

Region 1 Cleanup

2015 Terms and Conditions

Please note that these Terms and Conditions (T&Cs) apply to Brownfields Cleanup Grants awarded under CERCLA § 104(k).

I. GENERAL FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

A. Federal Policy and Guidance

1.
 - a. Cooperative Agreement Recipients: By awarding this cooperative agreement, EPA has approved the proposal for the Cooperative Agreement Recipient (CAR) submitted in the Fiscal Year 2015 competition for Brownfields cleanup cooperative agreements.
 - b. In implementing this agreement, the CAR shall ensure that work done with cooperative agreement funds complies with the requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) § 104(k). The CAR shall also ensure that cleanup activities supported with cooperative agreement funding comply with all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations. The CAR must ensure cleanups are protective of human health and the environment.
 - c. The CAR must consider whether they are required to conduct cleanups under a State or Tribal response program. If the CAR chooses not to participate in a State or Tribal response program, then the CAR is required to consult with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure the proposed cleanup is protective of human health and the environment.
 - d. A term and condition or other legally binding provision shall be included in all agreements entered into with the funds, or when funds awarded under this agreement are used in combination with non-Federal sources of funds, to ensure that recipients comply with all applicable Federal and State laws and requirements. In addition to CERCLA § 104(k), Federal applicable laws and requirements include:
 - e. Federal cross-cutting requirements including, but not limited to, DBE requirements found at 40 CFR 33; OSHA Worker Health & Safety Standard 29 CFR 1910.120; the Uniform Relocation Act; National Historic Preservation Act; Endangered Species Act; and Permits required by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act; Executive Order 11246, Equal Employment Opportunity, and implementing regulations at 41 CFR 60-4; Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, as amended (40 USC § 327-333) the Anti Kickback Act (40 USC § 276c) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as implemented by Executive Orders 11914 and 11250.
 - f. The CAR must comply with Davis-Bacon Act prevailing wages for all construction, alteration and repair contracts and subcontracts awarded with EPA grant funds. For more detailed information on complying with Davis-Bacon please see the Davis-Bacon Addendum to these terms and conditions.

B. Changes to Sites and Cleanup Methods

1.
 - a. The CAR must use funds provided by this agreement to clean up the brownfield site in the EPA approved work plan.
 - b. The CAR may not make substantial changes to the cleanup method described in the work plan without prior EPA approval.

II. GENERAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

A. Term of the Agreement

1. The term of this agreement is three years from the date of award, unless otherwise extended by EPA at the CAR's request.
2. If after 18 months from the date of award, EPA determines that the CAR has not made sufficient progress in implementing its cooperative agreement, the recipient must implement a corrective action plan approved by the EPA Project Officer or EPA may terminate this agreement for material non-compliance with its terms. For purposes of the Cleanup Grants, "sufficient progress in implementing a cooperative agreement" means that an appropriate remediation plan is in place, institutional control development, if necessary, has commenced, initial community involvement activities have taken place, relevant state or tribal pre-cleanup requirements are being addressed and a solicitation for remediation services has been issued.

B. Substantial Involvement

1. The U.S. EPA may be substantially involved in overseeing and monitoring this cooperative agreement.
 - a. Substantial involvement by the U.S. EPA generally includes administrative activities such as monitoring, review of project phases, and approving substantive terms included in professional services contracts.
 - b. Substantial EPA involvement may include review of financial and program performance reports and monitoring all reporting, record-keeping, and other program requirements.
 - c. EPA may waive any of the provisions in term and condition II.B.1. at its own initiative or upon request by the CAR. EPA will provide waivers in writing.
2. Effect of EPA's substantial involvement includes:
 - a. EPA's review of any project phase, document, or cost incurred under this cooperative agreement, will not have any effect upon CERCLA § 128 *Eligible*

Response Site determinations or for rights, authorities, and actions under CERCLA or any Federal statute.

- b. The CAR remains responsible for ensuring that all cleanups are protective of human health and the environment and comply with all applicable Federal and State laws.
- c. The CAR remains responsible for ensuring costs are allowable under 2 CFR 200 Subpart E.

C. Cooperative Agreement Recipient Roles and Responsibilities

1. The CAR must acquire the services of a qualified environmental professional(s) to coordinate, direct, and oversee the brownfields assessment and cleanup activities at a particular site, if they do not have such a professional on staff.
2. The CAR is responsible for ensuring that contractors and subrecipients comply with the terms of their agreements with the CAR, and that agreements between the CAR and subrecipients and contractors are consistent with the terms and conditions of this agreement.

Subawards are defined at 2 CFR 200.92. The CAR may not subaward to for-profit organizations. The CAR must obtain commercial services and products necessary to carry out this agreement under competitive procurement procedures as described in 2 CFR Part 200.317 through 200.326. In addition, EPA policy encourages awarding subawards competitively and the CAR must consider awarding subawards through competition.

Competency of Organizations Generating Environmental Measurement Data: In accordance with Agency Policy Directive Number FEM-2012-02, Policy to Assure the Competency of Organizations Generating Environmental Measurement Data under Agency-Funded Assistance Agreements, the CAR agrees, by entering into this agreement, that it has demonstrated competency prior to award, or alternatively, where a pre-award demonstration of competency is not practicable, the CAR agrees to demonstrate competency prior to carrying out any activities under the award involving the generation or use of environmental data. The CAR shall maintain competency for the duration of the project period of this agreement and this will be documented during the annual reporting process. A copy of the Policy is available online at http://www.epa.gov/fem/lab_comp.htm or a copy may also be requested by contacting the EPA project officer for this award.

D. Quarterly Progress Reports

1. In accordance with EPA regulations 2 CFR Parts 200 and 1500 (specifically, 200.328 *monitoring and reporting program performance*), the CAR agrees to submit quarterly progress reports to the EPA Project Officer within thirty days after each reporting period. The CAR shall refer to and utilize the cleanup model quarterly report found at www.epa.gov/region1/brownfields.
2. The CAR must maintain records that will enable it to report to EPA on the amount of funds expended on the specific properties under this cooperative agreement.

3. In accordance with 2 CFR 200.328(d)(1), the CAR agrees to inform EPA as soon as problems, delays, or adverse conditions become known which will materially impair the ability to meet the outputs/outcomes specified in the approved work plan.

E. Property Profile Submission

1. The CAR must report on interim progress (i.e., cleanup started) and any final accomplishments (i.e., cleanup completed, contaminants removed, Institution Controls, Engineering Controls) by completing and submitting relevant portions of the Property Profile Form using the Brownfields Program on-line reporting system, known as Assessment, Cleanup and Redevelopment Exchange System (ACRES). The CAR must enter the data in ACRES as soon as any interim action or final accomplishment has occurred, or within 30 days after the end of each reporting quarter. EPA will provide the CAR with training prior to obtaining access to ACRES. The training is required to obtain access to ACRES.

F. Final Report

1. In accordance with EPA regulations 2 CFR Parts 200 and 1500 (specifically, 200.328 *monitoring and reporting program performance*), the CAR agrees to submit to the EPA Project Officer within 90 days after the expiration or termination of the approved project period a final technical report on the cooperative agreement and at least one reproducible copy suitable for printing. The final technical report shall document project activities over the entire project period and shall include brief information on each of the following areas: 1) a comparison of actual accomplishments with the anticipated outputs/outcomes specified in the assistance agreement work plan; 2) reasons why anticipated outputs/outcomes were not met; and 3) other pertinent information, including, when appropriate, analysis and explanation of cost overruns or high unit costs. The CAR agrees that it will notify EPA of problems, delays, or adverse conditions which materially impair the ability to meet the outputs/outcomes specified in the cooperative agreement workplan.

III. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

A. Cost Share Requirement

CERCLA § 104(k)(9)(B)(iii) requires that the recipient of this cooperative agreement pay a cost share (which may be in the form of a contribution of money, labor, material, or services from a non-federal source) of at least 20 percent (i.e. 20 percent of the total federal funds awarded). The cost share contribution must be for costs that are eligible and allowable under the cooperative agreement and must be supported by adequate documentation.

B. Eligible Uses of the Funds for the Cooperative Agreement Recipient

1. To the extent allowable under the EPA-approved work plan, cooperative agreement funds may be used for programmatic expenses necessary to clean up sites. Eligible programmatic expenses include activities described in Section IV of these terms and conditions. In

addition, eligible programmatic expenses may include:

- a. Ensuring cleanup activities at a particular site are authorized by CERCLA § 104(k) and the EPA approved work plan;
 - b. Ensuring that a cleanup complies with applicable requirements under Federal and State laws, as required by CERCLA § 104(k);
 - c. Using a portion of the grant to purchase environmental insurance for the remediation of the site. Funds may not be used to purchase insurance intended to provide coverage for any of the ineligible uses under Section III.C;
 - d. Any other eligible programmatic costs including direct costs incurred by the recipient in reporting to EPA; procuring and managing contracts; awarding and managing subawards to the extent allowable in III.C.2; and carrying out community involvement pertaining to the cleanup activities.
2. **Local Governments Only.** No more than 10% of the funds awarded by this agreement may be used by the CAR itself as a programmatic cost for brownfields program development and implementation (including monitoring of health and institutional controls) as described in the EPA-approved work plan. The CAR must maintain records on funds that will be used to carry out its EPA-approved work plan to ensure that no more than 10% of its funds are used for brownfields program development and implementation (including monitoring of health and institutional controls).

C. Ineligible Uses of the Funds for the Cooperative Agreement Recipient

1. Cooperative agreement funds shall not be used by the CAR for any of the following activities:
 - a. Pre-cleanup environmental assessment activities such as site assessment, identification, and characterization with the exception of site monitoring activities that are reasonable and necessary during the cleanup process, including determination of the effectiveness of a cleanup;
 - b. Monitoring and data collection necessary to apply for, or comply with, environmental permits under other federal and state laws, unless such a permit is required as a component of the cleanup action;
 - c. Construction, demolition, and development activities that are not cleanup actions (e.g., marketing of property or construction of a new facility or addressing public or private drinking water supplies that have deteriorated through ordinary use);
 - d. Job training unrelated to performing a specific cleanup at a site covered by the grant;
 - e. To pay for a penalty or fine;

- f. To pay a federal cost share requirement (for example, a cost-share required by another Federal grant) unless there is specific statutory authority;
 - g. To pay for a response cost at a brownfields site for which the recipient of the grant is potentially liable under CERCLA § 107;
 - h. To pay a cost of compliance with any federal law, excluding the cost of compliance with laws applicable to the cleanup; and
 - i. Unallowable costs (e.g., lobbying and fund raising) under 2 CFR 200 Subpart E.
- 2. Under CERCLA § 104(k)(4)(B), administrative costs are prohibited costs under this agreement. Prohibited administrative costs include all indirect costs incurred by the CAR under 2 CFR Part 225 (for state, local and tribal governments) or 2 CFR Part 230 (non-profit organizations), as applicable.
 - a. Ineligible administrative costs include costs incurred in the form of salaries, benefits, contractual costs, supplies, and data processing charges, incurred to comply with most provisions of the *Uniform Administrative Requirements for Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* at 2 CFR 200 and 1500. Direct costs for grant administration, with the exception of costs specifically identified as eligible programmatic costs, are ineligible even if the grant recipient is required to carry out the activity under the grant agreement. Costs incurred to report quarterly performance to EPA under the grant are eligible.
 - b. Ineligible grant administration costs include direct costs for:
 - (1) Preparation of applications for Brownfields grants;
 - (2) Record retention required under 2 CFR 1500.6;
 - (3) Record-keeping associated with supplies and equipment purchases required under 2 CFR 200.313;
 - (4) Preparing revisions and changes in the budgets, scopes of work, program plans and other activities required under 2 CFR 200.308;
 - (5) Maintaining and operating financial management systems required under 2 CFR 200.302;
 - (6) Preparing payment requests and handling payments under 2 CFR 200.305;
 - (7) Non-federal audits required under 2 CFR Subpart F; and
 - (8) Close out under 2 CFR 200.343.

D. Grant Recipient Eligibility

1. The CAR may only clean-up sites *it solely owns*. The CAR must retain ownership of the site throughout the period of performance of the grant. For the purposes of this agreement, the term “owns” means fee simple title unless EPA approves a different ownership arrangement.

E. Obligations for Grant Recipients Asserting a Limitation on Liability from CERCLA § 107

1. EPA awarded this cooperative agreement to the CAR based on information indicating that the CAR would not use cooperative agreement funds to pay for a response cost at the site for which the CAR was potentially liable under CERCLA § 107. If the CAR is not potentially liable based on its status as either a Bona Fide Prospective Purchaser (BFPP), Contiguous Property Owner (CPO), or Innocent Land Owner (ILO), the CAR must meet certain continuing obligations in order to maintain its status. If the CAR fails to meet these obligations, EPA may disallow the costs incurred under this cooperative agreement for cleaning up the site under CERCLA § 104(k)(7)(C). These continuing obligations include:

- (1) complying with any land use restrictions established or relied on in connection with the response action at the vessel or facility and not impeding the effectiveness or integrity of institutional controls;
- (2) taking reasonable steps with respect to hazardous substance releases;
- (3) providing full cooperation, assistance, and access to persons that are authorized to conduct response actions or natural resource restoration; and
- (4) complying with information requests and administrative subpoenas and legally required notices (applies to the criteria for bona fide prospective purchasers and contiguous property owners).

Notwithstanding the CAR’s continuing obligations under this agreement, the CAR is subject to the applicable liability provisions of CERCLA governing **its** status as a BFPP, CPO, or ILO. CERCLA requires additional obligations to maintain the liability limitations for BFPP, CPO, and ILO; the relevant provisions for these obligations include §§ 101(35), 101(40), 107(b), 107(q) and 107(r).

F. Interest-Bearing Accounts and Program Income

1. Interest earned on advances are subject to the provisions of 2 CFR 200.305(b)(7)(ii) relating to remitting interest on advances to EPA on a quarterly basis.
2. Any program income earned by the CAR will be added to the funds EPA has committed to this agreement and used only for eligible and allowable costs under the agreement as provided in 2 CFR 200.307 and 2 CFR 1500.7, as applicable.

IV. CLEANUP ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

A. Authorized Cleanup Activities

1. The CAR shall prepare an analysis of brownfields cleanup alternatives or equivalent state Brownfields program document which will include information about the site and contamination issues (i.e., exposure pathways, identification of contaminant sources, etc.); cleanup standards; applicable laws; alternatives considered; and the proposed cleanup. The evaluation of alternatives must include effectiveness, implementability, and the cost of the response proposed. The evaluation of alternatives must also consider the resilience of the remedial options in light of reasonably foreseeable changing climate conditions (e.g., sea level rise, increased frequency and intensity of flooding and/or extreme weather events, etc.). The alternatives may additionally consider the degree to which they reduce greenhouse gas discharges, reduce energy use or employ alternative energy sources, reduce volume of wastewater generated/disposed, reduce volume of materials taken to landfills, and recycle and re-use materials generated during the cleanup process to the maximum extent practicable. The evaluation will include an analysis of reasonable alternatives including no action. The cleanup method chosen must be based on this analysis. After the proposed cleanup plan is presented, an additional statement shall be included that will provide ways to make the proposed cleanup “greener” or “more sustainable,” such as reducing energy use or employing alternative energy sources, reducing volume of wastewater generated/disposed, reducing volume of materials taken to landfills, and recycling and re-using materials generated during the cleanup process to the maximum extent practicable
2. Prior to conducting or engaging in any on-site activity with the potential to impact historic properties (such as invasive sampling or cleanup), the CAR shall consult with EPA regarding potential applicability of the National Historic Preservation Act and, if applicable, shall assist EPA in complying with any requirements of the Act and implementing regulations.

B. Quality Assurance (QA) Requirements

1. If environmental data are to be collected as part of the brownfields cleanup (e.g., cleanup verification sampling, post-cleanup confirmation sampling), the CAR shall comply with 2 CFR 1500.11 requirements to develop and implement quality assurance practices sufficient to produce data adequate to meet project objectives and to minimize data loss. State law may impose additional QA requirements.
2. The recipient shall develop Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP) to support all environmental data operations in accordance with “The EPA New England Planning and Documenting Brownfields Projects - Generic Quality Assurance Project Plans and Site Specific QAPP Addenda,” March 2009. The term “environmental data operations” refers to any measurement or information that describe environmental processes, conditions, or location; ecological or health effects; produced from models or surveys; compiled from other sources such as data bases and literature; or the performance of environmental technology. The Quality Assurance Project Plan must be approved by EPA before data collection and/or data generation activities begin. The recipient will submit the QAPP to the

following:

EPA Project Officer (see page 1 of the assistance agreement for name and address), and

Regional Quality Assurance Manager (EQA)
US Environmental Protection Agency
11 Technology Drive
North Chelmsford, MA 01863

C. Community Relations and Public Involvement in Cleanup Activities

1. All cleanup activities require a site-specific community relations plan that includes providing reasonable notice, opportunity for involvement, response to comments, and administrative records that are available to the public.
2. The CAR agrees to clearly reference EPA investments in the project during all phases of community outreach outlined in the EPA-approved work plan, which may include the development of any post-project summary or success materials that highlight achievements to which this project contributed. Specifically:
 - a. If any document, fact sheet, and/or web material are developed as part of this cooperative agreement, then they shall include the following statement: "Though this project has been funded, wholly or in part, by EPA, the contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the EPA."
 - b. If a sign is developed, as part of a project funded by this cooperative agreement, then the sign shall include either a statement (e.g., this project has been funded, wholly or in part, by EPA) and/or EPA's logo acknowledging that EPA is a source of funding for the project. The EPA logo may be used on project signage when the sign can be placed in a visible location with direct linkage to site activities. Use of the EPA logo must follow the sign specifications available at: <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/tc.htm>.

D. Administrative Record

1. The CAR shall establish an administrative record that contains the documents that form the basis for the selection of a cleanup plan. Documents in the administrative record shall include an analysis of reasonable alternatives including no action; site investigation reports; the cleanup plan; cleanup standards used; responses to public comments; and verification that shows that cleanup is complete. The CAR shall keep the administrative record available at a location convenient to the public and make it available for inspection.

E. Implementation of Cleanup Activities

1. The CAR shall ensure the adequacy of each cleanup in protecting human health and the environment as it is implemented. If changes to the expected cleanup are necessary based on public comment or other reasons, the CAR must consult with EPA and may not make substantial changes to the cleanup method described in the work plan without prior EPA approval.

2. If the CAR is unable or unwilling to complete the cleanup, the CAR shall ensure that the site is secure. The CAR shall notify the appropriate state agency and the U.S. EPA to ensure an orderly transition should additional activities become necessary.

F. Completion of Cleanup Activities

1. The CAR shall ensure that the successful completion of a cleanup is properly documented. This must be done through a final report or letter from a qualified environmental professional, or other documentation provided by a State or Tribe that shows cleanup is complete. This documentation needs to be included as part of the administrative record.

V. OTHER CLEANUP GRANT REQUIREMENTS

A. Inclusion of Special Terms and Conditions in Cleanup Documents

1. The CAR shall meet the cleanup and other program requirements of the cleanup including:
 - a. In accordance with 2 CFR 1500.11, the CAR shall maintain records for a minimum of three years following completion of the cleanup financed all or in part with cleanup grant funds. Cooperative agreement recipients shall provide access to records relating to cleanups supported with cleanup grant funds to authorized representatives of the Federal government.
 - b. The CAR has an ongoing obligation to advise EPA if assessed any penalties resulting from environmental non-compliance at the site subject to this agreement.

B. Conflict of Interest

1. The CAR shall establish and enforce conflict of interest provisions that prevent the award of subgrants that create real or apparent personal conflicts of interest or the appearance of the CAR's lack of impartiality. Such situations include, but are not limited to, situations in which an employee, official, consultant, contractor, or other individual associated with the CAR (affected party) approves or administers a subaward to a subrecipient in which the affected party has a financial or other interest. Such a conflict of interest or appearance of lack of impartiality may arise when:
 - (i) The affected party,
 - (ii) Any member of his immediate family,
 - (iii) His or her partner, or
 - (iv) An organization which employs, or is about to employ, any of the above, has a financial or other interest in the subrecipient.

Affected employees will neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of

monetary value from subrecipients. Recipients may set minimum rules where the financial interest is not substantial or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal intrinsic value. To the extent permitted by State or local law or regulations, such standards of conduct will provide for penalties, sanctions, or other disciplinary actions for violations of such standards by affected parties.

VI. PAYMENT AND CLOSEOUT

For the purposes of these terms and conditions, the following definitions apply: “payment” is the U.S. EPA’s transfer of funds to the CAR; “close out” refers to the process that the U.S. EPA follows to ensure that all administrative actions and work required under the cooperative agreement have been completed.

A. Payment Schedule

1. **Alternate 1.** If the approved budget for the project includes a substantial amount of construction costs, EPA will pay the CAR on a reimbursement basis. The CAR must submit documentation of obligations and expenses incurred under the agreement to EPA’s project officer for approval prior to obtaining payment from EPA.
2. **Alternate 2.** If the approved budget for the project includes construction costs, EPA will pay the CAR on a progress payment basis provided the recipient can document that it incurred costs that require disbursements equal to the amount of the progress payment.
3. **Alternate 3.** (Approved budget does not include construction costs) The CAR will be paid in advance provided it has funds management controls in place which meet the requirements of 2 CFR 200.302, as applicable.

B. Schedule for Closeout

1. Closeout will be conducted in accordance with 2 CFR 200.343 following expiration of the term of the agreement or expenditure of the funds awarded and completion of the activities described by the EPA-approved work plan.
2. The CAR, within 90 days after the expiration or termination of the grant, must submit all financial, performance, and other reports required as a condition of the grant.
 - a. The CAR must submit the following documentation:
 1. The Final Report as described in II.F of the Cleanup Terms and Conditions.
 2. A Final Federal Financial Report (FFR - SF425). Submitted to:

US EPA, Las Vegas Finance Center
4220 S. Maryland Pkwy, Bld C, Rm 503
Las Vegas, NV 89119

<http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/finservices/payinfo.html>

3. A Final MBE/WBE Report (EPA Form 5700-52A). Submitted to the regional office.
- b. The CAR must ensure that all appropriate data has been entered into ACRES.
- c. The grantee must immediately refund to the Federal agency any balance of unobligated (unencumbered) cash advanced that is not authorized to be retained for use on other grants.