that fastener manufacturers have insufficient time to commit and plan for expanding the production capacity to meet the current and projected demands of stainless steel nuts and bolts. The EPA's research, the public comments, and evidence submitted over the past several months confirm that without extension of the waiver, AIS-compliant product availability is limited and associated projects have been delayed.

Lacking evidence that manufacturers of stainless steel nuts and bolts used in the subject products can meet current demands within a reasonable timeframe, the EPA is extending the national waiver until the sunset date. Upon expiration of this extension, the waiver will not be renewed. This final extension should allow manufacturers adequate time to prepare for business plan changes and to ramp up domestic production of stainless steel nuts and bolts.

Legal Authority: Legal authority for the AIS requirements for CWSRF projects is included under Sec. 608(c)(2) of the Clean Water Act and previously under P.L. 113-76, the "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014," under the authority of Section 436(b)(2). Legal authority for the AIS requirements for DWSRF projects is included under P.L. 115-141, the "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018," and previously under P.L. 113-76, P.L. 113-235 and P.L. 114-113. This waiver will continue in force for DWSRF projects under any continuing resolutions or statutes that use similar language as in Section 424 of the "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018."

ATTACHMENT 2: Summary of Comments Received During 15-Day Informal Public Input Period on Short-Term Waiver Extension for Stainless-Steel Nuts and Bolts used in Pipe Couplings, Restraints, Joints, Flanges, and Saddles for State Revolving Fund (SRF) Projects

The EPA received 17 comments from product suppliers and distributors that asserted the following arguments:

- Commenters stated that the EPA’s research showed that there is not sufficient supply to satisfy the current demand for domestic stainless steel nuts and bolts and that the current window of six months to one year to potentially increase this production and supply would impact project timelines if the waiver is not extended. Commenters provided examples of Tee bolts, Victaulic Trackhead nuts and bolts, and standard bolts (less than one-inch in size) as materials that are extremely limited in supply domestically. Suppliers argued that the EPA should allow domestic manufacturers sufficient time to develop production capacity to reliably meet the current demand for stainless steel nuts and bolts; however, no specific timeframe was provided.
- Commenters stated that even with the potential increase in raw material supply, there are a limited number of domestic stainless steel nut and bolt manufacturers who will be tasked with supplying a diverse range of nuts and bolts, including specialty metals, non-standard sizes and project-specific product specifications. Suppliers noted that it was not evident in the EPA’s findings whether the nut and bolt manufacturers had the capacity to customize small batch productions within a reasonable timeframe.
- Some suppliers were concerned with the notion of relying on a few domestic manufacturers with exclusive control over the pricing and supply of domestic nuts and bolts for time critical DWSRF-funded and CWSRF-funded projects.
- Commenters expressed concern regarding the documentation and traceability of domestic stainless steel nuts and bolts becoming an unwieldy process if the waiver extension is not granted. Suppliers indicated that material test reports are not typically generated for nuts and bolts; however, without an extension, manufacturers asserted that they would incur a significant increase in burden to establish a reporting process for these materials to comply with the AIS requirements and consequently, longer lead times to procure the materials.
- Several commenters suggested providing a permanent, non-expiring waiver.
- One commenter noted that the increased burden for identifying and documenting AIS-compliant nuts and bolts without the waiver in place will discourage overall participation in the SRF program.
- One commenter suggested further clarification in the definition of nuts and bolts to include names and size ranges. The commenter proposed including pipe nipples and threaded couplings as specific products to include as part of the waiver (if they are to be considered “nuts and bolts” by the EPA).

The EPA received three comments from downstream users of products containing stainless steel nuts and bolts covered under the waiver. The commenters noted concern that a lapse in the waiver will result in a shortage of supply, leading to project schedule impacts and increased project costs.

One commenter urged the EPA to allow sufficient time for nut and bolt manufacturers to commit to ramping up production/supply before terminating the waiver.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 27 2015

OFFICE OF WATER

DECISION MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: National Product Waiver for Minor Components within Iron and Steel Products (with Cost Ceiling) for State Revolving Fund Projects

FROM: Kenneth J. Kopocis *Kenneth J. Kopocis*
Deputy Assistant Administrator

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is hereby granting a national product waiver pursuant to the “American Iron and Steel” provisions of the Clean Water Act and Public Law 113-235, the “Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015,” (hereinafter referred to as “the Acts”) for minor components within a product under an established cost ceiling.¹ The waiver will permit projects funded by the Clean Water State Revolving Fund or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to use non-domestically produced miscellaneous minor components within an otherwise domestically produced iron and steel product for up to 5 percent of the total material cost of the product. These products could be prohibited absent this waiver. This waiver is retroactive, and so also applies to products purchased before the signature date of this waiver.

Coverage: The items covered by this waiver include miscellaneous minor components within iron and steel products as defined in the AIS provisions of the Acts. The specific minor components in covered iron and steel products will vary by product and manufacturer. Pursuant to this waiver, non-domestically produced miscellaneous minor components comprising up to 5 percent of the total material cost of an otherwise domestically produced iron and steel product may be used. This waiver does not exempt the whole product from the AIS requirements, and the primary iron or steel components of the product must be produced domestically. Unless subject to a separate waiver, all other iron and steel components in these products must still meet the AIS requirements. Valves and hydrants are also subject to the cost ceiling requirements described here. This waiver supersedes the EPA’s previous guidance issued on May 30, 2014, (Question 1) related to minor components in valves and hydrants.

The coverage of this waiver is different from that of the existing national de minimis waiver. While the national de minimis waiver covers entire products (when those products are generally of low cost and incidental to the construction of the project), this waiver covers minor components within an iron and steel product. In addition, the national de minimis waiver is intended for assistance recipients to use for their projects, while this minor components waiver is intended to allow manufacturers to certify that their products comply with the AIS requirements.

¹ Absent a waiver, all treatment works and drinking water facilities that are constructed, in whole or in part, with funds from the CWSRF or the DWSRF, must use American made iron and steel. The EPA is allowed under certain circumstances to provide waivers of this requirement.

Rationale: The AIS provisions require recipients of CWSRF and DWSRF assistance to use specific domestically-produced iron and steel products in their project, unless the Agency determines it is necessary to waive this requirement. The EPA has authority to issue waivers in accordance with Section 608(c)(1) of the Clean Water Act and the AIS provisions extended by P.L. 113-235, the “Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015,” under the authority of Section 424(b)(1). The provisions state in part: “[the requirements] shall not apply in any case or category of cases in which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency...finds that...applying subsection (a) would be inconsistent with the public interest.”

Many product manufacturers and suppliers identified significant compliance challenges absent this waiver. Water and wastewater utilities are generally unable to obtain a range of AIS compliant iron and steel products (such as valves, hydrants and pipe restraints) that contain 100 percent domestic components. The manufacturers stated that the origin of a significant proportion of very small minor components cannot be reliably tracked or even discerned. They provided examples of product lines that would need duplicative inventories of extremely low-cost miscellaneous minor components in order to supply AIS compliant products. Manufacturers also raised concerns related to challenges of inventory tracking, inventory control and excessive costs associated with duplicative inventory needed to supply utilities with essential domestic products.

The EPA concludes that requiring manufacturers and suppliers to overcome the challenges identified above would be inconsistent with the public’s interest. In order to balance the reliability, availability and maximum supply of domestically produced iron and steel products, it is acceptable for a manufacturer to incorporate a relatively small proportion of miscellaneous minor components of non-domestic or unknown origin within an otherwise domestically manufactured product.

Legal Authority: Legal authority for the AIS requirements for CWSRF projects is included under Sec. 608(c)(1) of the Clean Water Act and previously under P.L. 113-76, “Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014,” under the authority of Section 436(b)(1). Legal authority for the AIS requirements for DWSRF projects is included under P.L. 113-235, the “Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015”, under the authority of Section 424(b)(1) and also previously under P.L. 113-76. This waiver will continue in force for DWSRF projects under any continuing resolutions or statutes that use similar language as Section 424 of the “Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015.”

If you have any questions concerning the contents of this memorandum, please contact Timothy Connor, Chemical Engineer, Municipal Support Division, at connor.timothy@epa.gov or (202) 566-1059 or Kiri Anderer, Environmental Engineer, Drinking Water Protection Division, at anderer.kirsten@epa.gov or (202) 564-3134.



Approved National Waivers

- ◉ National Product Waiver for Minor Components in Iron and Steel Products (with Cost Ceiling)
 - Public Interest
 - For products, not projects (different than national de minimis)
 - Up to 5% of material cost of the product may include non-domestic, minor components
 - For example: a valve with stainless steel pins and springs could make use of the waiver.
 - Manufacturers should be prepared to provide documentation when requested by recipients

27



Approved National Waivers (Continued)

- ◉ De Minimis Waiver
 - Public Interest
 - For projects, not products
 - Allows a small percentage of incidental products of unknown or non-domestic origin
 - 5% total material cost
 - 1% max for any single item
 - Users of the de minimis waiver should maintain documentation of all the de minimis items in a project
 - Recommended minimum documentation: tabular list of de minimis items with units and price, with summation.

26



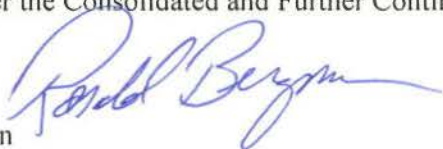
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JAN 15 2015

OFFICE OF
WATER

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Application of American Iron and Steel Requirements to Fiscal Year 2015 Drinking Water State Revolving Funds under the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act 2015

FROM: Ronald Bergman, Acting Director
Drinking Water Protection Division 

TO: Water Management Division Directors
Regions I-X

On December 16, 2014, the President signed Public Law 113-235, the "Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act 2015," which provides fiscal year 2015 full-year appropriations through September 30, 2015, including funding for the Environmental Protection Agency. Section 424 of this law contains the same requirement for American Iron and Steel products that was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of FY 2014.

As you are aware, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-76) included the "American Iron and Steel" requirement that recipients of DWSRF assistance are to use iron and steel products that are produced in the United States for projects for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public water system if the project is funded through an assistance agreement executed beginning January 17, 2014, through the end of fiscal year 2014.

All assistance agreements starting October 1, 2014, through September 30, 2015, must include the AIS requirements. All AIS guidance issued for FY 2014 will continue to be applicable throughout the same time period.

If you have any questions, please contact Kiri Anderer (202-564-3134 or anderer.kirsten@epa.gov).

Attachments

cc: Elizabeth Corr, Associate Director, Drinking Water Protection Division
Chuck Job, Chief, Infrastructure Branch
Kirsten Anderer, Environmental Engineer, DWSRF



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
WATER

FEB 3 2016

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Application of American Iron and Steel Requirements to Fiscal Year 2016 Drinking Water State Revolving Funds under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016

FROM: Anita Maria Thompkins, Director *Anita Maria Thompkins*
Drinking Water Protection Division

TO: Water Management Division Directors
Regions I-X

On December 18, 2015, the President signed Public Law 114-113, the "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016," which provides fiscal year 2016 full-year appropriations through September 30, 2016, including funding for the Environmental Protection Agency. Section 424 of this law contains the same requirement for American Iron and Steel products that was included in the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (P.L. 113-235) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113-76).

As you are aware, the previous two appropriations acts included the "American Iron and Steel" requirement that recipients of DWSRF assistance are to use iron and steel products that are produced in the United States for projects for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public water system if the project is funded through an assistance agreement executed starting January 17, 2014 through September 30, 2015.

All assistance agreements starting October 1, 2015, through September 30, 2016, must include the AIS requirements. All AIS guidance issued for FY 2014 and FY 2015 will continue to be applicable throughout the same time period. This memo will remain in place for the time period of October 1, 2015, through September 30, 2016, and will continue in force under any continuing resolutions that use similar language as Section 424 of the "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016."

If you have any questions, please contact Kiri Anderer (202-564-3134 or anderer.kirsten@epa.gov).

Attachments

cc: Ronald Bergman, Deputy Director, Drinking Water Protection Division
Kirsten Anderer, Environmental Engineer, DWSRF
Jorge Medrano, Environmental Engineer, DWSRF