

Assessment Terms and Conditions

Please note that these Terms and Conditions (T&Cs) apply to Brownfields Assessment Grants awarded under CERCLA 104(k).

NOTE TO PO's: All T&C's in this document must be used as presented here unless they are marked "OPTIONAL" or "CAN CHANGE."

I. GENERAL FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

NOTE: For the purposes of these Terms and Conditions the term "assessment" includes, eligible activities under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) 104(k)(2)(A)(i) such as activities involving the inventory, characterization, assessment, and planning relating to brownfield sites as described in the EPA approved work plan.

A. Federal Policy and Guidance

1. a. Cooperative Agreement Recipients: By awarding this cooperative agreement, EPA has approved the proposal for the Cooperative Agreement Recipient (CAR) submitted in the Fiscal Year 2010 competition for Brownfields assessment cooperative agreements. However, the CAR may not expend ("draw down") funds to carry out this agreement until EPA's award official approves the final work plan.
- b. In implementing this agreement, the CAR shall ensure that work done with cooperative agreement funds complies with the requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) 104(k). The CAR shall also ensure that assessment activities supported with cooperative agreement funding comply with all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations.
- c. The recipient agrees to comply with Executive Order 13202 (Feb. 22, 2001, 66 Fed. Reg. 11225) of February 17, 2001, entitled "Preservation of Open Competition and Government Neutrality Towards Government Contractors' Labor Relations on Federal and Federally Funded Construction Projects," as amended by Executive Order 13208 (April 11, 2001, 66 Fed. Reg. 18717) of April 6, 2001, entitled "Amendment to Executive Order 13202, Preservation of Open Competition and Government Neutrality Towards Government Contractors' Labor Relations on Federal and Federally Funded Construction Projects.
- d. The recipient must comply with Federal cross-cutting requirements. These requirements include but are not limited to, MBE/WBE requirements found at 40 CFR Part 33; OSHA Worker Health & Safety Standard 29 CFR 1910.120; the Uniform Relocation Act; National Historic Preservation Act; Endangered Species Act; and Permits required by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act; Executive Order 11246, Equal Employment Opportunity, and implementing regulations at 41 CFR 60-4; Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, as amended (40 USC 327-333) the Anti Kickback Act (40 USC 276c) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as implemented by Executive Orders 11914 and 11250.

e. The CAR must comply with Davis-Bacon Act prevailing wage requirements and associated U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) regulations for all construction, alteration and repair contracts and subcontracts awarded with funds provided under this agreement. Activities conducted under assessment grants generally do not involve construction, alteration and repair within the meaning of the Davis-Bacon Act. The recipient must contact EPA's Project Officer if there are unique circumstances (e.g. removal of an underground storage tank or another structure and restoration of the site) which indicate that the Davis-Bacon Act applies to an activity the CAR intends to carry out with funds provided under this agreement. The Agency will provide guidance on Davis-Bacon Act compliance if necessary.

B. Eligible Brownfields Site Determinations

1. a. The CAR must provide information to EPA about site-specific work prior to incurring any costs under this cooperative agreement for sites that have not already been pre-approved in the CAR's work plan by the EPA. The information that must be provided includes whether or not the site meets the definition of a brownfield site as defined in §101(39) of CERCLA, the identity of the owner, and the date of acquisition.

b. If the site is excluded from the general definition of a brownfield, but is eligible for a property-specific funding determination, then the CAR must provide information sufficient for EPA to make a property-specific funding determination. The CAR must provide sufficient information on how financial assistance will protect human health and the environment, and either promote economic development or enable the creation of, preservation of, or addition to parks, greenways, undeveloped property, other recreational property, or other property used for nonprofit purposes. The CAR must not incur costs for assessing sites requiring a property-specific funding determination by EPA until the EPA Project Officer has advised the CAR that the Agency has determined that the property is eligible.
2. a. For any petroleum contaminated brownfield site that is not included in the CAR's EPA approved work plan, the CAR shall provide sufficient documentation to the EPA prior to incurring costs under this cooperative agreement which includes (see the latest version of EPA's *Proposal Guidelines for Brownfields Assessment Grants* dated August 2009 for discussion of this element) documenting that:
 - (1) a State has determined that the petroleum site is of relatively low risk, as compared to other petroleum-only sites in the State,
 - (2) the State determines there is "no viable responsible party" for the site;
 - (3) the State determines that the person assessing or investigating the site is a person who is not potentially liable for cleaning up the site; and
 - (4) the site is not subject to any order issued under section 9003(h) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

This documentation must be prepared by the CAR or the State following contact and discussion with the appropriate petroleum program official.

- b. Documentation must include (1) the identity of the State program official contacted, (2) the State official's telephone number, (3) the date of the

contact, and (4) a summary of the discussion relating to the state's determination that the site is of relatively low risk, that there is no viable responsible party and that the person assessing or investigating the site is not potentially liable for cleaning up the site. Other documentation provided by a State to the recipient relevant to any of the determinations by the State must also be provided to the EPA Project Officer.

- c. If the State chooses not to make the determinations described in 2.a. above, the CAR must contact the EPA Project Officer and provide the information necessary for EPA to make the requisite determinations.
- d. EPA must also make all determinations on the eligibility of petroleum contaminated brownfield sites located on Indian tribal lands. Prior to incurring costs for these sites, the CAR must contact the EPA Project Officer and provide the information necessary for EPA to make the determinations described in 2.a. above.

II. GENERAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

A. Term of the Agreement

- 1. The term of this agreement is three years from the date of award, unless otherwise extended by EPA at the CAR's request.
- 2. If after 18 months from the date of award, EPA determines that the CAR has not made sufficient progress in implementing its cooperative agreement, EPA may terminate this agreement. For purposes of assessment grants, the recipient demonstrates "sufficient progress" when 35% of funds have been drawn down and obligated to eligible activities; for assessment coalition grants "sufficient progress" is demonstrated when a solicitation for services has been released, sites are prioritized or an inventory has been initiated if necessary, community involvement activities have been initiated and a Memorandum of Agreement is in place within eighteen months.
- 3. Assessment funding for any eligible brownfield site may not exceed \$200,000 unless a waiver has been granted by EPA. Following the granting of a waiver, funding is not to exceed \$350,000 at the site.

B. Substantial Involvement

- 1. The EPA may be substantially involved in overseeing and monitoring this cooperative agreement.
 - a. Substantial involvement by EPA generally includes administrative activities such as monitoring, reviewing project phases, and approving substantive terms included in professional services contracts.

- b. Substantial EPA involvement also includes brownfields property-specific funding determinations described in I.B. under *Eligible Brownfields Site Determinations* above. If the CAR awards a subgrant for site assessment, the CAR must obtain technical assistance from EPA on which sites qualify as a brownfield site and determine whether the statutory prohibition found in section 104(k)(4)(B)(i)(IV) of CERCLA applies. This prohibition precludes the subgrantee from using EPA funds to assess a site for which the subgrantee is potentially liable under §107 of CERCLA. (See Section II.C.3 for more information on subgrants.)
 - c. Substantial EPA involvement may include reviewing financial and environmental status reports; and monitoring all reporting, record-keeping, and other program requirements.
 - d. EPA may waive any of the provisions in term and condition II.B.1., with the exception of property-specific funding determinations. EPA will provide waivers in writing.
2. Effect of EPA's substantial involvement includes:
- a. EPA's review of any project phase, document, or cost incurred under this cooperative agreement, will not have any effect upon CERCLA §128 *Eligible Response Site* determinations or rights, authorities, and actions under CERCLA or any Federal statute.
 - b. The CAR remains responsible for ensuring that all assessments are protective of human health and the environment and comply with all applicable Federal and State laws.
 - c. The CAR and its subgrantees remain responsible for incurring costs that are allowable under the applicable OMB Circulars.

C. Cooperative Agreement Recipient Roles and Responsibilities

- 1. The CAR must acquire the services of a qualified environmental professional(s) to coordinate, direct, and oversee the brownfields assessment activities at a particular site, if they do not have such a professional on staff.
- 2. The CAR is responsible for ensuring that contractors and subgrant recipients comply with the terms of their agreements with the CAR, and that agreements between the CAR and subgrant recipients and contractors comply with the terms and conditions of this agreement.
- 3. Subgrants are defined at 40 CFR 31.3. The CAR may not subgrant to for-profit organizations. The CAR must obtain commercial services and products necessary to carry out this agreement under competitive procurement procedures as described in 40 CFR 31.36. In addition, EPA policy encourages awarding subgrants competitively and the CAR must consider awarding subgrants through competition.

4. The CAR is responsible for assuring that EPA's Brownfields Assessment Grant funding received under this grant, or in combination with any other previously awarded Brownfields Assessment grant does not exceed the \$200,000 assessment grant funding limitation for an individual brownfield site. Waiver of this funding limit for a brownfields site must be approved by EPA prior to the expenditure of funding exceeding \$200,000. In no case may EPA funding exceed \$350,000 on a site receiving a waiver.
5. CARs expending funding from a community-wide assessment grant on a particular site must include such funding amount in any total funding expended on the site.

D. Quarterly Progress Reports

1. The CAR must submit progress reports on a quarterly basis to the EPA Project Officer. Quarterly progress reports must include:
 - a. Summary of approved activities performed during the reporting quarter, summary of the performance outputs/outcomes achieved during the reporting quarter, a description of problems encountered during the reporting quarter that may affect the project schedule and a discussion of meeting the performance outputs/outcomes.
 - b. An update on project schedules and milestones.
 - c. A list of the properties where assessment activities were performed and/or completed during the reporting quarter.
 - d. A budget recap summary table with the following information: current approved project budget; costs incurred during the reporting quarter; costs incurred to date (cumulative expenditures); and total remaining funds.
 - e. If applicable, a separate budget recap summary table as described in D.1.c must be submitted for brownfields petroleum projects.
2. The CAR must maintain records that will enable it to report to EPA on the amount of funds expended on specific properties under this cooperative agreement.
3. If applicable, the CAR must maintain records that will enable it to report to EPA on the amount of funds expended on petroleum properties addressed under this cooperative agreement.
4. In accordance with 40 CFR 31.40(d), the CAR agrees to inform EPA as soon as problems, delays, or adverse conditions become known which will materially impair the ability to meet the outputs/outcomes specified in the approved work plan.

E. Property Profile Submission

1. The CAR must report on interim progress (i.e., assessment started) and any final accomplishments (i.e., assessment completed, cleanup required, contaminants, Institution Controls, Engineering Controls) by completing and submitting relevant portions of the Property Profile Form using the Brownfields Program on-line reporting system, known as Assessment, Cleanup and Redevelopment Exchange System (ACRES). The CAR must enter the data in ACRES as soon as the interim action or final accomplishment has occurred, or within 30 days after the end of each reporting quarter. EPA will provide the CAR with training prior to obtaining access to ACRES. The training is required to obtain

access to ACRES. The CAR must utilize the ACRES system unless approval is obtained from the regional Project Officer to utilize the Property Profile Form.

F. Final Report

1. The CAR must submit a final report at the end of the period of performance in order to finalize the closeout of the grant. This final report must capture the site names, what work was done at each site and how much was spent at each site. It should also provide information that documents the outreach efforts done by the CAR and other activities that help explain where the funding was utilized.

III. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

A. Eligible Uses of the Funds for the Cooperative Agreement Recipient

1. To the extent allowable under the work plan, cooperative agreement funds may be used for eligible programmatic expenses to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct planning and outreach. Eligible programmatic expenses include activities described in Section IV of these Terms and Conditions. In addition, such eligible programmatic expenses may include:
 - a. Determining whether assessment activities at a particular site are authorized by CERCLA 104(k);
 - b. Ensuring that an assessment complies with applicable requirements under Federal and State laws, as required by CERCLA 104(k);
 - c. Using a portion of the grant to purchase environmental insurance for the characterization or assessment of the site. Funds may not be used to purchase insurance intended to provide coverage for any of the Ineligible Uses under Section III.B.
 - d. Any other eligible programmatic costs including direct costs incurred by the recipient in reporting to EPA; procuring and managing contracts; awarding and managing subgrants to the extent allowable under III. B. 2.; and carrying out community involvement pertaining to the assessment activities.

CAN CHANGE - LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ONLY

2. ***Local Governments only.*** No more than 10% of the funds awarded by this agreement may be used for brownfield program development and implementation (including monitoring of health and institutional controls) as described in Task ___ of the EPA approved work plan. The CAR must maintain records on funds that will be used to carry out Task ___ of its EPA approved work plan to ensure compliance with this requirement.

B. Ineligible Uses of the Funds for the Cooperative Agreement Recipient

1. Cooperative agreement funds shall not be used by the CAR for any of the following

activities:

- a. Cleanup activities;
 - b. Development activities that are not brownfields assessment activities (e.g., construction of a new facility);
 - c. Job training unrelated to performing a specific assessment at a site covered by the grant;
 - d. To pay for a penalty or fine;
 - e. To pay a federal cost share requirement (for example, a cost-share required by another Federal grant) unless there is specific statutory authority;
 - f. To pay for a response cost at a brownfields site for which the recipient of the grant or subgrant is potentially liable under CERCLA §107;
 - g. To pay a cost of compliance with any federal law, excluding the cost of compliance with laws applicable to the assessment; and
 - h. Unallowable costs (e.g., lobbying and fund raising) under applicable OMB Circulars.
2. Under CERCLA 104(k)(4)(B), administrative costs are prohibited costs under this agreement. Prohibited administrative costs include all indirect costs under applicable OMB Circulars.
- a. Ineligible administrative costs include costs incurred in the form of salaries, benefits, contractual costs, supplies, and data processing charges, incurred to comply with most provisions of the *Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants* contained in 40 CFR Part 31. Direct costs for grant administration, with the exception of costs specifically identified as eligible programmatic costs, are ineligible even if the grant recipient is required to carry out the activity under the grant agreement.
 - b. Ineligible grant administration costs include direct costs for:
 - (1) Preparation of applications for brownfields grants;
 - (2) Record retention required under 40 CFR 31.42;
 - (3) Record-keeping associated with supplies and equipment purchases required under 40 CFR 31.32 and 31.33;
 - (4) Preparing revisions and changes in the budgets, scopes of work, program plans and other activities required under 40 CFR 31.30;
 - (5) Maintaining and operating financial management systems required under 40

CFR 31;

(6) Preparing payment requests and handling payments under 40 CFR 31.21;

(7) Non-federal audits required under 40 CFR 31.26 and OMB Circular A-133;
and

(8) Close out under 40 CFR 31.50.

3. Cooperative agreement funds may not be used for any of the following properties:

- a. Facilities listed, or proposed for listing, on the National Priorities List (NPL);
- b. Facilities subject to unilateral administrative orders, court orders, administrative orders on consent or judicial consent decree issued to or entered by parties under CERCLA;
- c. Facilities that are subject to the jurisdiction, custody or control of the United States government except for land held in trust by the United States government for an Indian tribe; or
- d. A site excluded from the definition of a brownfields site for which EPA has not made a property-specific funding determination.

4. The CAR must not include management fees or similar charges in excess of the direct costs or at the rate provided for by the terms of the agreement negotiated with EPA. The term “management fees or similar charges” refers to expenses added to the direct costs in order to accumulate and reserve funds for ongoing business expenses, unforeseen liabilities, or for other similar costs that are not allowable under EPA assistance agreements. Management fees or similar charges may not be used to improve or expand the project funded under this agreement, except to the extent authorized as a direct cost of carrying out the scope of work.

C. Interest -Bearing Accounts and Program Income

1. In accordance with 40 CFR 31.25(g)(2), the CAR is authorized to add program income to the funds awarded by the EPA and use the program income under the same terms and conditions of this agreement. Program income for the assessment CAR shall be defined as the gross income received by the recipient, directly generated by the cooperative agreement award or earned during the period of the award. Program income includes, but is not limited to, fees charged for conducting assessment, site characterizations, clean up planning or other activities when the costs for the activity is charged to this agreement.
2. The CAR must deposit advances of grant funds and program income (i.e. fees) in an interest bearing account.
 - a. For interest earned on advances, CARs are subject to the provisions of 40 CFR §31.21(i) to remitting interest on advances to EPA on a quarterly

basis.

- b. Interest earned on program income is considered additional program income.

IV. ASSESSMENT ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

A. Authorized Assessment Activities

1. Prior to conducting or engaging in any on-site activity with the potential to impact historic properties (such as invasive sampling), the CAR shall consult with EPA regarding potential applicability of the National Historic Preservation Act and, if applicable, shall assist EPA in complying with any requirements of the Act and implementing regulations.

B. Quality Assurance (QA) Requirements

1. When environmental samples are collected as part of the brownfields assessment, the CAR shall comply with 40 CFR Part 31.45 requirements to develop and implement quality assurance practices sufficient to produce data adequate to meet project objectives and to minimize data loss. State law may impose additional QA requirements.

C. Completion of Assessment Activities

1. The CAR shall properly document the completion of all activities described in the EPA approved work plan. This must be done through a final report or letter from a qualified environmental professional, or other documentation provided by a State or Tribe that shows assessments are complete.

D. All Appropriate Inquiry

1. As required by CERCLA §104(k)(2)(B)(ii) and CERCLA §101(35)(B), the CAR shall ensure that a Phase I site characterization and assessment carried out under this agreement will be performed in accordance with EPA's standard for all appropriate inquiries. The CAR shall utilize the practices in ASTM standard E1527-05 "Standard Practices for Environmental Site Assessment: Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Process," or EPA's All Appropriate Inquiries Final Rule "All Appropriate Inquiries Rule: Reporting Requirements and Suggestions on Report Content", (Publication Number: EPA 560-F-06-244). This does not preclude the use of grant funds for additional site characterization and assessment activities that may be necessary to characterize the environmental impacts at the site or to comply with applicable State standards.

V. CONFLICT OF INTEREST: APPEARANCE OF LACK OF IMPARTIALITY

A. Conflict of Interest

1. The CAR shall establish and enforce conflict of interest provisions that prevent the award of subgrants that create real or apparent personal conflicts of interest, or the CAR's

appearance of lack of impartiality. Such situations include, but are not limited to, situations in which an employee, official, consultant, contractor, or other individual associated with the CAR (affected party) approves or administers a grant or subgrant to a subgrant recipient in which the affected party has a financial or other interest. Such a conflict of interest or appearance of lack of impartiality may arise when:

- (i) The affected party,
 - (ii) Any member of his immediate family,
 - (iii) His or her partner, or
 - (iv) An organization which employs, or is about to employ, any of the above,
- has a financial or other interest in the subgrant recipient.

Affected employees will neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from subgrant recipients. Recipients may set minimum rules where the financial interest is not substantial or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal intrinsic value. To the extent permitted by State or local law or regulations, such standards of conduct will provide for penalties, sanctions, or other disciplinary actions for violations of such standards by affected parties.

VI. PAYMENT AND CLOSEOUT

A. Payment Schedule

1. The CAR may request payment from EPA pursuant to 40 CFR §31.21(c).

B. Schedule for Closeout

1. Closeout will be conducted in accordance with 40 CFR 31.50. EPA will close out the award when it determines that all applicable administrative actions and all required work of the grant have been completed.
2. The CAR, within 90 days after the expiration or termination of the grant, must submit all financial, performance, and other reports required as a condition of the grant.
 - a. The CAR must submit the following documentation:
 1. The Final Report as described in II.F.
 2. A Final Federal Financial Report (FFR - SF425). Submitted to:

U.S. EPA Las Vegas Finance Center
P.O. Box 98515

Las Vegas, NV 89193-8515

Fax: (702) 798-2423

<http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/finservices/payinfo.html>

Link to form: <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/forms/adobe/SF425.pdf>

3. A Final MBE/WBE Report (EPA Form 5700-52A). Submitted to the regional office.

Link to form: http://www.epa.gov/ogd/forms/adobe/5700_52a_sec.pdf

- b. The CAR must ensure that all appropriate data has been entered into ACRES or all Property Profile Forms are submitted to the Region.
- c. The grantee must immediately refund to the Federal agency any balance of unobligated (unencumbered) cash advanced that is not authorized to be retained for use on other grants.