

corporate applicants who receive an award under this Notice.

- Form RD 400–4, “Assurance Agreement.” By signing Form 400–4, Assurance Agreement recipients affirm that they will operate the program free from discrimination. The recipient will maintain the race and ethnic data on the board members and beneficiaries of the program. The Recipient will provide alternative forms of communication to persons with limited English proficiency. The Agency will conduct Civil Rights Compliance Reviews on recipients to identify the collection of racial and ethnic data on Program beneficiaries. In addition, the Compliance review will ensure that equal access to the Program benefits and activities are provided for persons with disabilities and language barriers.

- SF LLL, “Disclosure of Lobbying Activities,” if applicable.

- Certification of Lobbying. Your authorized representative must sign a certification which contains the entire statement from 2 CFR part 418, Appendix A.

### 3. Reporting

After award approval, you will be required to provide the following:

- a. A SF–425, “Federal Financial Report,” and a project performance report will be required on a quarterly basis (due 30 calendar days after end of each quarter) for the first year of the project to ensure that all recipients are able to complete start-up activities and begin providing technical assistance. Recipients may submit financial and performance reports on a semi-annual basis for the second year of the project, provided they are on schedule for project completion. For the purposes of this program, quarters end on March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31. The project performance reports shall include a comparison of actual accomplishments to the objectives established for that period;

- b. Reasons why established objectives were not met, if applicable;

- c. Reasons for any problems, delays, or adverse conditions, if any, which have affected or will affect attainment of overall project objectives, prevent meeting time schedules or objectives, or preclude the attainment of particular objectives during established time periods. This disclosure shall be accompanied by a statement of the action taken or planned to resolve the situation; and

- d. Objectives and timetable established for the next reporting period.

- e. Provide a final project and financial status report within 90 calendar days

after the expiration or termination of the award.

- f. Provide outcome project performance reports and final deliverables.

### G. Agency Contacts

For general questions about this announcement and for program Technical Assistance, please contact National Office staff: Gail Thuner, Management and Program Analyst, [cpgrants@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:cpgrants@wdc.usda.gov), or call 202–690–1376.

### H. Other Information

#### Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720–2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877–8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD–3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632–9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) *mail*: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–9410;

*fax*: (202) 690–7442; or

*email*: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

**Bette B. Brand,**

*Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410–XY–P**

## COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

### Notice of Public Meeting of the Vermont Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Commission on Civil Rights.

**ACTION:** Announcement of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission), and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), that a meeting of the Vermont Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene by conference call at 5:00 p.m. (EDT) on Wednesday, October 16, 2019. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on the committee’s Statement of Concern on housing.

**DATES:** Wednesday, October 16, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. EDT.

#### *Public Call-In Information:*

Conference call-in number: 1–800–367–2403 and conference call 8242563.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Evelyn Bohor at [ero@usccr.gov](mailto:ero@usccr.gov) or by phone at 202–376–7533.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Interested members of the public may listen to the discussion by calling the following toll-free conference call-in number: 1–800–367–2403 and conference call 8242563. Please be advised that before placing them into the conference call, the conference call operator will ask callers to provide their names, their organizational affiliations (if any), and email addresses (so that callers may be notified of future meetings). Callers can expect to incur charges for calls they initiate over wireless lines, and the Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls they initiate over land-line connections to the toll-free conference call-in number.

Persons with hearing impairments may also follow the discussion by first calling the Federal Relay Service at 1–800–977–8339 and providing the operator with the toll-free conference call-in number: 1–800–367–2403 and conference call 8242563.

Members of the public are invited to make statements during the open comment period of the meeting or submit written comments. The comments must be received in the regional office approximately 30 days

after each scheduled meeting. Written comments may be mailed to the Eastern Regional Office, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 1150, Washington, DC 20425, faxed to (202) 376-7548, or emailed to Evelyn Bohor at [ero@usccr.gov](mailto:ero@usccr.gov). Persons who desire additional information may contact the Eastern Regional Office at (202) 376-7533.

Records and documents discussed during the meeting will be available for public viewing as they become available at <https://www.facadatabase.gov/FACA/FACAPublicViewCommitteeDetails?id=a10t0000001gzmXAAQ>, click the "Meeting Details" and "Documents" links. Records generated from this meeting may also be inspected and reproduced at the Eastern Regional Office, as they become available, both before and after the meetings. Persons interested in the work of this advisory committee are advised to go to the Commission's website, [www.usccr.gov](http://www.usccr.gov), or to contact the Eastern Regional Office at the above phone numbers, email or street address.

**Exceptional Circumstance:** Pursuant to 41 CFR 102-3.150, the notice for this meeting is given less than 15 calendar days prior to the meeting because of the exceptional circumstances of the federal government shutdown.

**Agenda Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. (EDT)**

- Rollcall
- Vote on Housing Statement
- Other Business
- Open Comment
- Adjourn

Dated: October 9, 2019.

**David Mussatt,**

*Supervisory Chief, Regional Programs Unit.*

[FR Doc. 2019-22489 Filed 10-15-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Notice of Indirect Cost Rates for the Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program for Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of Indirect Cost Rates for the Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program for Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017.

**SUMMARY:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) is announcing new indirect cost rates on the recovery of indirect costs for its component organizations involved in natural resource damage assessment and restoration activities for fiscal years (FY) 2016 and 2017. The indirect cost rates for this fiscal year and date of implementation are provided in this notice. More information on these rates and the DARRP policy can be found at the DARRP website at [www.darrp.noaa.gov](http://www.darrp.noaa.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** For further information, contact LaTonya Burgess at 240-533-0428, by fax at 301-713-4389, or email at [LaTonya.Burgess@noaa.gov](mailto:LaTonya.Burgess@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The mission of the DARRP is to restore natural resource injuries caused by releases of hazardous substances or oil under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) (42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*) and the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA) (33 U.S.C. 2701 *et seq.*), and to support restoration of physical injuries to National Marine Sanctuary resources under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) (16 U.S.C. 1431 *et seq.*). The DARRP consists of three component organizations: The Office of Response and Restoration (ORR) within the National Ocean Service; the Restoration Center within the National Marine Fisheries Service; and the Office of the General Counsel Natural Resources Section (GCNRS). The DARRP conducts Natural Resource Damage Assessments (NRDAs) as a basis for recovering damages from responsible parties, and uses the funds recovered to restore injured natural resources.

Consistent with federal accounting requirements, the DARRP is required to account for and report the full costs of its programs and activities. Further, the DARRP is authorized by law to recover reasonable costs of damage assessment and restoration activities under CERCLA, OPA, and the NMSA. Within the constraints of these legal provisions and their regulatory applications, the DARRP has the discretion to develop indirect cost rates for its component organizations and formulate policies on the recovery of indirect cost rates subject to its requirements.

#### The DARRP's Indirect Cost Effort

In December 1998, the DARRP hired the public accounting firm Rubino & McGeehin, Chartered (R&M) to: Evaluate the DARRP cost accounting system and

allocation practices; recommend the appropriate indirect cost allocation methodology; and determine the indirect cost rates for the three organizations that comprise the DARRP. A **Federal Register** notice on R&M's effort, their assessment of the DARRP's cost accounting system and practice, and their determination regarding the most appropriate indirect cost methodology and rates for FYs 1993 through 1999 was published on December 7, 2000 (65 FR 76611).

R&M continued its assessment of DARRP's indirect cost rate system and structure for FYs 2000 and 2001. A second federal notice specifying the DARRP indirect rates for FYs 2000 and 2001 was published on December 2, 2002 (67 FR 71537).

In October 2002, DARRP hired the accounting firm of Cotton and Company LLP (Cotton) to review and certify DARRP costs incurred on cases for purposes of cost recovery and to develop indirect rates for FY 2002 and subsequent years. As in the prior years, Cotton concluded that the cost accounting system and allocation practices of the DARRP component organizations are consistent with federal accounting requirements. Consistent with R&M's previous analyses, Cotton also determined that the most appropriate indirect allocation method continues to be the Direct Labor Cost Base for all three DARRP component organizations. The Direct Labor Cost Base is computed by allocating total indirect cost over the sum of direct labor dollars, plus the application of NOAA's leave surcharge and benefits rates to direct labor. Direct labor costs for contractors from ERT, Inc. (ERT), Freestone Environmental Services, Inc. (Freestone), and Genwest Systems, Inc. (Genwest) were included in the direct labor base because Cotton determined that these costs have the same relationship to the indirect cost pool as NOAA direct labor costs. ERT, Freestone, and Genwest provided on-site support to the DARRP in the areas of injury assessment, natural resource economics, restoration planning and implementation, and policy analysis. Subsequent federal notices have been published in the **Federal Register** as follows:

- FY 2002, published on October 6, 2003 (68 FR 57672)
- FY 2003, published on May 20, 2005 (70 FR 29280)
- FY 2004, published on March 16, 2006 (71 Fed Reg. 13356)
- FY 2005, published on February 9, 2007 (72 FR 6221)
- FY 2006, published on June 3, 2008 (73 FR 31679)