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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Utilities Service

BULLETIN 1780-14
RD-GD-1997-24

SUBJECT: Supplemental General Conditions

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 30, 1997.

OFFICE OF PRIMARY INTEREST: Assistant Administrator, Electric Program.

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

PURPOSE: This bulletin is issued to

RUS Supplemental General Conditions

The provisions of the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Supplemental General Conditions as described herein change, amend, or supplement the General Conditions and shall supersede any conflicting provisions of this CONTRACT. All provisions of the General Conditions which are not changed, amended, or supplemented, remain in full force.

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1. Contract Approval.

1.1 The OWNER and the CONTRACTOR will furnish the OWNER'S Attorney such evidence as required so that the OWNER'S Attorney can complete and execute "Certificate of Owner's Attorney" (Section 14) before the OWNER submits the executed Contract Documents to RUS for approval.

1.2 Concurrence by the State Program Official or designee in the award of the CONTRACT is required before it is effective and the "RUS Concurrence" (Section 15), shall be attached and made a part of the Agreement.

1.3 Surety companies executing BONDS must appear on the Treasury Department's most current list (Circular 570 as amended) and be authorized to transact business in the State where the project is located. **[Revision 1, 07/11/1997]**

1.4 This CONTRACT is expected to be funded in part with funds from the RUS. Neither the United States nor any of its departments, agencies, or employees is or will be a party to this CONTRACT or any SUBCONTRACT.

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2. Contract Change Orders.

2.1 All changes affecting the project's construction cost or modifications of the terms or conditions of the contract must be authorized by means of a written contract change order which is mutually agreed to by the OWNER and CONTRACTOR and is approved by RUS. The contract change order will include extra work, work for which quantities have been altered from those shown in the bidding schedule, as well as decreases or increases in the quantities of installed units which are different than those shown in the bidding schedule because of final measurements. All changes must be recorded on a contract change order before they can be included in a partial payment estimate.

2.2 FORM RD 1924-7, "Contract Change Order" or similar form approved by RUS shall be used to record CONTRACT changes.

2.3 When the CONTRACT sum is, in whole or in part, based on unit prices, the OWNER reserves the right to increase or decrease a unit price quantity as may be deemed reasonable or necessary in order to complete the work contemplated by this CONTRACT.

3. Partial Payment Estimates.

3.1 FORM RD 1924-18, "Partial Payment Estimate," or similar form approved by RUS shall be used when estimating periodic payments due the CONTRACTOR.

3.2 The OWNER may after consultation with the ARCHITECT/ENGINEER withhold or, on account of subsequently discovered evidence, nullify the whole or part of any approved partial payment estimate to such extent as may be necessary to protect the OWNER from loss on account of:

3.2.1 Defective work not remedied.

3.2.2 Claims filed.

3.2.3 Failure of CONTRACTOR to make payments properly to subcontractors or suppliers.

3.2.4 A reasonable doubt that the WORK can be completed for the balance then unpaid.

3.2.5 Damage to another CONTRACTOR.

3.2.6 Performance of WORK in violation of the terms of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS.

3.3 Where WORK on unit price items is substantially complete but lacks testing, clean-up and/or corrections, amounts shall be deducted from unit prices in partial payment estimates to amply cover such testing, clean-up and/or corrections.

3.4 When the items in 3.2 and 3.3 are cured, payment shall be made for amounts withheld because of them.

3.5 Payments will not be made that would deplete the retainage nor place in escrow any funds that are required for retainage nor invest the retainage for the benefit of the CONTRACTOR.

4. Conflict of Interest.

4.1. Unacceptable bidders. An ENGINEER (individual or firm including persons they employ) who has prepared plans and specifications will not be considered an acceptable bidder. Any firm or corporation in which such ENGINEER (including persons they employ) is an officer, employee, or holds or controls a substantial interest will not be considered an acceptable bidder. Contracts or purchases by the CONTRACTOR shall not be awarded or made to a supplier or manufacturer if the ENGINEER (firm or individual) who prepared the plans and specifications has a corporate or financial affiliation with the supplier or manufacturer. Bids will not be awarded to firms or corporations which are owned or controlled wholly or in part by a member of the governing body of the OWNER or to an individual who is such a member.

4.2. The OWNER'S officers, employees, or agents shall not engage in the award or administration of this CONTRACT if a conflict of interest, real or apparent, would be involved. Such a conflict would arise when: (a) the employee, officer or agent; (b) any member of their immediate family; (c) their partner or (d) an organization which employs, or is about to employ, any of the above has financial or other interest in the CONTRACTOR. The OWNER'S officers, employees, or agents shall neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors or anything of monetary value from the CONTRACTOR or subcontractor.

5. Protection of Lives and Property

5.1 In order to protect the lives and health of its employees under the CONTRACT, the CONTRACTOR shall comply with all pertinent provisions of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and any State Safety and Health agency requirements.

5.2 The CONTRACTOR alone shall be responsible for the safety, efficiency, and adequacy of its plant, appliances, and methods, and for any damage which may result from their failure or their improper construction, maintenance or operation.

6. Remedies. Unless otherwise provided in this CONTRACT, all claims, counterclaims, disputes, and other matters in question between the OWNER and the CONTRACTOR arising out of or relating to this CONTRACT or the breach thereof will be decided by arbitration if the parties mutually agree, or in a court of competent jurisdiction within the State in which the OWNER is located.

6.1 The arbitration provisions of this section may be initiated by either party to this CONTRACT by filing with the other party and the ENGINEER a WRITTEN REQUEST for arbitration.

6.2 Each party to this CONTRACT will appoint one arbitrator; the two arbitrators will select a third arbitrator.

6.3 The arbitrators will select a hearing location as close to the OWNER'S locale as possible.

6.4 The procedure for conducting the hearings will follow the Construction Industry Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association.

7. Gratuities.

7.1 If the OWNER finds after a notice and hearing that the CONTRACTOR, or any of the CONTRACTOR'S agents or representatives, offered or gave gratuities (in the form of entertainment, gifts, or otherwise) to any official, employee, or agent of the OWNER, the State, or RUS officials in an attempt to secure this CONTRACT or favorable treatment in awarding, amending, or making any determinations related to the performance of this CONTRACT, the OWNER may, by written notice to the CONTRACTOR, terminate this CONTRACT. The OWNER may also pursue other rights and remedies that the law or this CONTRACT provides. However, the existence of the facts on which the OWNER bases such findings shall be an issue and may be reviewed in proceedings under the Remedies clause of this CONTRACT.

7.2 In the event this CONTRACT is terminated as provided in paragraph 7.1 the OWNER may pursue the same remedies against the CONTRACTOR as it could pursue in the event of a breach of the CONTRACT by the CONTRACTOR. As a penalty, in addition to any other damages to which it may be entitled by law, the OWNER may pursue exemplary damages in an amount (as determined by the OWNER) which shall be not less than three nor more than ten times the costs the CONTRACTOR incurs in providing any such gratuities to any such officer or employee.

8. Audit and Access to Records. For all negotiated contracts (except those of \$10,000 or less), the RUS, the Comptroller General, the OWNER or any of their duly authorized representatives, shall have access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the CONTRACTOR, which are pertinent to the CONTRACT, for the purpose of making audits, examinations, excerpts and transcriptions. The CONTRACTOR shall maintain all required records for three years after final payment is made and all other pending matters are closed.

9. Small, Minority and Women's Businesses. If the CONTRACTOR intends to let any subcontracts for a portion of the work, the CONTRACTOR shall take affirmative steps to assure that small, minority and women's businesses are used when possible as sources of supplies, equipment, construction, and services.

10. Anti-Kickback. The CONTRACTOR shall comply with the Copeland Anti-Kickback Act (18 USC 874) as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations (29 CFR, Part 3). This act provides that each CONTRACTOR shall be prohibited from inducing, by any means, any person employed in the construction, completion, or repair of public facilities, to give up any part of the compensation to which they are otherwise entitled. The OWNER shall report all suspected or reported violations to RUS.

11. Violating Facilities. Where this CONTRACT exceeds \$100,000 the CONTRACTOR shall comply with all applicable standards, orders or requirements issued under section 306 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 1857(h)), section 508 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1368), Executive Order 11738, and Environmental Protection Agency regulations 40 CFR Part 15 which prohibit the awarding of non-exempt federal contracts, grants, or loans to facilities included on EPA's list of violating facilities. The CONTRACTOR will report violations to the EPA.

12. State Energy Policy. The CONTRACTOR shall comply with the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (P.L. 94-163). Mandatory standards and policies relating to energy efficiency, contained in the State Energy Conservation Plan, shall be utilized.

13. Equal Opportunity Requirements. For all contracts in excess of \$10,000, the CONTRACTOR shall comply with Executive Order 11246, entitled "Equal Employment Opportunity," as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations (41 CFR Part 60).

13.1 If the CONTRACT exceeds \$10,000, the CONTRACTOR will execute Form RD 400-6, "Compliance Statement."

13.2 The CONTRACTOR'S compliance with Executive Order 11246 shall be based on its implementation of the Equal Opportunity Clause, specific affirmative action obligations required by the Standard Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Construction Contract Specifications, as set forth in 41 CFR Part 60-4 and its efforts to meet the goals established for the geographical area where the CONTRACT is to be performed. 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.

13.3 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; estimated dollar amount of subcontract; estimated starting and completion dates of the subcontract; and the geographical area in which the CONTRACT is to be performed.

14. Certificate of Owner's Attorney.

I, the undersigned, _____, the duly authorized and acting legal representative of _____, do hereby certify as follows

I have examined the attached contract(s) and performance and payment bond(s) and the manner of execution thereof, and I am of the opinion that each of the aforesaid agreements are adequate and have has been duly executed by the proper parties thereto acting through their duly authorized representatives; that said representatives have full power and authority to execute said agreements on behalf of the respective parties named thereon; and that the foregoing agreements constitute valid and legally binding obligations upon the parties executing the same in accordance with terms, conditions, and provisions thereof.

Date: _____

NOTE: Delete phrase "performance and payment bonds" when not applicable.

15. RUS Concurrence.

As lender or insurer of funds to defray the costs of this contract, and without liability for any payments thereunder, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) hereby concurs in the award of this CONTRACT to

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Rural Utilities Service

By _____

Title _____

Date _____

This CONTRACT shall not be effective unless and until concurred in by the State Program Official of the Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture or a delegated representative.