



U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20416

JUN 9 2009

Ms. Shirley H. Reed
Deputy for Small Business
Small and Disadvantaged Business
Utilization
U.S. Department of the Army
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39180-3435

Dear Ms. Reed:

This is in response to your request for approval of a blanket waiver to compete several construction requirements below the competitive threshold. The requirements are for "Other Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction," to be performed in the States of Mississippi and Louisiana.

A firm fixed-price contract is anticipated. The assigned NAICS Code is 237990. The applicable dollar threshold could reach \$6.4M on the award of six (6) construction projects in the States of Mississippi and Louisiana. The period of performance is effective immediately upon offer and acceptance of these requirements into the 8(a) Business Development (BD) Program by the respective district office.

Your request for a blanket waiver is being approved pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has reserved this authority solely for "contracts funded by the Recovery Act, for competition for construction and information technology services below the competition thresholds."

As stated, the Department of the Army, Vicksburg District Corps of Engineers (COE) intends to award six (6) 8(a) construction projects in the States of Mississippi and Louisiana. As such, the procuring agency's contracting officer should forward the offer letter to the district office serving the geographical area in which the work is to be performed. That SBA district office will provide an acceptance letter. While competition below the threshold for these requirements is being waived under the authority of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, 8(a) construction requirements are to be competed only among those participants having a bona fide place of business within the geographical boundaries of one or more district offices within the state and nearby areas.

A copy of this letter should be included in the offering package when submitting your official offer letter to the respective district office.

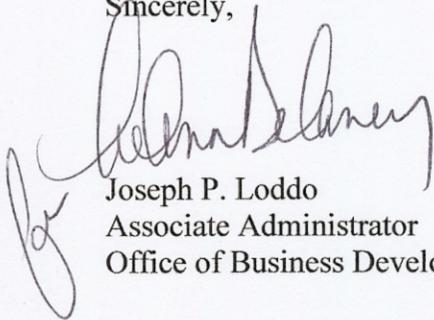


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Should you have any further questions regarding the approval of the blanket waiver request, please contact Carol L. Thompson, Director, Office of Management and Technical Assistance at 202-619-1624.

Thank you for your continued support of the 8(a) Business Development Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph P. Loddo", is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "L".

Joseph P. Loddo
Associate Administrator
Office of Business Development