

NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SPECIAL PROVISION: DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) PROGRAM

PROJECT _____

RACE/GENDER CONSCIOUS GOAL The DBE goal for this project is: _____ %

NDDOT Contact Information	
Contractor Sign In & Submit Advertisements at: https://apps.nd.gov/dot/cr/csi/login.htm	Amy Conklin, DBE Program Administrator 701-328-3116 - or - aconklin@nd.gov
Submit quotes and post bid documentation to: subquotes@nd.gov	Ramona Bernard, Civil Rights Division Director 701-328-2576 - or - rbernard@nd.gov
Search DBE Directory https://dotnd.diversitycompliance.com/	All times are stated in Central Time. The day of the bid opening is not counted as one of the business days.

PURPOSE

These provisions:

1. Provide an explanation of the federal law and outline the obligations to comply with the Federal DBE requirements applicable to this contract,
2. Explain the process NDDOT will follow to evaluate bidders' efforts to obtain DBE participation
3. Provide the standards NDDOT will use to measure compliance with the requirements
4. Identify sanctions for failing to comply with DBE program requirements.

This Special Provision is written per 49 CFR Part 26 and Appendix A – Guidance Concerning Good Faith Efforts.

Contract award will be made to the lowest responsive bidder whose proposal substantially complies with the requirements prescribed herein, has submitted all required documentation and who has met the goal for DBE participation, or has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the Department, adequate good faith efforts to do so.

QUOTES:

All bidders (regardless of whether they are apparent low bidder in this bid opening) should submit a completed [SFN 52013-List of Businesses Submitting Quotes](#) (Form B), or a spreadsheet containing all the information on Form B by 4:00 pm CST within 5 business days after the bid opening. Copies of quotes are no longer accepted, however, submitting a list in another format (Excel or other) is acceptable if all the information is clearly provided. This process is necessary in identifying "ready, willing, and able" contractors upon which to base the NDDOT Triennial DBE Goal. The number of contractors and the types of work they have bid/quoted will be used in the calculation of the DBE goal for each goal setting period.

All subcontractors, suppliers, manufacturers, regular dealers, vendors, and brokers should email quotes to the Department no later than 9 PM the day before each bid opening.

All DBEs quoting on this project MUST submit all quotes and a list of contractors they quoted to NDDOT no later than 9 PM the day before each bid opening.

Prime contractors preparing to bid on NDDOT highway projects have requested that quotes be sent to them the day before the bid opening by:

- 2 PM Central - Suppliers (brokers/regular dealers), vendors, & manufacturers
- 5 PM Central - Subcontractors under \$500,000
- 8 PM Central - Subcontractors over \$500,000

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL BIDDERS:

- ALL BIDDERS are strongly encouraged to submit all documentation at the time of bid opening.
- Must submit Form A (DBE utilization identification) with bid package at the time of bid opening.
 - The DBE participation (amount committed to DBEs) will be based on the information identified on Form A at the time your bid is submitted, **NOT** what is submitted on [SFN 52160 Notification of Intent to Use](#) (Form C) if the amounts do not match. Additional DBE participation attained after the bid opening is acceptable and will count toward the Department's overall goal but will not be counted towards the individual project goal submitted at the time of bid.
 - For example: The project goal is 5.00%, the DBE participation listed on Form A submitted with the bid shows 4.89% and the Form C(s) identify 5.15% DBE participation at time of submission. The Department's view is the project goal has not been met, therefore GFE will be scrutinized on participation at the time of bid listed on Form A.
- Completed Form B, or a spreadsheet containing all the information on Form B, should be submitted by 4:00 pm CST within 5 business days after the bid opening.
- Prime contractors are strongly encouraged to submit their bid documentation in one electronic file. Forms incorrectly submitted could result in a technicality, forcing the Department to award to the next responsive bidder.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALB WHEN THE PROJECT DBE GOAL IS MET AT THE TIME OF BID OPENING:

- Follow REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL BIDDERS above, and in addition, include:
- Must submit Form C for DBE's used in all tiers of subcontracting by 4:00 pm CST 2 business days after the bid opening.
- When the goal is met, if required documents are not submitted by the deadline or submitted incorrectly, the Department may consider the bid non-responsive and could be rejected per 102.12 Irregular Bid, NDDOT Standard Specification for Road and Bridge Construction.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALB WHEN THE PROJECT DBE GOAL IS NOT MET AT THE TIME OF BID OPENING:

- Follow REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL BIDDERS above, and in addition, include:
- A cover letter, submitted with SFN 60829 explaining actions taken attempting to meet the project goal. See Page 3, questions # 1-8 to help explain your actions in the cover letter. Cover letter must be submitted by 4:00 pm CST 2 business days of the bid opening.
- SFN 60829, [Contractor Good Faith Efforts Documentation](#), (GFE) **and** supporting documentation must be submitted by 4:00 pm CST 2 business days of the bid opening. Failure to demonstrate GFE may cause the Department to "Not Award".
- If a non-DBE is used over a DBE, or a prime wants to self-perform, a bid differential table in SFN 60829 should be completed, showing a comparison of like items, (apples to apples) along with the reason for not using the DBE. (Primes may need to supplement the DBE or Non-DBE quote to get an apples to apples comparison). Any Bid Differential (BD) that does not clearly address all items quoted by the DBE, the non-DBE, prime or combination of quotes, will not be considered.
- Must submit Form C for DBE's used in all tiers of subcontracting & non-DBE's used in a bid differential by 4:00 pm CST 2 business days after the bid opening.
- When the goal is not met, if required documents are not submitted by the deadline, the Department may consider the bid non-responsive and could be rejected per 102.12 Irregular Bid, NDDOT Standard Specification for Road and Bridge Construction.

REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-ALBs WHEN THE PROJECT DBE GOAL IS NOT MET AT THE TIME OF BID OPENING OR WHEN ALB DOESN'T SUBMIT PAPERWORK:

- When the ALB does not meet goal, or doesn't submit paperwork on time, other bidders may be contacted to submit Form C(s) if they met the goal or Good Faith Efforts if they did not meet the goal for their bids. If other bidders are contacted, they have until 4:00 pm CST 5 business days after the bid opening to submit the required documents via email to subquotes@nd.gov to be considered.

GOOD FAITH EFFORTS

The bidder is responsible for taking actions toward achieving the project goal as required by 49 CFR Appendix A to Part 26 – Guidance Concerning Good Faith Efforts. Therefore, it is a bidder's responsibility to either achieve the project goal at the time of bid opening, or to follow a course of actions that would, by their scope, intensity, and appropriateness, reasonably be expected to obtain sufficient DBE participation, even if they were not fully successful.

NDDOT will measure the bidder's efforts by actions demonstrated/taken prior to submitting their bid. The description and documentation of these efforts must adequately show NDDOT that the bidder took all necessary and reasonable steps to achieve the DBE goal.

The efforts employed by the bidder should be those that one could reasonably expect if the bidder were actively and aggressively trying to obtain DBE participation sufficient to meet the DBE contract goal.

The following questions are not intended to be a checklist or an exhaustive list of what is considered in evaluating GFE, but will help organize your explanation of your efforts to obtain DBE participation in your cover letter.

- 1) Did you use the DBE Directory to solicit DBEs who are certified to perform the work on the project?
- 2) Did you send timely written email solicitation notices to certified DBE's?
- 3) Did you maintain a follow-up log to track responses to your initial solicitations?
 - a. For firms that do not respond to your initial solicitation it is required to attempt to contact them at least one more time and document it.
 - i. Follow-ups can be made via email or telephone. For emails, if a read receipt was attached and the DBE firm responded as the email being "read" a follow-up is not required. If a read receipt was not attached and/or the DBE did not respond to the first email a follow-up email is required.
- 4) Did you provide DBEs with information about the plans, specifications, and requirements of the contract so they are able to respond to your solicitation in a timely manner?
- 5) Did you solicit DBE participation for work you could have self-performed?
 - a. It is the bidder's responsibility to make a portion of the work available to DBE subcontractors and suppliers and to select those portions of the work or material needs consistent with the available DBE subcontractors and suppliers, so as to facilitate DBE participation. The fact that there may be some additional costs involved in finding and using DBEs is not in itself sufficient reason for a bidder's failure to meet the contract DBE goal, as long as such costs are reasonable.
- 6) Did you ask your firm's subcontractors to solicit DBE work for the subcontractors' portion of the project?
- 7) Did you receive and evaluate all quotes given? If not, what are your reasons?
 - a. The quotes **must be** converted to an acceptable format, whether the quotes are calculated by ton-mile, hour, acre or square mile.
- 8) Did you advertise using one or both of the following options? Submit a copy with your Good Faith Efforts documentation.

OPTION 1: Place an advertisement soliciting DBE participation using the electronic DBE Advertisement System.

- Submit the required information online at <https://apps.nd.gov/dot/cr/csi/login.htm> no later than noon, 15 calendar days before the bid opening.

OPTION 2: Directly contact by email, all DBEs certified in the specific work type (NAICS) required for the job.

- Make contact with DBEs no later than 5 pm 7 calendar days before the bid opening.
- Use the DBE Directory to determine the DBE firms certified in the work to be subcontracted.

Either method of advertisement must:

- Provide the name, email address, telephone, and fax number of the company contact who will be available to discuss and/or receive quotes.
- Offer assistance to DBEs in interpreting plans; quantities; expected overtime; project scheduling; pit and batch plan locations, length of haul, type of road; method of measurement (seeding by the mile or acre, hauling by hour or by ton-mile) or other issues

that may affect a price quote.

9) Did you sign-in?

Indicate your intention to bid and/or receive quotes on specific jobs by using the Department's Bid Opening Sign in System

- The **Bid Opening Sign-In** web application located at <https://apps.nd.gov/dot/cr/csi/login.htm>.

Sign-In opens at 8 am 7 calendar days prior to the bid opening and closes at 11 AM the day before the bid opening.

- Fill in the online form fields as required.
- Log in to download the "Bid Opening Contact Report" at <https://apps.nd.gov/dot/cr/csi/public/listBidOpenings.htm>

EVALUATION OF GOOD FAITH EFFORTS

Proposals may be considered irregular and may be rejected by the Department if there is non-compliance with the DBE requirements, or submitted documentation is incorrect or received after 4:00 pm CST 2 business days after the bid opening. The Department reserves the right to waive minor irregularities and/or certain elements of this special provision.

Federal regulations require the Department to scrutinize a bidder's documented good faith efforts (see appropriate actions on pages 3-4).

If the Committee determines the ALB has adequately demonstrated GFE, the committee will recommend "Award".

If the Committee determines the ALB has not adequately demonstrated GFE, the committee may recommend "Not Award". Some of the factors considered are:

1. Whether the ALB fails to meet the contract goal, but others meet it
2. If the ALB fails to meet or exceed the average DBE participation of other bidders
3. If the ALB fails to submit adequate GFE documentation by 4:00 pm CST 2 business days after the bid opening
4. If the ALB submits no documentation of its good faith efforts (GFE)
5. If the ALB submits incorrect forms

Upon notification of a recommendation for a Not Award determination, the Director's designee(s) will consider the Committee's recommendation. If the Designee(s) agrees with the Committee's recommendation, the Designee(s) will contact the ALB to inform them of the determination, the reasons for it, and that administrative reconsideration is available.

Administrative Reconsideration 49 CFR § 26.53 (d)

- An in-person reconsideration meeting is available at the ALB's request.
- The Director's designee(s) will consider any information submitted prior to or presented at the hearing as to whether the ALB met the goal or made adequate efforts to do so.
- The NDDOT reconsideration decision will be made by the Director's designee(s), who will not have taken part in the original determination.
 - If the Director's designee(s) determines the ALB made adequate good faith efforts to meet the goal, the job will be recommended for award.
 - If the Director's designee(s) determines that the ALB has failed to sway the decision from "Not Award", the ALB will receive written notice of the decision.
- Director will make the final decision and may exercise such discretion as deemed appropriate.
- The decision is not subject to administrative appeal to the U.S. Department of Transportation (49 CFR § 26.53(d)(5)).

POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS

FEDERAL AUTHORITY

The following paragraph must be included in all subcontracts of all tiers in accordance with 49 CFR § 26.13(b):

The contractor or all tiers of subcontractors 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 49 CFR § 26.13 in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts. 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 such other remedy as NDDOT deems appropriate which may include, but is not limited to:

- (1) Withholding monthly progress payments;
- (2) Assessing sanctions;
- (3) Liquidated damages; and/or
- (4) Disqualifying the contractor from future bidding as non-responsible

It is the prime contractors' responsibility to ensure all tiers of subcontractors, brokers, manufacturers, suppliers, vendors, and regular dealers comply with the requirements of this special provision. In addition, the prime contractor has the responsibility to monitor DBE performance on the project.

PRIME CONTRACTOR'S MONITORING, RESPONSIBILITIES, REPORTING

For the life of the project, the prime contractor is responsible for the DBEs listed on Form C and for the specific spec/code items or products that the prime committed to during the award process.

The prime is responsible to:

- Report payments to DBEs used to meet the project goal.
 - Monthly audits are required through the Certification and Compliance System (CCS) on all federally funded projects, regardless of DBE goal. Once the prime receives progress payments from NDDOT they will be required to report DBE payments every month for the life of the project, including reporting zeros on months when no payments are made. The DBE will either confirm the payment amount and date paid is correct or they will open a discrepancy if the information the prime submitted differs from their records. The prime and DBE are encouraged to find resolution to the discrepancy on their own. If resolution cannot be attained, the project engineer and CRD will become involved in the process.
 - See DBE Program Manual for further information about CCS and prompt pay requirements
- Invite and encourage all subcontractors and all DBEs listed on Form C to the pre-construction conference.
- Provide minutes to any DBE not in attendance at the pre-construction conference.
- Ensure their firm as well as any subcontractors, manufacturers, and regular dealers/suppliers comply with the requirements of this special provision.
- Provide all subcontractors with Proposed Project Schedules and any necessary updates.
- Maintain project records and documentation of payments to DBEs for three years following acceptance of the final payment from NDDOT (per FHWA-1273, Section II Nondiscrimination #11).
 - This reporting requirement also applies to any certified DBE.
 - NDDOT may perform interim audits of contract payments to DBEs to ensure that the actual amount paid to DBEs equals or exceeds the dollar amount stated on Form C.
 - Make these records available for inspection, upon request, by an authorized representative of the NDDOT or USDOT.

If any requirements are not met, progress payments will be withheld from the prime until completed.

If award of the contract is made based on the contractor's good faith efforts, the goal will not be waived; the contractor must make good faith efforts throughout the duration of the project.

The prime contractor shall not terminate or replace a DBE subcontractor without the Department's prior written consent. 49 CFR 26.53(f) (1) i.

The Department's contract includes a provision stating:

- (A) That the contractor shall utilize the specific DBEs listed to perform the work and/or supply the materials unless the contractor obtains written consent; and
- (B) That, unless the Department's consent is provided, the contractor shall not be entitled to any payment for work or material unless it is performed or supplied by the listed DBE.

[SFN 60595 - Replacement Approval Request](http://www.dot.nd.gov/forms/sfn60595.pdf) must be submitted and approved prior to replacement of each DBE firm(s), or Non-DBE/BD(s), or any work the prime originally intended to self-perform prior to the commencement of any replacement work. No payment will be made if work commences without written approval. The form may be accessed at the Department's website: <http://www.dot.nd.gov/forms/sfn60595.pdf>

If the prime has not achieved the goal and additional work becomes available, the prime must follow the replacement approval request process using SFN 60595.

EXCEPTION FOR REPLACEMENTS DUE TO PUBLIC NECESSITY

When replacement work is required as a matter of public necessity, (e.g., safety, storm water issues), the contractor must immediately notify the project engineer and the DBE or Non-DBE/BD intended at the time of award. If the DBE or Non-DBE/BD is unable to perform the work within the time specified by permit or administrative rule, the DBE or Non-DBE/BD must notify the prime immediately; and, within one business day, a written explanation must be submitted to the prime with a copy to the project engineer. The project engineer refers all replacement approval requests to the Assistant District Engineer (ADE). In a case of public necessity, the ADE has the authority to allow the contractor to self-perform the replacement work or to find another contractor to complete it.

TERMINATION FOR CAUSE

A DBE or Non-DBE/BD may not be terminated without the Department's prior written consent. (49 CFR 26.53(f)(1)(I))

The Department will provide such written consent if the Department agrees that the contractor or subcontractor has good cause to terminate the DBE firm or Non-DBE/BD.

Circumstances which may be considered good cause for termination include when the listed DBE or Non-DBE/BD:

- Fails or refuses to execute a written contract
- Fails or refuses to perform the work of its subcontract in a way consistent with the contract and/or with normal industry standards, provided, that good cause does not exist if the failure or refusal of the listed DBE or Non-DBE/BD to perform its work on the subcontract results from the bad faith or discriminatory action of the prime or subcontractor
- Fails or refuses to meet the prime contractor's reasonable nondiscriminatory bond requirements
- Becomes bankrupt, insolvent, or exhibits credit unworthiness
- Is ineligible to work on public works projects because of Federal Highway Administration suspension and debarment proceedings.
- Is ineligible to receive DBE credit for the type of work required
- Dies or becomes disabled with the result that the listed DBE or Non-DBE/BD is unable to complete its work on the contract
- Other documented good cause that the Department determines compels the termination of the listed DBE or Non-DBE/BD

Good cause does not exist if the prime contractor or subcontractor seeks to terminate a DBE or Non-DBE/BD which was relied upon to obtain the contract so that the contractor can self-perform the work for which the DBE or Non-DBE/BD was engaged or so that the contractor can substitute another DBE or Non-DBE contractor after contract award.

The contractor must immediately give written termination notice to DBE or the Non-DBE/BD. At the same time, SFN 60595 and its supporting documentation must be provided to the project engineer for review and analysis of the reasons for the intended termination.

The contractor must give the DBE or Non-DBE/BD 5 business days to respond to the termination notice. Within that time, the DBE or Non-DBE/BD should respond with a written explanation of their reasons and/or objections to the proposed termination and specifically address why the Department should deny the contractor's request. This explanation should be submitted in reply to the contractor with a copy to the project engineer.

The project engineer will send the contractor's SFN 60595, the DBE or Non-DBE/BD's written response(s) and any other accompanying documentation to the Civil Rights Division (CRD). If the CRD concurs that a termination is warranted, the contractor must seek a DBE to perform the work.

All DBEs currently certified in the specific area of work to be performed, must be contacted in writing or by phone, and quotes solicited. If available, a DBE will be selected to perform a dollar value of work, equal to the value of the commitment not achieved, unless the contractor can demonstrate the DBE quote is unreasonable, using the same comparison in section "Good Faith Efforts Documentation."

Upon receipt of appropriate written GFE documentation, and prior to commencement of any replacement work, CRD will consider the contractor's efforts and provide a final written decision to the project engineer.

In instances where trucking replacements are sought, DBEs and/or Non-DBEs as allowed by regulation must be selected to cover all the trucking required until sufficient participation is met.

UNFULFILLED OBLIGATIONS

The Department requires SFN 60595 and its supporting documentation when a contractor, DBE, or Non-DBE/BD does not fulfill her or his obligations in any of the following situations:

- The prime contractor is unable to perform the full amount of work committed to be completed, by the prime's workforce and equipment, at the time of award, or
- The DBE or Non-DBE/BD to which the prime contractor committed using at the time of award, is unable to perform the full amount of work, or
- The DBE or Non-DBE/BD withdraws voluntarily from the project and provides to the prime written notice of its withdrawal.

SFN 60595 and its supporting documentation must be provided to the project engineer for review and analysis. If the DBE or Non-DBE/BD is not able to perform, the prime contractor must provide written documentation from the DBE or Non-DBE/BD as to the reasons. The project engineer refers all replacement approval requests to the ADE. The Civil Rights Division will provide a written final determination to the project engineer.

If the Department concurs that a substitution is warranted, the prime contractor will seek a DBE to perform the work. All DBEs currently certified in the specific area of work to be performed, must be contacted in writing or by phone, and quotes solicited. If available, a DBE will be selected to perform a dollar value of work, equal to the value of the commitment not achieved, unless the contractor can demonstrate the DBE quote is unreasonable, using the same bid differential comparison in section "Good Faith Efforts Documentation."

In instances where trucking replacements are sought, DBEs and/or Non-DBEs as allowed by regulation must be selected to cover all the trucking required until sufficient participation is met.

The prime contractor is responsible for any additional costs incurred as a result of the prime contractor's failure or the subcontractor quoting over \$500,000 to fulfill the original commitment or the DBE or Non-DBE/BD's failure to perform.

NON-COMPLIANCE, FAILURE TO PERFORM, AND SANCTIONS

If the Department determines that a contractor should be sanctioned, the Department will provide written notice to the contractor informing them of the sanction for the following:

- Not submitting required documentation in a timely manner
- Not paying a DBE or non-DBE subcontractor in a timely manner

- Not having a DBE perform the specified dollar amount of work (subject to plan quantity changes) tasks or bid items
- For otherwise not fulfilling the requirements of this DBE special provision
- Repeated instances of failure to perform the contract requirements
- Repeated instances of late contract-related payments
- documented fraudulent practices

If the Department determines that a DBE should be sanctioned, the Department will provide written notice to the DBE informing them of the sanction for the following:

- Failure to perform work as specified in the contract
- Failure to pay contract-related bills in a timely manner
- Failure to perform a commercially useful function
- Failure to notify the prime contractor orally and in writing if they are unable to perform a commercially useful function
- Otherwise not fulfilling the requirements of this DBE special provision

If sanctions are applied, the contractor or the DBE may make a written request to the Department for reconsideration. The contractor or the DBE must provide a written statement defending their actions within 3 business days.

If the Department does not receive a written request for reconsideration, or if the contractor or DBE does not provide sufficient evidence that the provisions have been met, the Department may suspend the contractor or the DBE bidding or quoting privileges and not allow the contractor or the DBE to participate in one or more scheduled bid openings after the date the sanction is imposed.

Further sanctions which may be imposed by the Department for failure on the part of the contractor may include, but are not limited to:

- Withhold the contractor's progress payment until the contractor complies with all DBE contract provisions
- Deduct, from the contractor's progress payments, the dollar amount of DBE participation committed to but not achieved by the contractor
- Find the contractor in default
- Liquidated damages
- Disqualifying the contractor from future bidding
- Take other corrective action determined by the Department to be appropriate
- Any combination of the above.

NDDOT MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS

The Department will bring any false, fraudulent, or dishonest conduct in connection with the DBE program to the attention of USDOT. USDOT may pursue action as provided in 49 CFR § 26.107. Actions include referral to the Department of Justice for criminal prosecution or referral to the USDOT Office of Inspector General for action under suspension and debarment, or Program Fraud and Civil Remedies rules. The Department will also consider similar action under its own legal authority, including responsibility determination in future contracts.

COMMERCIALLY USEFUL FUNCTION

DBEs are required to perform a commercially useful function (CUF). CUF refers to those services the DBE is certified to perform. Certified services for each DBE are listed in the online DBE Directory. It is a DBE's responsibility to immediately notify the prime contractor in writing if the DBE is unable to perform a CUF.

The Department counts participation to a DBE contractor toward DBE goals only if the DBE is performing a CUF on that contract.

- A. A DBE performs a CUF when it is responsible for execution of the work of the contract and is carrying out its responsibilities by actually performing, managing, and supervising the work involved. To perform a CUF, the DBE must also be responsible, with respect to materials and supplies used on the contract, for negotiating price, determining quality and quantity, ordering the material, installation and paying for the material itself. 49 CFR § 26.55(c)(1)
- B. A DBE does not perform a CUF if its role is limited to that of an extra participant in a transaction,

contract, or project through which funds are passed in order to obtain the appearance of DBE participation. 49 CFR § 26.55(c)(2)

- C. If a DBE does not perform or exercise responsibility for at least 30 percent of the total cost of its contract with its own work force, the Department must presume that it is not performing a CUF. 49 CFR § 26.55(c)(3)
- D. When a DBE is presumed not to be performing a CUF as provided in paragraph C (above), the DBE may present evidence to rebut this presumption. 49 CFR § 26.55(c)(4)
- E. The Department's decisions on CUF matters are subject to review by Federal Highway Administration, but are not administratively appealable to USDOT. 49 CFR § 26.55(c)(5)

COUNTING RACE/GENDER CONSCIOUS DBE PARTICIPATION - 49 CFR § 26.55

The Department does not count the participation of a DBE subcontractor toward a contractor's final compliance with its DBE obligations on a contract until the amount being counted has actually been paid to the DBE. 49 CFR § 26.55 (h)

The Department will count DBE participation toward our overall annual goal as noted below.

Manufacturer: Manufacturer credit is appropriate when the DBE maintains a factory or establishment that produces, on the premises, the materials, supplies, articles, or equipment required under the contract and of the general character described by the specifications. Alterations or customization of a "stock" product would be eligible for manufacturer credit. DBE credit is awarded at 100% for this type of work. Delivery type is not relevant in this type of credit.

Broker Credit (Manufacture Representative, Procurement Specialist, Leasing): Broker credit is appropriate when the DBE arranges or expedites the transaction of materials or supplies that it does not manufacture or deliver and is never in possession of the products. In this type of transaction, a DBE would serve as a third-party intermediary between the manufacturer and the contractor providing project driven sales. The DBE assumes little to no risk in this transaction and is awarded DBE credit for the "mark-up" of the product only. Drop ship transactions would only be eligible for broker credit. There is no maintained facility where inventory is kept on a regular basis for sale.

For direction on how a specialty item can be eligible for supplier credit, see the information provide below. A specialty item that does not fully meet these requirements can only be credited at brokerage rates.

Regular Dealers/Suppliers: Supplier credit is appropriate when the DBE owns, operates, or maintains a store, warehouse, or other establishment in which the materials, supplies, articles, or equipment of the general character described by the specifications and required under the contract are bought, kept in stock, and regularly sold or leased to the public in the usual course of business sells to the general public with inventory on hand. If a legitimate public warehouse exists, that regularly stocks, deals and sells to the walk-in public, then the method of delivery of the goods is not examined. Supplier credit would be awarded at 60% of the cost of the materials. 49 CFR 26.55 (e)(ii).

Bulk Items 49 CFR 26.55 (e)(ii)

A DBE may be eligible for supplier credit in regard to non-specialty bulk items (i.e. petroleum, steel, asphalt, aggregate) without a warehouse or storefront. If bulk items are purchased directly from the manufacturer the DBE must both own and operate its own distribution equipment. The DBE may supplement its own distribution equipment through a long-term lease (defined as more than one year) but the DBE must demonstrate unimpeded access to the leased equipment and operate the equipment with the DBEs own employees. If all these circumstances do not exist, the DBE is only edible for broker credit.

Specialty Products

Specialty products are those products that are ordered contract-specific for a job. Examples may include, but are not limited to, steel beams, concrete beams, box culverts or piping. Supplier credit is available in two different scenarios:

- Supplier credit would be available if the DBE owns its own facility and is in the business of selling products and materials to the public and sells products of similar nature to the specialty item and the DBE must take possession of the specialty item to determine quality and quantity of the specialty item(s). To be eligible for supplier credit, the DBE must deliver the specialty item with its own distribution equipment and employees.

- Supplier credit would be available if the DBE does not own its own facility but does own its own distribution equipment which it uses to pick up the specialty item(s) and deliver to the job site with the DBEs own employees

Any other scenario dealing with specialty products would only be eligible for broker credit.

Regular Dealers vs. Brokers/Expeditors/Facilitators: On a case-by-case basis, DBE regular dealers may count only the fees/commissions charged for providing procurement assistance as a manufacturers' representative or expeditor of transactions. The key factor in this determination is whether the prime and/or its subcontractors could have ordered the materials without the DBE's assistance. If a non-DBE contractor could have procured the materials or supplies without the intervention of the DBE, the DBE is not performing a regular dealer capacity. To assist in determining the difference, the Department may poll each regular dealer to request their ordering and delivery process.

Trucking: The Department counts DBE trucking on a one-for-one basis. A DBE, on each of its contracts, must first own and operate at least one fully licensed, insured, and operational truck. A DBE may then supplement its fleet using lease/broker agreements. Only trucks leased from a reputable dealer count towards the firms DBE participation. Full credit is given for the transportation value of leased/brokered trucks owned, operated, and insured by other DBEs.

- Example: DBE A owns/operates 2 trucks and subcontracts to DBE B who own/operates 3 DBE trucks. All 5 DBE owned/operated trucks count towards the DBE participation on the project.

A DBE trucking firm may subcontract to non-DBE trucking firms. If a DBE subcontracts trucks from non-DBEs, the total value of trucking services provided by non-DBEs cannot exceed the value of trucking services provided by DBEs. This is referred to as the 1:1 DBE Trucking Ratio (Ratio).

- Example: DBE owns 2 trucks and subcontracts 2 non-DBE match trucks. The total number of trucks that may be counted towards DBE participation is the amount paid for all 4 trucks (100%)
- Example: DBE owns 5 trucks and subcontracts 5 trucks from non-DBE(s). The total number of trucks that may be counted towards DBE participation is the amount paid for 5 of the 10 trucks (100%)
- Example: DBE owns 1 truck and subcontracts 4 non-DBE trucks. 1 of the no-DBE trucks acts as a match truck and the other 3 are non-DBE non-match trucks. The amount of the total subcontract with the DBE that may be counted is 40%.

When a DBE leases more non-DBE than DBE trucks, only the fee or commission the DBE trucker receives is credited for the extra non-DBE trucks.

- Example: DBE owns 2 trucks and subcontracts 4 trucks from non-DBE(s). Total DBE participation is amount paid for 4 of the 6 trucks plus the brokerage or other fee may also be counted toward DBE participation for the 2 non-DBE non-match trucks.

No DBE participation is given for the use of DBE trailers without DBE trucks and DBE employed drivers. A DBE trucking firm cannot count the materials they are hauling unless they are a legitimate DBE supplier or manufacturer of the materials (see Regular Dealer/Supplier and Manufacturer sections).

A legitimate subcontract must be in place between the DBE and non-DBE trucking firm to count participation. The non-DBE trucking firm must be added to the Utilization Plan/Contract in CCS under the DBE and the DBE is required to report payments to the non-DBE trucking firm for the participation to be counted. Additional reporting lines under the DBE on the contract within CCS may also be necessary to report non-DBE non-match payments and/or brokerage/fees for non-DBE non-match trucks if applicable. Certified payroll requirements also apply.

A DBE trucker is responsible for identifying the number of trucks to be used on a project for DBE participation credit. If a DBE trucking firm utilizes the Ratio and is used by a Prime contractor that was the apparent low bidder, the number of trucks (DBE, non-DBE Match & non-DBE non-Match) must be identified on the Form C as well as the total dollar amount allocated to each and the non-DBE firm(s) the DBE intends to use. SFN 60781 DBE Weekly Trucking Report is required to be completed and submitted to the project engineer weekly when the Ratio is being utilized, which will indicate the number of DBE-owned trucks and the number of non-DBE trucks the DBE has provided for use on the contract. DBE trucking firms that are utilizing the 1:1 DBE Trucking Ratio must also display signage in the non-DBE match trucks on the job site that identify them as subcontracting to the DBE as part of the overall project DBE participation. The signage must be clear enough for project personnel to easily identify them while on site. The CUF form includes a section for 1:1 DBE Trucking that must also be completed by the project engineer.

If you have any further questions about counting DBE participation, please contact the DBE Program Administrator.

DEFINITIONS

The definitions specified below apply only to this Special Provision and may contain differences from NDDOT Standard Specifications.

Apparent low bidder (ALB) means the bidder whose bid is read as low bid at the bid opening.

Bid differential (BD) means written documentation provided by the low bidder comparing a Non-DBE quote to a DBE quote.

Bid Opening Sign-In System means the Department's online system to which all prime contractors and subcontractors must register to indicate their interest in quoting or bidding prior to each bid opening.

Bidder/prime contractor means bidders who are submitting proposals on this project, regardless of the size of the highway construction projects; a contractor intending to serve as the prime contractor.

Commercially Useful Function describes a DBE's responsibilities and involvement in a project, see section Commercially Useful Function of this SP.

Commitment means the dollar amount of work the DBE will complete according to the bidder's submitted proposal.

Contractor means all DBE and Non-DBE firms, including prime contractors, subcontractors (under/over \$500,000), brokers, vendors, regular dealers/suppliers, and manufacturers at any tier.

DBE Goal means a percentage of the total contract targeted for the hiring of DBE subcontractors to do specific bid items for which the DBE has been certified to perform. Project goals are set by assessing the project's bid items, location, whether DBEs are available to do the work.

DBE Participation means the percentage achieved when the dollar amount committed to the DBE is divided by the dollar amount of all contract items.

DBE Participation Review summarizes the prime's participation at the time of award. A replacement approval request must be submitted to substitute a firm for any DBEs reported as being used at the time of award.

Department means the project owner regardless of whether the owner is NDDOT, a city or a county project.

Disadvantaged business enterprise or DBE means a for-profit small business concern that is certified by the Department and listed in the DBE Directory available on the Department's web site. DBEs must first be certified in the work intended before any DBE achievement may be counted toward the project goal.

Good Faith Efforts (GFE) means efforts made by the prime contractor to achieve a DBE goal. This includes but is not limited to providing assistance to DBEs in preparing their quotes, advertise, sign in, etc.

Manufacturer means a firm that operates or maintains a factory or establishment that produces, on the premises, the materials, supplies, articles, or equipment required under the contract and of the general character described by the specifications. See Counting DBE Participation section.

NAICS Codes means industry codes assigned by North American Industry Classification System. When certified, DBE businesses are assigned NAICS codes which are identified in the DBE Directory.

NDDOT Certification & Compliance System (CCS) refers to the online compliance reporting system whereby contractors report/submit job related payments, commitments, and Utilization Plan documentation.

Non-DBE means a contractor, subcontractor, supplier (broker or regular dealer), vendor, or manufacturer that has not been certified as a DBE by the NDDOT Uniform Certification Program.

Non-DBE used in bid differential (Non-DBE/BD) means a Non-DBE which, at the time of award, was approved for use due to a price comparison with a DBE. A Form C with the Non-DBE/BD must be included in the DBE Good Faith Efforts Review documentation. A replacement approval request must be submitted when the Non-DBE/BD is unable to complete the work.

Prime contractor means bidders who are submitting proposals on this project, regardless of the size of the project

Quoter means a DBE or a Non-DBE subcontractor (under/over \$500,000), brokers, vendors, regular dealers/suppliers, and manufacturers at any tier who submits quotes to another contractor.

Race/Gender Conscious (RGC) goals are those focused specifically on assisting DBEs.

Responsible Bid Proposal means a bidder's proposal in which the project goal has been achieved, or the bidder demonstrates Good Faith Efforts (GFE) as outlined in this Special Provision.

Subcontractor means any firm intending to perform work, or intending to perform work and supply the materials, which were intended for their work on the project.

Broker means an agent who, without having custody of the property, a) negotiates contracts of purchase, work, lease, or sale; b) buys and sells goods; or c) negotiates between buyers and sellers. See Counting DBE Participation section.

Regular Dealer/Supplier means a DBE firm that owns, operates, or maintains a store, warehouse, or other establishment in which the materials supplies, articles, or equipment of the general character described by the specifications and required under the contract are bought, kept in stock, and regularly sold or leased to the public in the usual course of business. See Counting DBE Participation section.

Tier means various levels of contractors on the job. For example a prime contractor's subcontractor (B) is referred to as the second tier. When B subcontracts with C, C becomes the third tier, etc.

Tied quote means the quote will be considered only if all of the bid items are included.

Untied quote means that any item or group of items quoted may be used for price noted on the quote whether one or all are used.