

NEW YORK STATE
ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

PROCUREMENT AND PROGRAM CONTRACT GUIDELINES, OPERATIVE POLICY
AND INSTRUCTIONS

September 2016

Article I. Purpose and Applicability

1.0 These Procurement and Program Contract Guidelines ("Guidelines"), adopted pursuant to Public Authorities Law Sections 1854, 1855, and 2879, set forth the operative policies of the Authority and instructions to its officers and employees regarding the use, awarding, monitoring, and reporting of Procurement and Program Contracts.

1.1 These Guidelines apply to any Procurement or Program Contract entered into after they become effective pursuant to the provisions of Section 1853 of the Public Authorities Law.

Article II. Definitions

2.0 As used in these Guidelines, "Procurement Contract" means a written agreement for the Authority's acquisition of goods or services, in the actual or estimated amount of \$5,000 or more.

2.1 As used in these Guidelines, "Program Contract" means a contract in the actual or estimated amount of \$5,000 or more that is not a Procurement Contract. Program Contracts may include but are not limited to grants, investments, awards, incentives, memberships and other arrangements by which the Authority provides financial assistance to fund a third party's performance of work in furtherance of the mission of the Authority. Program Contracts shall also include: memberships in industry groups, professional societies and similar cooperative associations, and any cooperative projects conducted or sponsored by such organizations; and direct purchase advertising with radio, television or print media regarding program activities. Loans, guarantees, letters of credit and other contractual arrangements executed by Green Bank are not Program Contracts for purposes of these Guidelines; the consideration and approval of such transactions are governed by the relevant provisions of the Authority's Internal Control Manual and by Green Bank's internal rules and guidelines. Contracts for interests in real property are governed by separate Board approved Guidelines for Real Property.

2.2 As used in these Guidelines, "Other Administrative Contracts" mean Procurement Contracts to provide services to support the Authority's administrative functions for a fee, commission, or other compensation by a person or organization that is not performing that work as an officer or employee of the Authority, another public corporation, or a state agency. Other Administrative Contracts include, but are not limited to, equipment maintenance contracts, leases, insurance, telecommunications, or other similar services, but do not include Personal Services Contracts.

2.3 As used in these Guidelines, "Contractor" means a person or organization that enters into a Procurement Contract with the Authority.

2.4 As used in these Guidelines, "Minority Business Enterprise" means any business enterprise certified by the Division of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development as a Minority Business Enterprise.

2.5 As used in these Guidelines, "Women-Owned Business Enterprise" means a business enterprise certified by the Division of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development as a Women-Owned Business Enterprise.

2.6 As used in these Guidelines, "New York State Business Enterprise" means a business enterprise, including a sole proprietorship, partnership, or corporation, which offers for sale or lease or other form of exchange goods which are sought by the Authority and which are substantially manufactured, produced, or assembled in New York State or services which are sought by the Authority and which are substantially performed in New York State.

2.7 As used in these Guidelines, "New York State Small Business Enterprise" means a company that is a resident to New York State, independently owned and operated, with 100 or fewer employees, and not dominant in its field. See New York State Finance Law.

2.8 As used in these Guidelines, "Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Enterprise (SDVOB)" means any business that is certified by the Office of General Services Division of Service-Disabled Veterans' Business Development as a certified service-disabled veteran-owned business enterprise.

2.9 As used in these Guidelines, a "New York State Resident" means a natural person who maintains a fixed, permanent, and principal home within New York State and to which such person, whenever temporarily located, always intends to return.

2.10 As used in these Guidelines, "Competitive Selection Method" shall include:

- i. solicitations, including program opportunity notices, requests for proposals, requests for information, requests for quotations and requests for qualifications;
- ii. subscription program offers;
- iii. for administrative purchases, if the issuance of a solicitation is reasonably expected to result in no more than nominal savings, obtaining at a minimum three (3) quotations from different providers or firms;
- iv. Procurement or Program Contracts made pursuant to centralized contracts let by other public entities pursuant to a competitive process, including those contracts of the New York State Office of General Services;
- v. procurement of commodities from a Contractor where the price to be charged by the Contractor is less than that which would be charged for the purchase substantially similar

in function, form or utility made pursuant to a centralized contract let by the New York State Office of General Services or when other contract terms such as delivery or warranty terms are more economically beneficial; or

- vi. any other competitive method of selection that is consistent with these guidelines.

Article III. Requirements Regarding Selection of Contractors

3.0 Unless otherwise directed by law or order in the form of an authorization and direction to use funds in a certain manner¹, the Authority shall use its best efforts to secure offers from Contractors by using a Competitive Selection Method and to select from such offerers the Contractor offering the most favorable terms, weighing expected ability to perform against projected costs. To this end, the Authority shall:

- (a) solicit offers in writing from several persons or organizations known, believed, or reputed to be qualified in the area of supplying the goods, personal services, Authority program work, or other administrative services to be provided or performed, except that for administrative purchases authorized by Section 2.10 (iii), such quotations may be secured by telephone solicitations where time constraints do not permit securing a written bid and for procurement of catalog and other items generally purchased in the ordinary course of business or which do not require a detailed bid or description of materials or specifications.
- (b) evaluate those offers received on the basis of such information as the Authority has received on, as may be relevant, each offerer's technical or professional qualifications, financial stability, past performance for the Authority, staff, equipment, and facilities availability, experience, reputation, and other factors bearing on expected capability and quality of performance, possible conflicts of interest, and contract price or fee structure; and
- (c) document the processes by which a Contractor is selected, by making a record summarizing the nature and scope of the goods, personal services, Authority program work, or other administrative services sought, the name of each person or organization submitting, or requested to submit, a bid or proposal, the price or fee bid, and the basis for selection of the Contractor.

3.1 In any instance, the members of the Authority may, by resolution, waive the use of the procedure for selecting Contractors outlined in Section 3.0 if they determine such waiver to be in the best interest of the Authority.

3.2 The members of the Authority, upon adoption of these Guidelines, hereby waive use of the procedures for selecting Contractors outlined in section 3.0 in those instances when:

¹ For avoidance of doubt, this provision is included to acknowledge that the Authority's contracting guidelines do not apply in instances where the Authority is directed by law or order to use funds in a certain manner.

- a) the goods, personal services, Authority program work, or other administrative services involved are expected to cost \$50,000 or less;
- b) the goods, personal services, or other administrative services involved are expected to cost \$200,000 or less and are procured from a Minority Business Enterprise or Women-Owned Business Enterprise; a New York State Small Business Enterprise; or a Certified Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Enterprise.
- c) for any Authority program work, the contract is based upon an unsolicited proposal, submitted at the sole initiative of the offerer, not duplicating work then being performed or in the project planning request stage, and involving unique, innovative, or unusual meritorious methods or ideas;
- d) an Authority Officer determines that:
 - i. the interest of the Authority for timely obtainment of the goods, personal services, Authority program work, or other administrative services involved precludes selection of a Contractor pursuant to such procedure; or,
 - ii. even though two or more Contractors could supply the required goods, personal services, Authority program work, or other administrative service, one particular Contractor has unique or exceptionally scarce qualifications or experience, specialized equipment, or facilities not readily available from other sources, or patents, copyrights, or proprietary data; or,
 - iii. there is only one source for a required good, personal service, Authority program work, or other administrative service; or,
 - iv. the contract is for goods, personal services or other administrative services and is based upon a contract awarded by the United States government, or any state or any political subdivision thereof, in accordance with the requirements of New York State Finance Law and the criteria established by the New York State Office of General Services (aka piggybacking); or,
 - v. the contract is for a membership in an industry group, professional society, or similar cooperative association the work of which has been determined by an Officer of the authority to be aligned with the strategy of the Authority and membership in which will benefit the Authority's mission; or
 - vi. the contract is for a sponsorship or procurement of space or services in relation to an industry or other mission-related conference, symposium or other similar event, the topic

of which has been determined by an Officer of the Authority to be aligned with the strategy of the Authority and participation will benefit the Authority's mission.

provided, that in those instances the Authority shall nonetheless make a record summarizing the nature and scope of the goods, personal services, Authority program work, or other administrative service involved, the name of the Contractor, the contract price or fee, and the basis for waiver and selection of the Contractor.

3.3 Board Approval of Procurement and Program Contracts

- (a) Approval of the members of the Authority, either by prior action, when time permits, or by ratification at the next meeting of the Authority shall be required for any:
- i. Procurement Contract which provides for a period of performance by the Contractor in excess of one year;
 - ii. Program Contract that is the result of a competitive process and which provides an estimated or actual amount of \$3 Million or more; and,
 - iii. Program Contract that is the result of a noncompetitive process and which provides an estimated or actual amount greater than \$1 Million.

3.4 Independent auditors for the Authority shall be retained only with the prior approval of the members of the Authority.

3.5 The Authority may use its Competitive Selection Methods to select multiple Contractors to provide goods, personal services, Authority program work, and other administrative services. Individual task work orders may be awarded to these Contractors on an as-needed basis.

Article IV. Compliance with State Finance Law Sections 139-j and 139-k in the Selection of Contractors; Contractor Responsibilities and Types of Contract Provisions

4.0 The Authority shall comply with the requirements of State Finance Law Sections 139-j and 139-k in its selection of Contractors. Solicitations shall identify NYSERDA's Designated Contacts, require bidders to disclose any prior determination of non-responsibility, and to provide the other information required by State Finance Law Sections 139-j and 139-k.

The responsibilities of a Contractor, including continuing responsibilities under State Finance Law Sections 139-j and 139-k, shall be detailed in the contract. Contract provisions shall address the nature and scope of the goods, personal services, or Authority program work to be provided; the standard for performance, if practical; the duration of the work; any relevant time requirements or deadlines; and the amount of compensation to be paid or the price, rates, or fees which will be used to determine such compensation. Personal Services Contracts and Program Contracts shall also include provisions on monitoring of the work to be performed; provisions governing the

Contractor's use of Authority supplies, facilities, or personnel, if permitted; any provisions required by applicable law; and any other provisions the Authority deems necessary or desirable.

Article V. Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises

5.0 It is the policy of the Authority to foster and promote participation of Minority Business Enterprises and Women-Owned Business Enterprises in its procurements and the development of such enterprises and to facilitate a fair share of the awarding of Procurement Contracts to such enterprises.

The MWBE rules and regulations apply to any procurement that conforms to the definition of State Contract as described in the rules and regulations, and as specifically applied to NYSERDA in Article 15-A of New York State Executive Law. State Contract is defined as: a written agreement or purchase order instrument, providing for a total expenditure in excess of \$25,000, whereby a contracting agency is committed to expend or does expend funds in return for labor, services including but not limited to legal, financial and other professional services, commodities, supplies, equipment, materials, technology or any combination of the foregoing, to be performed for, or rendered or furnished to the contracting agency; a written agreement in excess of \$100,000 whereby a contracting agency is committed to expend or does expend funds for the acquisition, construction, demolition, replacement, major repair or renovation of real property and improvements thereon; and, a written agreement in excess of \$100,000 whereby the owner of a State assisted housing project is committed to expend or does expend funds for the acquisition, construction, demolition, replacement, major repair or renovation of real property and improvements thereon for such project. Article 15-A explicitly applies to NYSERDA only to the extent of State Contracts entered into for its own account or for the benefit of another qualifying state agency.

The Authority endeavors to promote and assist: (i) participation by certified Minority or Women-Owned Business Enterprises in applicable Authority procurement opportunities and facilitation of the award of qualified Procurement Contracts to such enterprises; (ii) the utilization of certified Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises as subcontractors and suppliers by entities having qualified Procurement Contracts with the Authority; and (iii) the utilization of partnerships, joint ventures or other similar arrangements between certified Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises and other entities having qualified Procurement Contracts with the Authority.

The Authority hereby designates the Division of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development to certify and decertify Minority Business Enterprises and Women-Owned Business Enterprises through a single process that meets applicable state and federal requirements.

On an annual basis, the Authority shall establish appropriate statewide goals for participation by Minority or Women-Owned Business Enterprises in qualified Procurement Contracts awarded by the Authority, and for the utilization of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises as subcontractors and suppliers by entities having qualified procurement contracts with the Authority

pursuant to § 313(1-b) of the Executive Law. In accordance therewith, the Authority shall submit a Master Goal Plan, or Master Goal Plan update, for acceptance by the Division of Minority and Women's Business Development.

The Authority shall conduct procurements in a manner that will enable it to achieve the maximum feasible portion of the goals it establishes and that will eliminate barriers to participation by Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises. This includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) The Authority shall maintain measures and procedures, as detailed in the Master Goal Plan, to ensure that certified businesses shall be given the opportunity for maximum feasible participation in the performance of appropriate state contracts and to assist in the Authority's identification of those state contracts for which certified businesses may best bid to actively and affirmatively promote and assist their participation.
- (b) The Authority will consult with the Division of Minority and Women's Business Development for assistance in identifying Minority Business Enterprises or Women-Owned Business Enterprises, and refer to any known list maintained by any other State department or agency that identifies such enterprises by area of expertise.
- (c) With the assistance of the Director of Contract Management, the Authority shall maintain its own list of such enterprises, including professional firms that have expressed an interest in doing business with the Authority, and shall ensure that the list is updated regularly.
- (d) The Authority shall provide notice of procurement opportunities to professional and other organizations that serve Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises providing the types of services the Authority procures, and solicit or request offers from Minority and Women-Owned Businesses known to have experience in the type of goods, personal services, and other administrative services involved.
- (e) Each solicitation document for a qualified solicitation shall set forth the expected degree of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise participation, and the Authority shall provide to each prospective contractor a current list of certified Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises. The expected degree of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise participation shall be based, in part, on (i) the potential subcontract opportunities available in the prime procurement contract; and (ii) the availability of certified Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises to respond competitively to the potential subcontract opportunities.
- (f) Written solicitations or requests for bids or proposals for Procurement Contracts will include a statement of the Authority's affirmative action policy.
- (g) Allow bidders to count the Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise portion of a joint venture towards meeting its minority business enterprise goal.

- (h) For each qualified contract, the Authority shall: (i) consider, where practicable, the severability of construction projects and other bundled contracts; (ii) evaluate the appropriateness of the goal established in the Master Goal Plan; (iii) consider compliance with the requirements of any federal law concerning opportunities for Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises which effectuates the purpose of the Authority's policy; and (iv) consult the most recent disparity study pursuant to Article 15-A of the Executive Law.

The Authority may waive obligations of a contractor relating to Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise participation after a showing of good faith efforts to comply with the requirements of Article 9 of the Public Authorities Law relative to the waiver provisions contained in § 313(6) and (7) of the Executive Law. In addition, the Authority shall verify that Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises listed in a successful bid are actually participating to the extent listed in the project for which the bid was submitted.

The President and CEO of the Authority has general policy responsibility for the Authority's Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise program. The Treasurer provides executive oversight and reports to the President, is familiar with the procurement of the types of construction, financial, legal and professional services utilized by the Authority, and participates in the procurement process directly and through designees. The Director of Contract Management, who reports to the Treasurer, shall manage day-to-day responsibilities for M/WBE reporting and implementation. The Authority Counsel's Office shall be responsible for M/WBE legislation oversight and compliance.

Through its program, the Authority endeavors to promote and assist: (i) participation by certified Minority or Women-Owned Business Enterprises in applicable Authority procurement opportunities and facilitation of the award of qualified procurement contracts, as identified by the Director of Contract Management, to such enterprises; (ii) the utilization of certified Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises as subcontractors and suppliers by entities having qualified procurement contracts with the Authority; and (iii) the utilization of partnerships, joint ventures or other similar arrangements between certified Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises and other entities having qualified procurement contracts with the Authority.

Article VI. Contracts with Former Officers or Employees

6.0 Contracts with former officers or employees of the Authority shall be permitted where the goods, personal services, Authority program work, or other administrative services are to the best advantage of the Authority and the contractual relationship is not otherwise prohibited by law or Authority policy. In particular, any former officer or employee of the Authority shall be held to the restrictions set forth in Public Authorities Law Section 73(8) on receiving compensation for any services rendered with respect to specified types of cases, proceedings, applications, matters, and transactions.

Article VII. New York State Business Enterprises and New York State Residents

7.0 It is the policy of the Authority to promote participation in qualified Procurement Contracts by New York State Business Enterprises and New York State Residents, by encouraging them to compete through measures including, but not limited to:

- (a) Collecting and consulting the specifications of New York State Business Enterprises in developing any specifications for any Procurement or Program Contract for the purchase of goods where possible, practicable, feasible, and consistent with open bidding, except for Procurement or Program Contracts for which the Authority would be expending funds received from another state. The Authority will, where feasible, make use of the stock order specification forms prepared by the Commissioner of General Services and, where necessary, consult with the Commissioner of General Services in developing such specifications and making such determinations.
- (b) With the cooperation of the Department of Economic Development and through cooperative efforts with Contractors, providing for the notification of New York State Business Enterprises of opportunities to participate as subcontractors and suppliers on qualified Procurement Contracts in an amount estimated to be equal to or greater than one million dollars and promulgating procedures which will assure compliance by Contractors with such notification. Once awarded the contract, such Contractors shall document their efforts to encourage the participation of New York State Business Enterprises as subcontractors and suppliers on such qualified Procurement Contracts. Documented efforts by a successful Contractor shall consist of and be limited to showing that such Contractor has (a) solicited bids, in a timely and adequate manner, from New York State Business Enterprises, including certified minority and women-owned businesses, or (b) contacted the New York State Department of Economic Development to obtain listings of New York State Business Enterprises, or (c) placed notices for subcontractors and suppliers in newspapers, journals, and other trade publications circulated in New York State, or (d) participated in bidder outreach conferences. If the Contractor determines that New York State Business Enterprises are not available to participate on the contract as subcontractors or suppliers, the Contractor shall provide a statement indicating the method by which such determination was made. If the Contractor does not intend to use subcontractors on the contract, the Contractor shall provide a statement verifying such intent.
- (c) Except for Procurement Contracts for which the Authority would be expending funds received from another state, including in all bid documents provided to potential bidders a statement that information concerning the availability of New York State subcontractors and suppliers is available from the New York State Department of Economic Development, including the directory of certified minority and women-owned businesses, and that it is the policy of New York State to encourage the use of New York State subcontractors and suppliers and to promote the participation of minority and women-owned businesses, where possible, in the procurement of goods and services.

- (d) With the cooperation of the Community Services Division of the Department of Labor and through cooperative efforts with Contractors, providing for the notification of New York State residents of employment opportunities arising in New York State out of Procurement Contracts in an amount estimated to be equal to or greater than one million dollars; and promulgating procedures that will assure compliance by Contractors with notification by requiring Contractors to submit post-award compliance reports documenting their efforts to provide such notification through listing any such positions with the Community Services Division or providing for such notification in such manner as is consistent with existing collective bargaining contracts or agreements.
- (e) Including in each set of documents soliciting bids on qualified Procurement Contracts a statement notifying potential bidders in foreign countries that the Authority may assign or otherwise transfer offset credits created by such Procurement Contract to third parties located in New York State; providing for the assignment or other form of transfer of offset credits created by such Procurement Contracts, directly or indirectly, to third parties located in New York State, in accordance with the written directions of the Commissioner of Economic Development; and providing for the Authority otherwise to cooperate with the Department of Economic Development in efforts to get foreign countries to recognize offset credits assigned or transferred to third parties located in New York State created by such Procurement Contracts.
- (f) Promulgating procedures that will assure compliance with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972 (Pub. L. 92-261), as amended, by Contractors.

The Authority shall notify the Commissioner of Economic Development of the expected award of any Procurement or Program Contract for the purchase of goods, personal services, Authority program work, or other administrative services from a foreign business enterprise in an amount equal to or greater than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) simultaneously with notifying the successful bidder therefor. The Authority shall not enter into the Procurement Contract until at least fifteen (15) days have elapsed, except for a Procurement Contract awarded on an emergency or critical basis. The notification to the Commissioner shall include the name, address, telephone and facsimile number of the foreign business enterprise, a brief description of the goods or services to be obtained pursuant to the proposed Procurement Contract, the amount of the proposed Procurement Contract, the term of the proposed Procurement Contract, and the name of the individual at the foreign business enterprise or person acting on behalf of the same who is principally responsible for the proposed Procurement Contract. For the purposes of this subdivision, "foreign business enterprise" means a business enterprise, including a sole proprietorship, partnership or corporation, which offers for sale, lease or other form of exchange, goods which are sought by the Authority and which are substantially produced outside New York State, or services, other than construction services, sought by the Authority and which are substantially performed outside New York State. For purposes of construction services, a foreign

business enterprise shall mean a business enterprise, including a sole proprietorship, partnership or corporation, which has its principal place of business outside of New York State.

Article VIII. Publication of Notice of Procurement and Program Contracts

8.0 Except as provided in Section 9.1 below, prior to awarding any Procurement or Program Contract, the Authority shall submit to the Commissioner of the Department of Economic Development information on: (i) the contract identification number; (ii) a brief description of the goods or services sought, the location where goods are to be delivered or services provided and the contract term; (iii) the address where bids or proposals are to be submitted; (iv) the date when bids or proposals are due; (v) a description of any eligibility or qualification requirement or preference; (vi) a statement as to whether the contract requirements may be fulfilled by a subcontracting, joint venture, or co-production arrangement; (vii) any other information deemed useful to potential Contractors; and (viii) the name, address, and telephone number of the person to be contacted for additional information. Such information shall be submitted in sufficient time to allow a minimum of fifteen business days between publication of such notice and the date on which a bid or proposal is due, except where a shorter period is specifically authorized by law.

8.1 The provisions of Section 9.0 shall not apply to Procurement or Program Contracts: (i) awarded on an emergency or critical basis, or on the basis that publication is otherwise not feasible, such as those described in Sections 4.2 and 2.11 (ii) - (vi) of these Guidelines; (ii) being re-bid or re-solicited for substantially the same goods or services, within forty-five business days after the date bids or proposals were originally due; or (iii) any other procurements the Commissioner of the Department of Economic Development has determined do not require publication.

Article IX. Reporting of Procurement and Program Contracts

9.0 Procurement Contracts

- (a) As required by Public Authorities Law Section 2879, the Authority shall prepare for approval by the members at their June meeting, or at least annually, a report on Procurement Contracts, for the fiscal year ending March 31 of each year, which report shall include:
- i. The Procurement Contract Guidelines;
 - ii. An explanation of the Guidelines and any amendments since the last annual report on Procurement Contracts;
 - iii. A list of all Procurement Contracts entered into and active during the reporting period. This will include identification of:
 - a. All contracts with New York business enterprises;
 - b. All contracts with foreign business enterprises;
 - c. All contracts with certified Minority or Women-Owned Business Enterprises;

- d. All contracts with certified Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Enterprises;
 - e. The subject matter and value thereof;
 - iv. A summary of all Procurement Contracts which were exempt from the publication requirements under article 4-c of the economic development law, the basis for any such exemption and the status of existing Procurement Contracts.
- (b) The members' approval of this report, which will include a list of all Procurement Contracts entered into during the prior year which provide for a period of performance by the contractor in excess of one year or which have continued for over one year, will be the members' approval of such individual Procurement Contracts, as required by Public Authorities Law Section 2879(3)(b)(iii).

Upon approval by the members of the Authority, the Authority shall submit the annual report on Procurement Contracts to the Division of the Budget, with copies to the Senate Finance Committee, the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, the Department of Audit and Control, and the Department of Economic Development.

9.1 Program Contracts

- (a) The Authority shall prepare for review by the members at their June meeting, or at least annually, a report on Program Contracts, which report shall include description of the program contracting performed by the fiscal year, broken down by portfolio and program, that is sufficient to provide to the members an accurate reflection of the kinds and level of investment made by each of the Authority's programmatic portfolios and programs. Separate from this requirement, the Authority will also make available upon request to the members, a copy of the semi-annual reports that are required to be prepared under Public Authorities Law Section 1867(7).

9.2 The Authority shall make copies of its reports on Procurement and Program Contracts available on its website.

Article X. Miscellaneous Provisions

10.0 No violation of or failure to comply with the provisions of these Guidelines shall be deemed to alter, affect the validity of, modify the terms of, or impair any Procurement or Program Contract; nor shall any provision of these Guidelines or any violation of or failure to comply with such provisions be the basis for any claim against the Authority or any member, officer, or employee of the Authority.

10.1 The members of the Authority may, from time to time, amend these Guidelines, provided that no such amendment shall be deemed to alter, affect the validity of, modify the terms of, or impair any Procurement or Program Contract.

Article XI. Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Enterprises

11.0 It is the policy of the Authority to increase participation of Certified Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business (SDVOB) Enterprises in its procurements.

The SDVOB rules and regulations apply to any procurement that conforms to the definition of State Contract as described in the rules and regulations, and as specifically applied to NYSERDA in Article 17-B Section 369-h(6)(d) of New York State Executive Law. State Contract is defined as: a written agreement or purchase order instrument, providing for a total expenditure in excess of \$25,000, whereby a contracting agency is committed to expend or does expend funds in return for labor, services including but not limited to legal, financial and other professional services, commodities, supplies, equipment, materials, technology or any combination of the foregoing, to be performed for, or rendered or furnished to the contracting agency; a written agreement in excess of \$100,000 whereby a contracting agency is committed to expend or does expend funds for the acquisition, construction, demolition, replacement, major repair or renovation of real property and improvements thereon; and, a written agreement in excess of \$100,000 whereby the owner of a State assisted housing project is committed to expend or does expend funds for the acquisition, construction, demolition, replacement, major repair or renovation of real property and improvements thereon for such project.

Article 17-A explicitly applies to NYSERDA only to the extent of State Contracts entered into for its own account or for the benefit of another qualifying state agency.

The Authority endeavors to promote and assist: (i) participation by certified SDVOB Enterprises in qualified Authority procurement opportunities and facilitation of the award of qualified Procurement Contracts to such enterprises; (ii) the utilization of certified SDVOB Enterprises as subcontractors and suppliers by entities having qualified Procurement Contracts with the Authority; and (iii) the utilization of partnerships, joint ventures or other similar arrangements between certified SDVOB Enterprises and other entities having qualified Procurement Contracts with the Authority.

The Authority hereby designates the Division of Service-Disabled Veterans' Business Development (DSDVD) within the New York State Office of General Services to certify and decertify eligible SDVOB Enterprises through a process that meets applicable state requirements.

On an annual basis, the Authority shall establish appropriate agency-specific goals for participation by SDVOB Enterprises in qualified Procurement Contracts awarded by the Authority, and for the utilization of SDVOB Enterprises as subcontractors and suppliers by entities having qualified State Contracts with the Authority pursuant to Article 17-B of the Executive Law and as specifically

applied to NYSERDA in Article 17-B Section 369-h(6)(d). In accordance therewith, the Authority shall submit a Master Goal Plan, or Master Goal Plan update, for acceptance by the Division of Service-Disabled Veterans' Business Development.

The Authority shall conduct procurements in a manner that will enable it to achieve the maximum feasible portion of the goals it establishes and that will eliminate barriers to participation by SDVOB enterprises.

The Authority has three primary options for using SDVOB Enterprises in its procurements: SDVOB Set Asides; SDVOB Contract Goal Setting; and, SDVOB Discretionary Purchasing. It is up to the Authority to determine which option, or combination of options, can best achieve the Authority goals in the Master Goal Plan.

(a) SDVOB Set Asides

- i. Set-asides permit the reservation in whole or in part of certain procurements by the Authority for SDVOBs when more than one SDVOB Enterprise is available and can provide the necessary construction, construction services, non-construction related services (including finance/bond management), technology, commodities, products and other classifications that will facilitate meeting the goal and meeting the Authority's form, function and utility.
- ii. SDVOB Contract Goal Setting
 - i. A required percentage of SDVOB participation may be placed on qualified procurements. Any contract that conforms to the definition of State Contract in Article 17-B of the Executive Law, and as specifically applied to NYSERDA in Article 17-B Section 369-h(6)(d), unless exempt or excluded, may be assessed for SDVOB participation goals.
- iii. SDVOB Discretionary Purchasing
 - i. SDVOB Enterprises may be chosen when making discretionary purchases up to \$200,000, pursuant to Section 4.2(b) of these Guidelines and State Finance Law.

(b) Waivers

- i. An SDVOB waiver is a reduction or elimination of the SDVOB goal that has been established for a qualified contract. The Authority may determine to make such a waiver in the event that it determines that such a waiver is necessary; moreover, it may grant a partial or total waiver of goal requirements established on a State Contract upon the submission of a waiver form by a contractor, documenting good faith efforts, as defined in the regulations, by the contractor to meet the goal requirements of the State Contract. The Authority shall consider the factors set out in the regulations in making its determination to grant or deny the waiver request.

The President and CEO of the Authority has general policy responsibility for the Authority's SDVOB Program. The Treasurer provides executive oversight and reports to the President, is

familiar with the procurement of the types of construction, financial, legal and professional services utilized by the Authority, and participates in the procurement process directly and through designees. The Director of Contract Management, who reports to the Chief Operating Officer, shall manage day-to-day responsibilities for SDVOB reporting and implementation. The Authority Counsel's Office shall be responsible for SDVOB legislation oversight and compliance.