

**STATE OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
ALASKA CLEAN WATER FUND & ALASKA DRINKING WATER FUND**

**DISADVANTAGE BUSINESS ENTERPRISES  
OVERVIEW**

The loan recipient, consultant and contractor of an Alaska Clean Water or Drinking Water Fund revolving loan project are required to comply with EPA regulations (40 CFR Part 33) concerning the use of disadvantage owned businesses enterprises (DBE). Also required is compliance with EEO/Affirmative Action Regulations of the Department of Labor (see attached Statement of Acknowledgement). These regulations help ensure that economic opportunities are available to all people of this country.

The expenditure of Federal funds must reflect equal opportunity, anti-discrimination provisions of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, affirmative action and DBE or more specifically small, minority and women-owned businesses utilization under EPA's DBE program. Utilization may be through prime contracting, subcontracting, joint-venture, procurement of supplies, material or equipment, or other business participation utilized in completing a project. For all situations, contractors must take necessary and reasonable steps to ensure DBE's have the maximum opportunity to compete for and/or perform contracts. Contractors shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the award and performance of projects where assistance is provided from an ADEC revolving loan fund program.

NOTE: On March 26, 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP) published its final rule, "Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in Procurement under Environmental Protection Agency Financial Assistance Agreements (DBE Rule) in the Federal Register (40 CFR part 30-40). The final rule took effect on May 25, 2008." The EPA DBE Program encompasses many of the components of the former MBE/WBE Program and also includes changes.

Some changes are:

- Creation of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program (formerly the Minority Business Enterprise/Women's Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) Program).
- Recipients receiving a total of \$250K or less in financial assistance in a given fiscal year are exempt from this requirement.
- The "Six Affirmative Steps" and "Six Positive Efforts" were combined into the "Six Good Faith Efforts."
- A recipient must require its prime contractor to pay its subcontractor for satisfactory performance no more than 30 days from the prime contractor's receipt of payment from the recipient.
- The loan recipient must be notified in writing by its prime contractor prior to any termination of a DBE subcontractor.

- If a DBE subcontractor fails to complete work under the subcontract for any reason, the prime contractor must use the Six Good Faith Efforts in selecting a replacement subcontractor.
- The prime contractor must employ the Six Good Faith Efforts even if the prime has achieved its Fair Share Objectives.
- Recipients who reported quarterly under the old MBE/WBE program will report semi-annually. [Note – this has been recently updated to now only require annual reporting.]
- MBE's and WBE's can no longer self-certify. They must be certified by EPA, Small Business Administration (SBA), Department of Transportation (DOT) or by state, local, Tribal or private entities whose certification criteria match EPA's. (MBEs and WBEs must be certified in order to be counted toward a recipient's MBE/WBE accomplishments.) The new requirements affect all financial assistance agreements entered into from the effective date of the rule (May 25, 2008). The new DBE rule won't affect those financial assistance agreements entered into before May 25, 2008; those will still operate under the old MBE/WBE program requirements.

## **SUMMARY OF GOALS**

Stated simply, in meeting DBE goals under this program, the prime contractor must either 1) achieve the goal of contracting to Minority or Women-Owned Enterprises (MBE/WBE), or 2) follow the proper procedures in thoroughly documenting good faith efforts to achieve MBE/WBE goal participation. A prime contractor who is an MBE/WBE firm can also be counted towards the goal. (see attached current participation goals for the Department)

## **REQUIREMENTS**

### **A. Definitions**

- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise – Per EPA requirements for projects funded under the Alaska Drinking Water Fund and Alaska Clean Water Fund loan programs, Disadvantage Business Enterprises only include entities owned and/or controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals (as described in 42 USC 7601 and 42 USC 4370d) – which includes Women's Business Enterprises (WBE) and Minority Business Enterprises (MBE). (for more information go to: <http://www.epa.gov/osbp/grants.htm>)
- Minority Business Enterprise or Women Owned Business Enterprise – means a small business concern which is owned and controlled by one or more minorities or women. Owned and controlled means a business:
  1. Which is at least 51 percent owned by one or more minorities or women, or in the case of a publicly owned business, at least 51% of the stock is owned by one or more minorities or women;

2. Whose management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more such individuals.

- Socially Disadvantaged Individual – means a person who is a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States and who is:
  - Black;
  - Hispanic;
  - Portuguese;
  - Asian American;
  - American Indian and Alaskan Native; and
  - Members of other groups, or other individuals, found to be economically and socially disadvantaged by the United States Small Business Administration under section 8(a) of the federal Small Business Act.
- Economically Disadvantaged Individual – those socially disadvantaged individuals whose ability to compete in the free enterprise system has been impaired due to diminished capital or credit opportunities, as compared to others in the same business area who are not socially disadvantaged.

## **B. Implementation for DBE Procurement**

As part of ADEC’s capitalization grants for both the ADWF and ACWF loan programs, the programs have an overall Fair Share (or utilization goal) objective of 3.26% for MBE entities and 1.48% for WBE entities for construction only (effective October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2022). The loan recipient, engineering firm responsible for construction phase services, and prime contractor are required to adopt this same fair objective. The fair share objective is not a quota, EPA cannot penalize ADEC, the loan recipient, engineering firm, of the prime contractor for not meeting MBE or WBE participation objectives.

The prime contractor and consulting engineer responsible for construction phase services are required to make the good faith efforts and apply necessary administrative requirements. If the good faith efforts are not made when subcontracts are considered for the prime construction contract or for engineering construction phase services, the ability of ADEC to fund the project, or portion thereof, may be jeopardized.

## **C. How to Count DBE (MBE/WBE) Goals**

The proposed MBE/WBE firms to be used must be declared by the Bidder before contract award. The MBE/WBE may act as a prime contractor, subcontractor, joint venture partner, or supplier. To be counted toward a goal, the MBE/WBE must perform a commercially useful function. To calculate the minimum dollar value for MBE/WBE participation, multiply the total estimated contract price (including additives or alternates, if any) by the goal percentage.

## **D. How to Obtain DBE (MBE/WBE) Participation**

Prior to the scheduled pre-bid conference, solicit MBE/WBE participation to meet the goal. By contract award, the Bidder must either meet the goal or have made good faith efforts to do so. Good faith efforts include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Including qualified small, minority and women's business enterprises on solicitation lists.
2. Assuring that small, minority and women's businesses are solicited. If the MBE/WBE is only certified as a DBE, such as through the Alaska Department of Transportation, and the bidder has exhausted all efforts to determine the subcontractor MBE/WBE status, the bidder may document either category of certification to meet goal objectives.
3. Dividing total requirements when economically feasible, into small tasks or quantities to permit maximum participation of small, minority and women's businesses.
4. Establish delivery schedules, where requirements of the work permit, which will encourage participation by small, minority and women's businesses.
5. Using the services and assistance of the Small Business Administration and the Minority Business Development Agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, as appropriate.
6. If the prime contractor or proposer awards subcontracts/procurements, require the subcontractor to take the affirmative steps 1 through 5 above.

#### **E. How to Credit DBE (MBE/WBE) Participation**

If the Bidder's firm is a qualified Minority or Women-Owned Business Enterprise, credit will be given for the portion of the contract for which the Bidder performs a commercially useful function, and for that portion that is subcontracted to other MBE/WBE firms. For example, a MBE/WBE prime contractor proposes to perform 60% of a project quoted at \$500,000, and subcontracts 20% to a majority firm and the remaining 20% to another MBE/WBE. This means the credited MBE/WBE participation will be 80% for the project (60% + 20%) or \$400,000.

#### **F. The DBE (MBE/WBE) Reporting Package**

To meet the MBE/WBE reporting requirements of the program, the following forms need to be submitted during the course of bidding, contract award, and administration of this project:

1. COMPLIANCE STATEMENT - acknowledges the MBE/WBE requirement by the bidder. It must be provided with the bid.
2. REPORT OF PARTICIPATION – documents the level of anticipated MBE/WBE participation. It is submitted after bid opening, but before contract award.
3. CONTACT DOCUMENTATION – documents the efforts taken to attain the MBE/WBE goals and it, or other documentation should be submitted with the Report of Participation if the bidder did not meet the established goal.
4. CONTRACT & PROCUREMENT ANNUAL REPORT – documents the actual MBE/WBE contracts executed by the Prime Contractor and submitted to the Community. In the first week of October each year (reporting period, Oct – Sep), the Community will submit a listing of the executed contracts (for the previous reporting period) through

ADEC's State Revolving Fund Program online reporting form "SRF loan – MBE/WBE Utilization Form" under the OASys "Reports" tab at the following link:

<https://dec.alaska.gov/Applications/Water/OASys/ValidationInfo.aspx>

### **G. Create and Maintain a Bidders List**

Any entity that receives an ACWF or ADWF SRF loan is required to create and maintain a bidders list if the loan recipient is subject to, or chooses to follow, competitive bidding requirements. **The list must include all firms that bid or quote on prime contracts, or bid or quote subcontracts, including both MBE/WBEs and non-MBE/WBEs** and must be maintained until the end of the project.

### **H. DBE Anti-Discrimination Contract Clause**

Under 40 CFR part 33, Appendix A, the following statement must be included in **every contract** issued by an ACWF/ADWF borrower to a prime contractor. The statement cannot be changed, modified, or altered in any way.

*"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 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."*