

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# Region 1 Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)

## Terms and Conditions

Please note that these Terms and Conditions (T&Cs) apply to Brownfields RLF capitalization Grants awarded under CERCLA 104(k) and those that chose to transition to 104(k). They do not apply to pre-FY 2003 grants subject to 104(d).

### I. GENERAL FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

#### A. Federal Policy and Guidance

1. Cooperative Agreement Recipients: By awarding this cooperative agreement, EPA has approved the proposal for the Cooperative Agreement Recipient (CAR) submitted in the Fiscal Year 2011 competition for Brownfields RLF cooperative agreements. However, the CAR may not draw down funds to carry out this agreement until the grant has been awarded.
2. In implementing this agreement, the cooperative agreement recipient shall comply with and require that work done by borrowers and subgrant recipients with cooperative agreement funds comply with the requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) 104(k). The CAR will ensure that cleanup activities supported with cooperative agreement funding comply with all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations. The CAR will ensure cleanups are protective of human health and the environment.
3. The CAR is required to have borrowers or subgrant recipients conduct cleanups under a State or Tribal response program.
4. Information submitted to EPA under this cooperative agreement may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). EPA recommends that recipients do not provide confidential business information (“CBI”) to the Agency. However, if confidential business information is included, it will be treated in accordance with 40 CFR 2.203. Recipients must clearly indicate which portion(s) of the information submitted to EPA the recipient claims as CBI. EPA will evaluate such claims in accordance with 40 CFR Part 2. If no claim of confidentiality is made, EPA is not required to make the inquiry to the recipient otherwise required by 40 CFR 2.204(c)(2) prior to disclosure. Unless otherwise required by Federal, State, or local law, the CAR and its borrowers and subgrantees are not required to permit public access to their own records. 40 C.F.R. 30.53; 40 C.F.R. 31.42. See 40 C.F.R. part 2 for EPA's general information-disclosure procedures.

### II. SITE/BORROWER/SUBGRANTEE ELIGIBILITY

#### A. Brownfields Site Eligibility

1. The CAR must provide information to EPA about site-specific work prior to incurring

any costs under this cooperative agreement. The information that must be provided includes whether or not the site meets the definition of a brownfield site as defined in §101(39) of CERCLA, the identity of the owner, and the date of acquisition.

2. If the site is excluded from the general definition of a brownfield site, but is eligible for a property-specific funding determination, then the CAR must provide information sufficient for EPA to make a property-specific funding determination. The CAR must provide sufficient information on how financial assistance will protect human health and the environment, and either promote economic development or enable the creation of, preservation of, or addition to parks, greenways, undeveloped property, other recreational property, or other property used for nonprofit purposes. The CAR must not incur costs for cleaning up sites requiring a property-specific funding determination by EPA until the EPA Project Officer has advised the CAR that the Agency has determined that the property is eligible.
3. For any petroleum-contaminated brownfields site, the CAR shall provide sufficient documentation to the EPA prior to incurring costs under this cooperative agreement which includes (refer to EPA's *Proposal Guidelines for Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Grants* dated August 2010 for discussion of this element) documenting that:
  - a. the State has determined that the petroleum site is of relatively low risk, as compared to other petroleum sites in the State;
  - b. the State has determined there is "no viable responsible party" for the site;
  - c. the State has determines that the person assessing, investigating, or cleaning up the site is a person who is not potentially liable for cleaning up the site; and
  - d. the site is not subject to any order issued under section 9003(h) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

This documentation must be prepared by the CAR or the State following contact and discussion with the appropriate state petroleum program official.

4. Documentation must include: (1) the identity of the State program official contacted; (2) the State official's telephone number; (3) the date of the contact; and (4) a summary of the discussion to reach each determination that the site is of relatively low risk, that there is no viable responsible party and that the person assessing, investigating, or cleaning up the site is not potentially liable for cleaning up the site. Other documentation provided by a State to the recipient relevant to any of the determinations by the State must also be provided to the EPA Project Officer.
5. If the State chooses not to make the determinations described in 3.a. above, the CAR must contact the EPA Project Officer and provide the information necessary for EPA to make the requisite determinations.
6. EPA will make all determinations on the eligibility of petroleum-contaminated brownfields sites located on tribal lands (i.e., reservation lands or lands otherwise in

Indian country, as defined at 18 U.S.C. 1151). Before incurring costs for these sites, the CAR must contact the EPA Project Officer and provide the information necessary for EPA to make the determinations described in “3” above.

## **B. Borrower and Subgrant Recipient Eligibility**

1. The CAR may only provide cleanup subgrants to an eligible entity or nonprofit organization to clean up sites *owned* by the eligible entity or nonprofit organization at the time the subgrant is awarded. Eligible subgrant recipients include eligible entities as defined under CERCLA 104(k)(1) and non profit organizations as defined in Section 4(6) of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999. Nonprofit organizations described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in lobbying activities as defined in Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 are not eligible for subgrants.
2. The subgrant recipient must retain ownership of the site throughout the period of performance of the subgrant. For the purposes of this agreement, the term “owns” means fee simple title unless EPA approves a different arrangement. **However, the CAR may not provide a subgrant to itself or another component of its own unit of government or organization.**
3. The CAR may discount loans, also referred to as the practice of forgiving a portion of loan principle. For an individual loan, the amount of principal discounted may be any percentage of the total loan amount up to 30 percent, provided that the total amount of the principal forgiven for that loan shall not exceed \$200,000. Eligible entities include those identified in CERCLA section 104(k)(1) and non profit organizations as defined at Section 4(6) of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999. **Private, for-profit entities are not eligible for discounted loans.**
4. The CAR shall not loan or subgrant funds that will be used to pay for cleanup activities at a site for which a loan or grant recipient is potentially liable under CERCLA §107. The CAR may rely on its own investigation which can include an opinion from the subgrant recipient’s or borrower’s counsel. However, the CAR must advise the borrower or subgrant recipient that the investigation and/or opinion of the subgrant recipient’s or borrower’s counsel is not binding on the Federal Government.
5. For approved eligible petroleum-contaminated brownfields sites, the person cleaning up the site must be a person who is not potentially liable for cleaning up the site. For brownfields grant purposes, an entity generally will not be considered potentially liable for petroleum contamination if it has not dispensed or disposed of petroleum or petroleum-product at the site, has not exacerbated the contamination at the site, and taken reasonable steps with regard to the contamination at the site.
6. The CAR shall maintain sufficient documentation supporting and demonstrating the eligibility of the sites, borrowers, and subgrant recipients.

7. A borrower or subgrant recipient must submit information regarding its overall environmental compliance history including any penalties resulting from environmental non-compliance at the site subject to the loan or subgrant. The CAR, in consultation with the EPA, must consider this history in its analysis of the borrower or subgrant recipient as a cleanup and business risk.
8. An entity that is currently suspended, debarred, or otherwise declared ineligible cannot be a borrower or subgrant recipient.

**C. Obligations for Grant Recipients, Borrowers, or Subgrantees Asserting a Limitation on Liability from CERCLA §107**

1. Grant recipients, borrowers, or subgrantees who are eligible, or seek to become eligible, to receive a grant, loan, or subgrant based on a liability protection from CERCLA as a: (1) bona fide prospective purchaser (BFPP), (2) contiguous property owner (CPO), or (3) innocent landowner (ILO) (known as the “landowner liability protections”), must meet certain threshold criteria and satisfy certain continuing obligations to maintain their status as an eligible grant recipient, borrower, or subgrantee. These include, but are not limited to the following:
  - a. All grant recipients, borrowers, or subgrantees asserting a BFPP, CPO or ILO limitation on liability must perform (or have already performed) "all appropriate inquiry," as found in section 101(35)(B) of CERCLA, on or before the date of acquisition of the property.
  - b. Grant recipients, borrowers, or subgrantees seeking to qualify as bona fide prospective purchasers or contiguous property owners must not be potentially liable, or affiliated with any other person that is potentially liable for response costs at the facility through;
    - (a) any direct or indirect familial relationship; or
    - (b) any contractual, corporate, or financial relationships; or
    - (c) a reorganized business entity that was potentially liable or otherwise liable under CERCLA §107(a) as a prior owner or operator, or generator or transporter of hazardous substances to the facility.
  - c. Landowners must meet certain continuing obligations in order to achieve and maintain status as a landowner protected from CERCLA liability. These continuing obligations include:
    - i. 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;
    - ii. taking reasonable steps to stop any continuing hazardous substance releases, prevent any threatened future release, and prevent or limit human, environmental, or natural resource exposure to any previously

released hazardous substance;

- iii. providing full cooperation, assistance, and access to persons that are authorized to conduct response actions or natural resource restoration;
  - iv. complying with information requests and administrative subpoenas (applies to bona fide prospective purchasers and contiguous property owners); and
  - v. complying with legally required notices (again, applies to bona fide prospective purchasers and contiguous property owners) [see CERCLA § 101(40)(B)-(H), 107(q)(1)(A), 101(35)(A)-(B).].
- d. CERCLA requires additional obligations to maintain liability protection. These obligations are found at §§ 101( 35), 101(40), 107(b), 107(q) and 107(r).

### **III. GENERAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **A. Term of the Agreement**

1. The term of an RLF agreement is five years, unless otherwise extended by EPA at the CAR's request.
2. If after 2 years from the date of award, EPA determines that the recipient has not made sufficient progress in implementing its cooperative agreement the recipient must implement an action plan approved by the EPA Project Officer or EPA may terminate this agreement for material non-compliance with its terms. Sufficient progress is indicated by the grantee having made loan(s) and/or subgrant(s), but may also be demonstrated by a combination of all the following: hiring of all key personnel, the establishment and advertisement of the RLF, and the development of one or more potential loans/subgrants.

#### **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; reviewing and approving of procedures for loan and subgrant recipient selection; review of project phases; and approving substantive terms included in professional services contracts.
  - b. Substantial EPA involvement also includes brownfields property-specific

funding determinations described in I. B.1. under *EPA and/or State Approvals of Brownfields Sites* above. The CAR may also request technical assistance from EPA to determine if sites qualify as brownfields sites and to determine whether the statutory prohibition found in section 104(k)(4)(B)(i)(IV) of CERCLA applies. This prohibition prohibits a grant or loan recipient from using grant funds to clean up a site if the recipient is potentially liable under §107 of CERCLA for that site.

- c. Substantial EPA involvement may include reviewing financial and environmental status reports; and monitoring all reporting, record-keeping, and other program requirements.
  - d. Substantial EPA involvement may include the review of the substantive terms of RLF loans and cleanup subgrants.
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. If changes to the expected cleanup become necessary based on public comment or other reasons, the CAR must consult with EPA.
  - c. The CAR remains responsible for ensuring costs are allowable under applicable OMB Circulars.

### **C. Cooperative Agreement Recipient Roles and Responsibilities**

1. The CAR is responsible for establishing an RLF team that will implement the Program and for coordinating the team's activities as outlined below.
2. The CAR must acquire the services of a qualified environmental professional(s) to coordinate, direct, and oversee the brownfields cleanup activities at a particular site, if they do not have such a professional on staff.
3. The CAR shall act as or appoint a qualified "fund manager" to carry out responsibilities that relate to financial management of the loan and/or subgrant program. However, the CAR remains accountable to EPA for the proper expenditure of cooperative agreement funds. Any funding arrangements between the CAR and the fund manager for services performed must be consistent with 40 CFR Part 31.

4. The CAR shall appoint appropriate legal counsel if counsel is not already available. Counsel should review all loan/subgrant agreements prior to execution.
5. The CAR is responsible for ensuring that borrowers and subgrant recipients comply with the terms of their agreements with the CAR, and that agreements between the CAR and borrowers and subgrant recipients are consistent with the terms and conditions of this agreement.

#### **D. Quarterly Progress Reports**

1. The CAR must submit progress report on a quarterly basis to the EPA Project Officer. Quarterly progress report must include:
  - a. Summary of approved activities performed during the reporting quarter; a summary of the performance outputs/outcomes achieved during the reporting quarter; and a description of problems encountered during the reporting quarter that may affect the project schedule.
  - b. An update on project schedules and milestones.
  - c. A list of the loans and/or sub-grants awarded during the reporting quarter.
  - d. A budget recap summary table with the following information: current approved project budget; costs incurred during the reporting quarter; costs incurred to date (cumulative expenditures); cost share updates; and total remaining funds.

The CAR should refer to the revolving loan fund model quarterly report found at [www.epa.gov/region1/brownfields](http://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 specific properties under this cooperative agreement.
3. In accordance with 40 CFR 31.40(d), 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., loan signed, 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 the 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. The CAR must utilize the ACRES system unless approval is obtained from the regional Project Officer to utilize the Property Profile Form.



## F. Final Report

1. The CAR must submit a final report at the end of the period of performance in order to finalize the closeout of the grant. This final report must capture the site names, what work was done at each site and how much funding was spent at each site. It should also provide information that documents the outreach efforts done by the CAR and other activities that help explain where the funding was utilized. See Section VII for more details on final report and closeout.

## IV. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

### A. Cost Share Requirement

1. CERCLA §104(k)(9)(B)(iii) requires the recipient of this cooperative agreement to 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, Borrower, and/or Subgrant Recipients

1. To the extent allowable under the EPA approved workplan, cooperative agreement funds may be used for eligible programmatic expenses to capitalize the RLF and conduct cleanups.
  - a. The CAR must maintain records that will enable it to report to EPA on the amount of costs incurred by the CAR, borrowers or subgrant recipients at brownfields sites.
  - b. At least 50% of the funds must be used by the CAR to provide loans for the cleanup of eligible brownfields sites and for eligible programmatic costs for managing the RLF. Up to 50% can be used for subgrants to clean up eligible brownfield sites under the RLF and for eligible programmatic costs for managing subgrant(s). (Note: cleanup subgrants are limited to \$200,000 per site). (Note: when implemented as a policy change, the CAR may request a waiver to the 50% cap on subgrant funds. Please consult with your Regional Project Officer.)
  - c. To determine whether a cleanup subgrant is appropriate, the CAR must consider the following as required by CERCLA 104(k)(3)(B)(c):
    - i. The extent the subgrant will facilitate the creation of, preservation of, or addition to a park, greenway, undeveloped property, recreational property, or other property used for nonprofit purposes;
    - ii. The extent the subgrant will meet the needs of a community that has

the inability to draw on other sources of funding for environmental remediation and subsequent redevelopment of the area in which a brownfield site is located because of the small population or low income of the community;

- iii. The extent the subgrant will facilitate the use or reuse of existing infrastructure; and
- iv. The benefit of promoting the long-term availability of funds from a revolving loan fund for brownfield remediation.

**The CAR must maintain sufficient records to support and document these determinations.**

2. The CAR may use cooperative agreement funds to capitalize a revolving loan fund to be used for loans or subgrants for cleanup and for eligible programmatic expenses. Eligible programmatic expenses may include direct costs for:
  - a. Determining whether RLF cleanup activities at a particular site are authorized by CERCLA 104(k);
  - b. Ensuring that a RLF cleanup complies with applicable requirements under Federal and State laws, as required by CERCLA 104(k);
  - c. Limited site characterization including confirming the effectiveness of the proposed cleanup design or the effectiveness of a cleanup once an action has been completed;
  - d. Preparing an analysis of brownfields cleanup alternatives 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 will include an analysis of reasonable alternatives including no action;
  - e. Ensuring that public participation requirements are met. This includes preparing a community relations plan which will include reasonable notice, opportunity for public involvement and comment on the proposed cleanup, and response to comments;
  - f. Establishing an administrative record for each site;
  - g. Developing a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) as required by Part 31 and Part 30 regulations. The specific requirement for a QAPP is outlined in U.S. EPA Order 53601.1, April 1984, as amended on May 5, 2000;
  - h. Ensuring the adequacy of each RLF cleanup as it is implemented, including

overseeing the borrowers and/or subgrantees activities to ensure compliance with applicable Federal and State environmental requirements;

- i. Ensuring that the site is secure if a borrower or subgrant recipient is unable or unwilling to complete a brownfields cleanup;
  - j. Using a portion of a loan or subgrant to purchase environmental insurance for the site. The loan or subgrant may not be used to purchase insurance intended to provide coverage for any of the Ineligible Uses under Section C.
  - k. Any other eligible programmatic costs including costs incurred by the recipient in making and managing a loan; obtaining financial management services; quarterly reporting to EPA; awarding and managing subgrants to the extent allowable in III. D. 2.; and carrying out outreach pertaining to the loan and subgrant program to potential borrowers and subgrant recipients; and
    1. Subgrantee progress reporting to the CAR is an eligible programmatic cost.
3. No more than 10% of the funds awarded by this agreement may be used by the CAR itself as a programmatic cost for brownfield program development and implementation (including monitoring of health and institutional controls) as described in the EPA approved workplan. The CAR must maintain records on funds that will be used to carry out its EPA approved workplan to ensure that no more than 10% of its funds are used for brownfield program development and implementation (including monitoring of health and institutional controls).
4. If the CAR makes a subgrant to a local government that includes an amount (not to exceed 10% of the subgrant) for brownfields program development and implementation, the terms and conditions of that agreement must include a provision that ensures that the local government subgrantee maintains records adequate to ensure compliance with the limits on the amount of subgrant funds that may be expended for this purpose.

**C. Ineligible Uses of the Funds for the Cooperative Agreement Recipient, Borrower, and/or Subgrant Recipients**

1. Cooperative agreement funds shall not be used by the CAR, borrower and/or subgrant recipient for any of the following activities:
  - a. Environmental assessment activities, including Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments.
  - 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 integral to the cleanup actions, and 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 a loan or subgrant.
  - 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 or loan 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.
  - i. Unallowable costs (e.g., lobbying and fund raising) under applicable OMB Circulars.
2. Under CERCLA 104(k)(4)(B), administrative costs are prohibited costs under this agreement. Prohibited administrative costs include all indirect costs under applicable OMB Circulars incurred by the CAR and subgrantees.
- 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 Grants* contained in 40 CFR Part 30 or 40 CFR part 31. Direct costs for grant and subgrant administration, with the exception of costs specifically identified as eligible programmatic costs, are ineligible even if the grantee or subgrant 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 or subgrant administration costs include direct costs for:
    - i. Preparation of applications for Brownfields grants and subgrants;
    - ii. Record retention required under 40 CFR 30.53 and 40 CFR 31.42;
    - iii. Record-keeping associated with supplies and equipment purchases required under 40 CFR 30.33, 30.34, and 30.35 and 40 CFR 31.32 and 31.33;
    - iv. Preparing revisions and changes in the budgets, scopes of work, program plans and other activities required under 40 CFR 30.25 and 40 CFR 31.30;
    - v. Maintaining and operating financial management systems required under 40 CFR 30 and 40 CFR 31;

- vi. Preparing payment requests and handling payments under 40 CFR 30.22 and 40 CFR 31.21;
  - vii. Non-federal audits required under 40 CFR 30.26, 40 CFR 31.26, and OMB Circular A-133; and
  - viii. Close out under 40 CFR 30.71 and 40 CFR 31.50.
  - ix. Borrowers are subject to the CERCLA 104(k)(4)(B) administrative cost prohibition requirements. The CAR must ensure that loan agreements prohibit borrowers and subgrantees from using loans financed with cooperative agreement funds for administrative costs.
- c. Prohibited administrative costs for the borrower (including those in the form of salaries, benefits, contractual costs, supplies, and data processing charges) are those incurred for loan administration and overhead costs.
- d. Direct costs for loan administration are ineligible even if the borrower is required to carry out the activity under the loan agreement. Ineligible loan administration costs include expenses for:
- i. Preparation of applications for loans and loan agreements;
  - ii. Preparing revisions and changes in the budget, workplans, and other documents required under the loan agreement;
  - iii. Maintaining and operating financial management and personnel systems;
  - iv. Preparing payment requests and handling payments; and
  - v. Audits.
- e. Overhead costs by the borrower that do not directly clean up brownfields site contamination or comply with laws applicable to the cleanup are ineligible administrative costs. Examples of overhead costs that would be ineligible in loans include expenses for:
- i. Salaries, benefits and other compensation for persons who are not directly engaged in the cleanup of the site (e.g., marketing and human resource personnel);
  - ii. Facility costs such as depreciation, utilities, and rent on the borrower's administrative offices; and

- iii. Supplies and equipment not used directly for cleanup at the site.
  - iv. Costs incurred by the borrower for procurement are eligible only if the procurement contract is for services or products that are direct costs for performing the cleanup, for insurance costs, or for maintenance of institutional controls.
  - v. Direct costs by the borrower for progress reporting to the lender are eligible programmatic costs.
4. Cooperative agreement funds may not be used for any of the following properties:
- a. Facilities listed, or proposed for listing, on the National Priorities List (NPL);
  - b. Facilities subject to unilateral administrative orders, court orders, administrative orders on consent or judicial consent decree issued to or entered by parties under CERCLA;
  - c. Facilities that are subject to the jurisdiction, custody or control of the United States government except land held in trust by the United States government for an Indian tribe; or
  - d. A site excluded from the definition of a brownfields site for which EPA has not made a property-specific funding determination.
5. The CAR must not include management fees or similar charges in excess of the direct costs or at the rate provided for by the terms of the agreement negotiated with EPA. The term “management fees or similar charges” refers to expenses added to the direct costs in order to accumulate and reserve funds for ongoing business expenses, unforeseen liabilities, or for other similar costs that are not allowable under EPA assistance agreements. Management fees or similar charges may not be used to improve or expand the project funded under this agreement, except to the extent authorized as a direct cost of carrying out the scope of work.

#### **D. Use of Program Income**

1. In accordance with 40 CFR 31.25(g)(2), the CAR is authorized to add program income to the funds awarded by the EPA and use the program income under the same terms and conditions of this agreement. Program income for the RLF shall be defined as the gross income received by the recipient, directly generated by the cooperative agreement award or earned during the period of the award. Program income shall include principal repayments, interest earned on outstanding loan principal, interest earned on accounts holding RLF program income not needed for immediate lending, all loan fees and loan-related charges received from borrowers and other income generated from RLF operations including proceeds from the sale, collection, or liquidations of assets acquired through defaults of loans.

2. In accordance with Section 104(d)(3)(D), when a CAR transitions to a 104(k) cooperative agreement, any program income (e.g. fees, interest or principal repayments) generated prior to transition will be added to the 104(k) agreement and must be used in a manner consistent with Section 104(k)(3) and with the terms and conditions, contained herein.
3. The CAR may use program income from fees, interest payments from loans, and other forms of eligible program income to meet its cost-share. The CAR shall not use repayments of principal of loans to meet the CAR's cost-share requirement. Repayments of principal must be returned to the CAR's Brownfields cleanup revolving fund.
4. The CAR that elects to use program income to cover all or part of an RLF's programmatic costs shall maintain adequate accounting records and source documentation to substantiate the amount and percent of program income expended for eligible RLF programmatic costs, and comply with applicable OMB cost principles when charging costs against program income. For any cost determined by the EPA to have been an ineligible use of program income, the recipient shall reimburse the RLF or the EPA. EPA will notify the recipient of the time period allowed for reimbursement.
5. Loans or subgrants made with a combination of program income and direct funding from EPA are subject to the same terms and conditions as those applicable to this agreement. Loans and subgrants made with direct funding from EPA in combination with non Federal sources of funds are also subject to the same terms and conditions of this agreement.
6. The CAR must obtain EPA approval of the substantive terms of loans and subgrants made entirely with program income.

#### **E. Post Cooperative Agreement Program Income**

1. After the end of the award period, the CAR shall use program income in a manner consistent with the terms and conditions of a "close out" agreement negotiated with EPA. In accordance with 40 CFR 31.42(c)(3), the CAR shall maintain appropriate records to document compliance with the requirements of the close out agreement (i.e., records relating to the use of post-award program income). EPA may request access to these records or may negotiate post-close-out reporting requirements to verify that post-award program income has been used in accordance with the terms and conditions of the close out agreement.

#### **F. Interest-Bearing Accounts**

1. The CAR must deposit advances of grant funds and program income (e.g., fees, interest payments, repayment of principal) in an interest bearing account.
2. Interest earned on advances, CARs and subgrant recipients are subject to the provisions of 40 CFR §31.21(i) and §30.22(l) relating to remitting interest on advances to EPA on a quarterly basis.

3. Interest earned on program income is considered additional program income.

## V. RLF ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

### A. Authorized RLF Cleanup Activities

1. The CAR shall prepare an analysis of brownfields cleanup alternatives 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 alternatives may – as national or regional policies direct - 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 clean up method chosen must be based on this analysis.
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 grantee 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 samples are to be collected as part of the brownfields cleanup (e.g., cleanup verification sampling, post-cleanup confirmation sampling), the CAR shall comply with 40 CFR Part 31.45 (or 40 CFR Part 30.54 requirements for nonprofit organizations) 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.

The recipient will 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 any data collection and/or generation activities begin. Unless an alternate schedule was previously agreed upon, no later than 30 days prior to the scheduled commencement of data collection and/or data generation activities, the recipient will submit a Quality Assurance Project Plan to the following:



1. EPA Project Officer (see page 1 of assistance agreement for name and address) and
2. Regional Quality Assurance Manager (EQA)  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
11 Technology Drive  
North Chelmsford, MA 01863

### **C. Community Relations and Public Involvement in RLF Cleanup Activities**

1. All RLF loan and subgrant cleanup activities require a site-specific community relations plan that includes providing reasonable notice, and the opportunity for public involvement and comment on the proposed cleanup options under consideration for the site.

### **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 the analysis of brownfield cleanup alternatives; site investigation reports; the cleanup plan; cleanup standards used; responses to public comments; and verification that shows that cleanups are 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 RLF Cleanup Activities**

1. The CAR shall ensure the adequacy of each RLF cleanup in protecting human health and the environment as it is implemented. Each loan and subgrant agreement shall contain terms and conditions, subject to any required approvals by the regulatory oversight authority, that allow the CAR to change cleanup activities as necessary based on comments from the public or any new information acquired.
2. If the borrower or subgrant recipient is unable or unwilling to complete the RLF 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 RLF Cleanup Activities**

1. The CAR shall ensure that the successful completion of an RLF 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 cleanups are complete. This documentation needs to be included as part of the administrative record.

## VI. REVOLVING LOAN FUND REQUIREMENTS

### A. Prudent Lending and Subgranting Practices

1. The CAR is expected to establish economically sound structures and day-to-day management and processing procedures to maintain the RLF and meet long-term brownfield cleanup lending/subgranting objectives. These include establishing: underwriting principles that can include the establishment of interest rates, repayment terms, fee structure, and collateral requirements; and, lending/subgranting practices that can include loan/subgrant processing, documentation, approval, servicing, administrative procedures, collection, and recovery actions.
2. The CAR shall not incur costs under this cooperative agreement for loans or subgrants until an RLF grant workplan has been submitted to and approved by U.S. EPA. The CAR shall ensure that the objectives of the workplan are met through its or the fund manager's selection and structuring of individual loans/subgrants and lending/subgranting practices. These activities shall include, but not be limited to the following:
  - a. Considering awarding subgrants on a competitive basis. If the CAR decides not to award any subgrants competitively, it must document the basis for that decision and inform EPA.
  - b. Establishing appropriate project selection criteria consistent with Federal and state requirements, the intent of the RLF program, and the cooperative agreement entered into with EPA.
  - c. Establishing threshold eligibility requirements whereby only eligible borrowers or subgrant recipients receive RLF financing.
  - d. Developing a formal protocol for potential borrowers or subgrant recipients to demonstrate eligibility, based on the procedures described in the initial RLF application proposal and cooperative agreement application. Such a protocol shall include descriptions of projects that will be funded, how loan monies will be used, and qualifications of the borrower or subgrant recipient to make legitimate use of the funds. Additionally, CARs shall ask borrowers or subgrant recipients for an explanation of how a project, if selected, would be consistent with RLF program objectives, statutory requirements and limitations, and protect human health and the environment.
  - e. Requiring that borrowers or subgrant recipients submit information describing the borrower's or subgrant recipient's environmental compliance history. The CAR shall consider this history in an analysis of the borrower or subgrant recipient as a cleanup and business risk.

- f. Establishing procedures for handling the day-to-day management and processing of loans and repayments.
- g. Establishing standardized procedures for the disbursement of funds to the borrower or subgrant recipient.

## **B. Inclusion of Special Terms and Conditions in RLF Loan and Subgrant Documents**

1. The CAR shall ensure that the borrower or subgrant recipient meets the cleanup and other program requirements of the RLF grants by including the following special terms and conditions in RLF loan agreements and subgrant awards:
  - a. Borrowers or subgrant recipients shall use funds only for eligible activities and in compliance with the requirements of CERCLA 104(k) and applicable Federal and State laws and regulations. See Section I.A.2.
  - b. Borrowers or subgrant recipients shall ensure that the cleanup protects human health and the environment.
  - c. Borrowers or subgrant recipients shall document how funds are used. If a loan or subgrant includes cleanup of a petroleum-contaminated brownfields site(s), the CAR shall include a term and condition requiring that the borrower or subgrant recipient maintain separate records for costs incurred at that site(s).
  - d. Borrowers or subgrant recipients shall maintain records for a minimum of three years following completion of the cleanup financed all or in part with RLF funds. Borrowers or subgrant recipients shall obtain written approval from the CAR prior to disposing of records. Cooperative agreement recipients shall also require that the borrower or subgrant recipient provide access to records relating to loans and subgrants supported with RLF funds to authorized representatives of the Federal government.
  - e. Borrowers or subgrant recipients shall certify that they are not currently, nor have they been, subject to any penalties resulting from environmental non-compliance at the site subject to the loan.
  - f. Borrowers or subgrant recipients shall certify that they are not potentially liable under §107 of CERCLA for the site or that, if they are, they qualify for a limitation or defense to liability under CERCLA. If asserting a limitation or defense to liability, the borrower or subgrant recipient must state the basis for that assertion. When using grant funds for petroleum-contaminated brownfields sites, borrowers or subgrant recipients shall certify that they are not a viable responsible party or potentially liable for the petroleum contamination at the site. Refer to the most recent issue of EPA's *Proposal Guidelines for Brownfields Assessment*,

*Revolving Loan Fund and Cleanup Grants* for a discussion of these terms. The CAR may consult with EPA for assistance with this matter.

- g. Borrowers or subgrant recipients shall conduct cleanup activities as required by the CAR.
- h. Subgrant recipients shall comply with applicable EPA assistance regulations (40 CFR Part 31 for governmental entities or 40 CFR Part 30 for nonprofit organizations). All procurements conducted with subgrant funds must comply with 40 CFR Part 31.36 or 40 CFR Part 30.40-30.48, as applicable.
- i. A term and condition or other legally binding provision shall be included in all loans and subgrants entered into with the funds under this agreement, or when funds awarded under this agreement are used in combination with non-Federal sources of funds, to ensure that borrowers and subgrant recipients comply with all applicable Federal and State laws and requirements. In addition to CERCLA 104(k), Federal applicable laws and requirements include: 40 CFR 31 and OMB Circular A-87 for governmental recipients of subgrants or 40 CFR 30 and OMB Circular A-122 for non-profit recipients of subgrants and 40 CFR 30 and OMB Circular A-21 for educational institutions that are recipients of subgrants.
- j. 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. (*EPA Project Officer to attach appropriate Davis-Bacon term and condition to this particular grant.*)
- k. Federal cross-cutting requirements include, but are not limited to, MBE/WBE 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.

### **C. Default**

- 1. In the event of a loan default, the CAR shall make reasonable efforts to enforce the terms of the loan agreement including proceeding against the assets pledged as collateral to cover losses to the loan. If the cleanup is not complete at the time of default, the CAR is responsible for: (1) documenting the nexus between the amount paid to the borrower (bank or other financial institution) and the cleanup that took place prior to the default; and (2) securing the site (e.g., ensuring public safety) and informing the EPA Project Officer and the

State.

#### **D. 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 CAR's appearance of 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 grant or subgrant to a subgrant recipient 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:
  - a. The affected party,
  - b. Any member of his immediate family,
  - c. His or her partner, or
  - d. An organization which employs, or is about to employ, any of the above, has a financial or other interest in the subgrant recipient.

Affected employees will neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from subgrant recipients. 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.

### **VII. DISBURSEMENT, 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; the CAR incurs an "obligation" when it enters into a loan agreement with the borrower or subgrant recipient; "disbursement" is the transfer of funds from the CAR to the borrower or subgrant recipient. "Close out" refers to the process that the U.S. EPA follows to both ensure that all administrative actions and work required under the cooperative agreement have been completed, and, to establish a closeout agreement to govern the use of program income.

#### **A. Payment Schedule**

1. The CAR may request payment from EPA pursuant to 40 CFR. §31.21(c) after it incurs an obligation or has an eligible programmatic expense. EPA will make payments to the CAR on a schedule which minimizes the time elapsing between transfer of funds from EPA and disbursement by the recipient to the borrower or subgrant recipient to pay costs incurred or

to meet a “progress payment” schedule. The recipient may request payments when it receives a disbursement request from a borrower or subgrant recipient based on the borrower or subgrant recipient’s incurred costs under the “actual expense” method or the schedule for disbursement under the “schedule” disbursement method. The CAR shall disburse accrued program income to meet all or part of this obligation or eligible programmatic expenses prior to requesting payment from EPA. A waiver from this requirement may be granted by EPA after a written request is submitted that adequately justifies drawing down cooperative agreement funds prior to accrued program income.

## **B. Methods of Disbursement**

1. The CAR may choose to disburse funds to the borrower by means of ‘actual expense’ or ‘schedule.’ If the schedule method is used, the recipient must ensure that the schedule is designed to reasonably approximate the borrower’s incurred costs.
  - a. An ‘actual expense’ disbursement approach requires the borrower to submit documentation of the borrower’s expenditures (e.g., invoices) to the CAR prior to requesting payment from EPA.
  - b. A ‘schedule’ disbursement is one in which all, or an agreed upon portion, of the obligated funds are disbursed to the borrower or subgrantee on the basis of an agreed upon schedule (e.g., progress payments) provided the schedule minimizes the time elapsing between disbursement by the CAR and the subgrant/loan recipient’s payment of costs incurred in carrying out the subgrant/loan. In unusual circumstances, disbursement may occur upon execution of the loan or subgrant. The CAR shall submit documentation of disbursement schedules to EPA.
  - c. If the disbursement schedule of the loan/subgrant agreement calls for disbursement of the entire amount of the loan/subgrant upon execution, the CAR shall demonstrate to the U.S. EPA Project Officer that this method of disbursement is necessary for purposes of cleaning up the site covered by the loan/subgrant. Further, the CAR shall include an appropriate provision in the loan/subgrant agreement which ensures that the borrower/recipient uses funds promptly for costs incurred in connection with the cleanup and that interest accumulated on schedule disbursements is applied to the cleanup.
  - d. Subgrant funds must be disbursed to the subgrant recipient in accordance with 40 CFR 31.21 or 40 CFR 30.22, as applicable.

## **C. Schedule for Closeout**

1. There are two fundamental criteria for closeout:

- a. Final payment of funds from EPA to the CAR following expiration of the terms of the agreement or expenditure of the funds awarded; and
  - b. Completion of all cleanup activities funded by the amount of the award.
2. The first criterion of cooperative agreement closeout is met when the CAR receives all payments from EPA. The second closeout criterion is met when all cleanup activities funded by the initial amount of the award are complete.
3. The CAR must negotiate a closeout agreement with EPA to govern the use of program income after closeout. Eligible uses include continuing to operate an RLF for brownfields cleanup and/or other brownfields activities.
4. The closeout agreement will require that any assessments or cleanups financed with program income be consistent with the CERCLA Section 107 prohibitions and site eligibility limitations for the effective period of the closeout agreement.

#### **D. Compliance with Closeout Schedule**

1. If a CAR fails to comply with the closeout schedule, any cooperative agreement funds not obligated under loan agreement to a borrower or subgrant recipient may be subject to federal recovery, and the cooperative agreement award may be amended to reflect the reduced amount of the cooperative agreement.

#### **E. Final Requirements**

1. 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.
    2. A Final Federal Financial Report (FFR - SF425). Submitted to:

U.S. EPA Las Vegas Finance Center  
P.O. Box 98515  
Las Vegas, NV 89193-8515  
Fax: (702) 798-2423  
<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.

## F. Recovery of RLF Assets

1. In case of termination for cause or convenience, the CAR shall return to EPA its fair share of the value of the RLF assets consisting of cash, receivables, personal and real property, and notes or other financial instruments developed through use of the funds. EPA's fair share is the amount computed by applying the percentage of EPA participation in the total capitalization of the RLF to the current fair market value of the assets thereof. EPA also has remedies under 40 CFR 31.43 and CERCLA 104(k) when the Agency determines that the value of such assets has been reduced by improper/illegal use of cooperative agreement funding. In such instances, the CAR may be required to compensate EPA over and above the Agency's share of the current fair market value of the assets. Nothing in this agreement limits EPA's authorities under CERCLA to recover response costs from a potentially responsible party.

## G. Loan Guarantees

1. If the CAR chooses to use the RLF funds to support a loan guarantee approach, the following terms & conditions apply:
  - a. The CAR shall:
    - i. document the relationship between the expenditure of CERCLA §104(k) funds and cleanup activities;
    - ii. maintain an escrow account expressly for the purpose of guaranteeing loans, by following the payment requirement described under the Escrow Requirements term and condition below; and
    - iii. ensure that cleanup activities guaranteed by RLF funds are carried out in accordance with CERCLA 104(k) and applicable Federal and State laws and will protect human health and the environment.
  - b. Payment of funds to a CAR shall not be made until a guaranteed loan has been issued by a participating financial institution. Loans guaranteed with RLF funds shall be made available as needed for specified cleanup activities on an "actual expense" or "schedule" basis to the borrower or subgrant recipient (See Section on Methods of Disbursement). The CAR's escrow arrangement shall be structured to ensure that the CERCLA §104(k) funds are properly "disbursed" by the recipient for the purposes of the assistance agreement as required by 40 CFR §31.20(b)(7) and §31.21(c). If the funds are not properly disbursed, the CERCLA §104(k) funds that the recipient places in an escrow account will be subject to the interest recovery provisions of 40 CFR §31.21(i).



- c. To ensure that funds transferred to the CAR are disbursements of assisted funds, the escrow account shall be structured to ensure that:
  - i. the recipient cannot retain the funds;
  - ii. the recipient does not have access to the escrow funds on demand;
  - iii. the funds remain in escrow unless there is a default of a guaranteed loan;
  - iv. the organization holding the escrow (i.e., the escrow agency), shall be a bank or similar financial institution that is independent of the recipient; and
  - v. there must be an agreement with financial institutions participating in the guaranteed loan program which documents that the financial institution has made a guaranteed loan to clean up a brownfields site in exchange for access to funds held in escrow in the event of a default by the borrower or subgrant recipient.
- d. Federal Obligation to the Loan Guarantee Program
  - i. Any obligations that the CAR incurs for loan guarantees in excess of the amount awarded under the cooperative agreement are the CAR's responsibility. This limitation on the extent of the Federal Government's financial commitment to the CAR's loan guarantee program shall be communicated to all participating banks and borrower or subgrant recipient.
- e. Repayment of Guaranteed Loans
  - i. Upon repayment of a guaranteed loan and release of the escrow amount by the participating financial institution, the CAR shall return the cooperative agreement funds placed in escrow to the U.S. EPA. Alternatively, the CAR may, with EPA approval,
    - 1) Guarantee additional loans under the terms and conditions of the agreement or,
    - 2) amend the terms and conditions of the agreement to provide for another disposition of funds that will redirect the funds for other brownfields related activities.

Davis Bacon Term and Condition  
For  
Revolving Loan Fund Grants to Governmental/Quasi-Governmental Organizations

DAVIS BACON PREVAILING WAGE TERM AND CONDITION

The following terms and conditions specify how Recipients will assist EPA in meeting its Davis Bacon (DB) responsibilities when DB applies to EPA awards of financial assistance under the Recovery Act or any other statute which makes DB applicable to EPA financial assistance. If a Recipient has questions regarding when DB applies, obtaining the correct DB wage determinations, DB contract provisions, or DB compliance monitoring, they should contact the regional Brownfields Coordinator or Project Officer for guidance.

1. Applicability of the Davis Bacon Prevailing Wage Requirements.

For the purposes of this term and condition, EPA has determined that all construction, alteration and repair activity involving the remediation of hazardous substances, including excavation and removal of hazardous substances, construction of caps, barriers, structures which house treatment equipment, and abatement of contamination in buildings, is subject to DB.

With regard to remediation of petroleum contamination, following consultation with the U.S. Department of Labor, EPA has determined that for remediation of petroleum contamination at brownfields sites, DB prevailing wage requirement apply when the project includes:

Installing piping to connect households or businesses to public water systems or replacing public water system supply well(s) and associated piping due to groundwater contamination,

Soil excavation/replacement when undertaken in conjunction with the installation of public water lines/wells described above, or

Soil excavation/replacement, tank removal, and restoring the area by paving or pouring concrete when the soil excavation/replacement occurs in conjunction with both tank removal and paving or concrete replacement.

In the above circumstances, all the laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors will be covered by the DB requirements for all construction work performed on the site. Other cleanup activities at brownfields sites contaminated by petroleum such as in situ remediation, and soil excavation/replacement and tank removal when not in conjunction with paving or concrete replacement, will normally not trigger DB requirements. However, if a RLF Recipient encounters a unique situation at a site (e.g. unusually extensive excavation) that presents uncertainties regarding DB applicability, the RLF Recipient must discuss the situation with EPA before authorizing work on that site.

Note: If an RLF Recipient encounters a unique situation at a petroleum or hazardous substance site that presents uncertainties regarding DB applicability, the RLF Recipient must discuss the situation with EPA before advising a borrower or subgrantee that DB does not apply.

## 2. Obtaining Wage Determinations.

(a) The RLF Recipient is responsible for obtaining DB wage determinations from DOL and ensuring the borrowers and subgrantees include the correct wage determinations in solicitations for competitive contracts by way of requests for bids, proposals, quotes or other methods for soliciting contracts (solicitations), new contracts, and task orders, work assignments or similar instruments issued to existing contractors (ordering instruments).

(b) Unless otherwise instructed by EPA on a project specific basis, the RLF Recipient shall use the following DOL General Wage Classifications for the locality in which the construction activity subject to DB will take place. RLF Recipients must obtain wage determinations for specific localities at [www.wdol.gov](http://www.wdol.gov).

- (i) For solicitations, new contracts and ordering instruments for the excavation and removal of hazardous substances, construction of caps, barriers and similar activities the RLF Recipient shall use the “Heavy Construction” Classification.
- (ii) For solicitations, new contracts and ordering instruments for the construction of structures which house treatment equipment. and abatement or contamination in buildings (other than residential structures less than 4 stories in height) the RLF Recipient shall use “Building Construction” classification.
- (iii) When soliciting competitive contracts or issuing ordering instruments for the abatement of contamination in residential structures less than 4 stories in height the Recipient shall use “Residential Construction” classification.
- (iv) For solicitations, new contracts and ordering instruments for soil excavation/replacement, tank removal, and restoring the area by paving or pouring concrete when the soil excavation/replacement occurs in conjunction with both tank removal and paving or concrete replacement at current or former service station sites, hospitals, fire stations, industrial or freight terminal facilities, or other sites that are associated with a facility that is not used solely for the underground storage of fuel or other contaminant the Recipient shall use the “Building Construction” classification.
- (v) For solicitations, new contracts and ordering instruments for soil excavation/replacement, tank removal, and restoring the area by paving or pouring concrete when the soil excavation/replacement occurs in conjunction with both tank removal and paving or concrete replacement at a facility that is used solely for the underground storage of fuel or other contaminant the Recipient shall use the “Heavy Construction” classification.

Recipients must discuss unique situations that may not be covered by the General Wage Classifications described above with EPA. If, based on discussions with an RLF Recipient, EPA determines that DB applies to a unique situation involving a Brownfields site contaminated with

petroleum (e.g. unusually extensive excavation) the Agency will advise the Recipient which General wage determination to use based on the nature of the construction activity at the site.

(b) RLF Recipients shall include a term and condition in all loans and subgrants which ensures that the borrower or subgrantee complies with the above requirements for including wage determinations in solicitations, new contracts and ordering instruments. The RLF Recipient must ensure that prime contracts entered into by borrowers and subgrantees contain a provision requiring that subcontractors follow the wage determination incorporated into the prime contract.

- (i) While the borrower or subgrantee's solicitation remains open, the RLF Recipient shall require that the borrower or subgrantee monitor [www.wdol.gov](http://www.wdol.gov), on a weekly basis to ensure that the wage determination contained in the solicitation remains current. The RLF Recipient shall require that the borrower or subgrantee amend the solicitation if DOL issues a modification more than 10 days prior to the closing date (i.e. bid opening) for the solicitation. If DOL modifies or supersedes the applicable wage determination less than 10 days prior to the closing date, the RLF Recipient may, on behalf of the borrower or subgrantee, request a finding from EPA that there is not a reasonable time to notify interested contractors of the modification of the wage determination. EPA will provide a report of the Agency's finding to the RLF Recipient.
- (ii) If the borrower or subgrantee does not award the contract within 90 days of the closure of the solicitation, any modifications or supersedes DOL makes to the wage determination contained in the solicitation shall be effective unless EPA, at the request of the RLF Recipient, obtains an extension of the 90 day period from DOL pursuant to 29 CFR 1.6(c)(3)(iv). The RLF Recipient shall ensure that borrowers and subgrantees monitor [www.wdol.gov](http://www.wdol.gov) on a weekly basis if the borrower or subgrantee does not award the contract within 90 days of closure of the solicitation to ensure that wage determinations contained in the solicitation remain current. If the applicable wage determination changes, the RLF Recipient shall provide the borrower or subgrantee with the current wage determination from [www.wdol.gov](http://www.wdol.gov).
- (iii) If the borrower or subgrantee carries out Brownfields cleanup activity subject to DB by issuing a task order, work assignment or similar instrument to an existing contractor (ordering instrument) rather than by publishing a solicitation, the RLF Recipient shall ensure that the borrower or subgrantee inserts the appropriate DOL wage determination from [www.wdol.gov](http://www.wdol.gov) into the ordering instrument.

(c) RLF Recipients shall ensure that borrowers and subgrantees review all subcontracts subject to DB entered into by prime contractors to verify that the prime contractor has required its subcontractors to include the applicable wage determinations.

(d) As provided in 29 CFR 1.6(f), DOL may issue a revised wage determination applicable to a borrower or subgrantee's contract after the award of a contract or the issuance of an ordering instrument if DOL determines that the borrower or subgrantee has failed to incorporate a wage determination or has used a wage determination that clearly does not apply to the contract or

ordering instrument. If this occurs, the RLF Recipient shall require that the borrower or subgrantee either terminate the contract or ordering instrument and issue a revised solicitation or ordering instrument or incorporate DOL's wage determination retroactive to the beginning of the contract or ordering instrument by change order. The RLF Recipient must ensure that the borrower or subgrantee compensates the contractor for any increases in wages resulting from the use of DOL's revised wage determination. RLF Recipients may, but are not required to, provide additional loan or subgrant funds to the borrower or subgrantee for this purpose.

### 3. Contract and Subcontract Provisions

(a) The RLF Recipient shall ensure that borrowers and subgrantees insert in full in any contract in excess of \$2,000 which is entered into for the actual construction, alteration and/or repair, including painting and decorating, of a public building or public work, or building or work financed in whole or in part from Federal funds or in accordance with guarantees of a Federal agency or financed from funds obtained by pledge of any contract of a Federal agency to make a loan, grant or annual contribution (except where a different meaning is expressly indicated), and which is subject to DB, the following labor standards provisions.

(1) Minimum wages.

(i) All laborers and mechanics employed or working upon the site of the work, will be paid unconditionally and not less often than once a week, and without subsequent deduction or rebate on any account (except such payroll deductions as are permitted by regulations issued by the Secretary of Labor under the Copeland Act (29 CFR part 3) ), the full amount of wages and bona fide fringe benefits (or cash equivalents thereof) due at time of payment computed at rates not less than those contained in the applicable wage determination of the Secretary of Labor which the RLF Recipient obtained under the procedures specified in Item 2, above, and made a part hereof, regardless of any contractual relationship which may be alleged to exist between the contractor and such laborers and mechanics.

Contributions made or costs reasonably anticipated for bona fide fringe benefits under section 1(b)(2) of the Davis-Bacon Act on behalf of laborers or mechanics are considered wages paid to such laborers or mechanics, subject to the provisions of paragraph (a)(1)(iv) of this section; also, regular contributions made or costs incurred for more than a weekly period (but not less often than quarterly) under plans, funds, or programs which cover the particular weekly period, are deemed to be constructively made or incurred during such weekly period. Such laborers and mechanics shall be paid the appropriate wage rate and fringe benefits on the wage determination for the classification of work actually performed, without regard to skill, except as provided in § 5.5(a)(4). Laborers or mechanics performing work in more than one classification may be compensated at the rate specified for each classification for the time actually worked therein: Provided that the employer's payroll records accurately set forth the time spent in each classification in which work is performed. The wage determination (including any additional classification and wage rates conformed under paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of this section) and the Davis-Bacon poster (WH-1321) shall be posted at all times by the contractor and its subcontractors at the site of the work in a prominent and accessible place where it can be easily seen by the

workers. RLF Recipients shall require that the contractor and subcontractors include the name of the RLF Recipient employee or official responsible for monitoring compliance with DB on the poster.

(ii)(A) The RLF Recipient, on behalf of EPA, shall require that contracts and subcontracts entered into by borrowers and subgrantees provide that any class of laborers or mechanics, including helpers, which is not listed in the wage determination and which is to be employed under the contract shall be classified in conformance with the wage determination. The EPA Award Official shall approve, upon the request of the RLF Recipient an additional classification and wage rate and fringe benefits therefore only when the following criteria have been met:

(1) The work to be performed by the classification requested is not performed by a classification in the wage determination; and

(2) The classification is utilized in the area by the construction industry; and

(3) The proposed wage rate, including any bona fide fringe benefits, bears a reasonable relationship to the wage rates contained in the wage determination.

(B) If the contractor and the laborers and mechanics to be employed in the classification (if known), or their representatives, and the RLF Recipient and the borrower or subgrantee agree on the classification and wage rate (including the amount designated for fringe benefits where appropriate), a report of the action taken shall be sent by the RLF Recipient to the EPA Award Official. The Award Official will transmit the report, to the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Employment Standards Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC 20210. The Administrator, or an authorized representative, will approve, modify, or disapprove every additional classification action within 30 days of receipt and so advise the award official or will notify the award official within the 30-day period that additional time is necessary.

(C) In the event the contractor, the laborers or mechanics to be employed in the classification or their representatives, *and the RLF Recipient and borrower or subgrantee* do not agree on the proposed classification and wage rate (including the amount designated for fringe benefits, where appropriate), the RLF Recipient shall provide a report on the disagreement which includes submissions by all interested parties to the EPA Award Official. The Award Official shall refer the questions, including the views of all interested parties and the recommendation of the award official, to the Administrator for determination. The Administrator, or an authorized representative, will issue a determination within 30 days of receipt and so advise the Award Official or will notify the Award Official within the 30-day period that additional time is necessary. The Award Official will direct that the RLF Recipient take appropriate action to implement the Administrator's determination.

(D) The wage rate (including fringe benefits where appropriate) determined pursuant to paragraphs (a)(1)(ii)(B) or (C) of this section, shall be paid to all workers performing work in the classification under this contract from the first day on which work is performed in the classification.

(iii) Whenever the minimum wage rate prescribed in the contract for a class of laborers or mechanics includes a fringe benefit which is not expressed as an hourly rate, the contractor shall either pay the benefit as stated in the wage determination or shall pay another bona fide fringe benefit or an hourly cash equivalent thereof.

(iv) If the contractor does not make payments to a trustee or other third person, the contractor may consider as part of the wages of any laborer or mechanic the amount of any costs reasonably anticipated in providing bona fide fringe benefits under a plan or program, Provided, That the Secretary of Labor has found, upon the written request of the contractor, that the applicable standards of the Davis-Bacon Act have been met. The Secretary of Labor may require the contractor to set aside in a separate account assets for the meeting of obligations under the plan or program.

(1) Withholding. The RLF Recipient, upon written request of the Award Official or an authorized representative of the Department of Labor, shall withhold or cause the borrower or subgrantee to withhold from the contractor under the affected contract or any other Federal contract with the same prime contractor, or any other federally-assisted contract subject to Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements, which is held by the same prime contractor, so much of the accrued payments or advances as may be considered necessary to pay laborers and mechanics, including apprentices, trainees, and helpers, employed by the contractor or any subcontractor the full amount of wages required by the contract. In the event of failure to pay any laborer or mechanic, including any apprentice, trainee, or helper, employed or working on the site of the work, all or part of the wages required by the contract, EPA may, after written notice to the contractor, or RLF Recipient take such action as may be necessary to cause the suspension of any further payment, advance, or guarantee of funds until such violations have ceased.

(2) Payrolls and basic records.

(i) Payrolls and basic records relating thereto shall be maintained by the contractor during the course of the work and preserved for a period of three years thereafter for all laborers and mechanics working at the site of the work. Such records shall contain the name, address, and social security number of each such worker, his or her correct classification, hourly rates of wages paid (including rates of contributions or costs anticipated for bona fide fringe benefits or cash equivalents thereof of the types described in section 1(b)(2)(B) of the Davis-Bacon Act), daily and weekly number of hours worked, deductions made and actual wages paid. Whenever the Secretary of Labor has found under 29 CFR 5.5(a)(1)(iv) that the wages of any laborer or mechanic include the amount of any costs reasonably anticipated in providing benefits under a plan or program described in section 1(b)(2)(B) of the Davis-Bacon Act, the contractor shall maintain records which show that the commitment to provide such benefits is enforceable, that the plan or program is financially responsible, and that the plan or program has been communicated in writing to the laborers or mechanics affected, and records which show the costs anticipated or the actual cost incurred in providing such benefits. Contractors employing apprentices or trainees under approved programs shall maintain written evidence of the registration of apprenticeship programs and certification of trainee programs, the registration of

the apprentices and trainees, and the ratios and wage rates prescribed in the applicable programs.

(ii)(A) The contractor shall submit weekly for each week in which any contract work is performed a copy of all payrolls to the borrower or subgrantee and to the RLF Recipient who will maintain the records on behalf of EPA. The payrolls submitted shall set out accurately and completely all of the information required to be maintained under 29 CFR 5.5(a)(3)(i), except that full social security numbers and home addresses shall not be included on weekly transmittals. Instead the payrolls shall only need to include an individually identifying number for each employee (e.g., the last four digits of the employee's social security number). The required weekly payroll information may be submitted in any form desired. Optional Form WH-347 is available for this purpose from the Wage and Hour Division Web site at <http://www.dol.gov/esa/whd/forms/wh347instr.htm> or its successor site. The prime contractor is responsible for the submission of copies of payrolls by all subcontractors. Contractors and subcontractors shall maintain the full social security number and current address of each covered worker, and shall provide them upon request to the RLF Recipient for transmission to the EPA, if requested by EPA, the contractor, or the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor for purposes of an investigation or audit of compliance with prevailing wage requirements. It is not a violation of this section for a prime contractor to require a subcontractor to provide addresses and social security numbers to the prime contractor for its own records, without weekly submission to the RLF Recipient.

(B) Each payroll submitted to the RLF Recipient shall be accompanied by a "Statement of Compliance," signed by the contractor or subcontractor or his or her agent who pays or supervises the payment of the persons employed under the contract and shall certify the following:

(1) That the payroll for the payroll period contains the information required to be provided under § 5.5 (a)(3)(ii) of Regulations, 29 CFR part 5, the appropriate information is being maintained under § 5.5 (a)(3)(i) of Regulations, 29 CFR part 5, and that such information is correct and complete;

(2) That each laborer or mechanic (including each helper, apprentice, and trainee) employed on the contract during the payroll period has been paid the full weekly wages earned, without rebate, either directly or indirectly, and that no deductions have been made either directly or indirectly from the full wages earned, other than permissible deductions as set forth in Regulations, 29 CFR part 3;

(3) That each laborer or mechanic has been paid not less than the applicable wage rates and fringe benefits or cash equivalents for the classification of work performed, as specified in the applicable wage determination incorporated into the contract.

(C) The weekly submission of a properly executed certification set forth on the reverse side of Optional Form WH-347 shall satisfy the requirement for submission of the "Statement of Compliance" required by paragraph (a)(3)(ii)(B) of this section.



(D) The falsification of any of the above certifications may subject the contractor or subcontractor to civil or criminal prosecution under section 1001 of title 18 and section 231 of title 31 of the United States Code.

(iii) The contractor or subcontractor shall make the records required under paragraph (a)(3)(i) of this section available for inspection, copying, or transcription by authorized representatives of the EPA or the Department of Labor, and shall permit such representatives to interview employees during working hours on the job. If the contractor or subcontractor fails to submit the required records or to make them available, EPA may, after written notice to the contractor, **Recipient, borrower or subgrantee**, sponsor, applicant, or owner, take such action as may be necessary to cause the suspension of any further payment, advance, or guarantee of funds. Furthermore, failure to submit the required records upon request or to make such records available may be grounds for debarment action pursuant to 29 CFR 5.12.

#### (4) Apprentices and Trainees

(i) Apprentices. Apprentices will be permitted to work at less than the predetermined rate for the work they performed when they are employed pursuant to and individually registered in a bona fide apprenticeship program registered with the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Apprenticeship Training, Employer and Labor Services, or with a State Apprenticeship Agency recognized by the Office, or if a person is employed in his or her first 90 days of probationary employment as an apprentice in such an apprenticeship program, who is not individually registered in the program, but who has been certified by the Office of Apprenticeship Training, Employer and Labor Services or a State Apprenticeship Agency (where appropriate) to be eligible for probationary employment as an apprentice. The allowable ratio of apprentices to journeymen on the job site in any craft classification shall not be greater than the ratio permitted to the contractor as to the entire work force under the registered program. Any worker listed on a payroll at an apprentice wage rate, who is not registered or otherwise employed as stated above, shall be paid not less than the applicable wage rate on the wage determination for the classification of work actually performed. In addition, any apprentice performing work on the job site in excess of the ratio permitted under the registered program shall be paid not less than the applicable wage rate on the wage determination for the work actually performed. Where a contractor is performing construction on a project in a locality other than that in which its program is registered, the ratios and wage rates (expressed in percentages of the journeyman's hourly rate) specified in the contractor's or subcontractor's registered program shall be observed. Every apprentice must be paid at not less than the rate specified in the registered program for the apprentice's level of progress, expressed as a percentage of the journeymen hourly rate specified in the applicable wage determination. Apprentices shall be paid fringe benefits in accordance with the provisions of the apprenticeship program. If the apprenticeship program does not specify fringe benefits, apprentices must be paid the full amount of fringe benefits listed on the wage determination for the applicable classification. If the Administrator determines that a different practice prevails for the applicable apprentice classification, fringes shall be paid in accordance with that determination. In the event the Office of Apprenticeship Training, Employer and Labor Services, or a State Apprenticeship Agency recognized by the Office, withdraws approval of an apprenticeship program, the contractor will

no longer be permitted to utilize apprentices at less than the applicable predetermined rate for the work performed until an acceptable program is approved.

(ii) Trainees. Except as provided in 29 CFR 5.16, trainees will not be permitted to work at less than the predetermined rate for the work performed unless they are employed pursuant to and individually registered in a program which has received prior approval, evidenced by formal certification by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. The ratio of trainees to journeymen on the job site shall not be greater than permitted under the plan approved by the Employment and Training Administration. Every trainee must be paid at not less than the rate specified in the approved program for the trainee's level of progress, expressed as a percentage of the journeyman hourly rate specified in the applicable wage determination. Trainees shall be paid fringe benefits in accordance with the provisions of the trainee program. If the trainee program does not mention fringe benefits, trainees shall be paid the full amount of fringe benefits listed on the wage determination unless the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division determines that there is an apprenticeship program associated with the corresponding journeyman wage rate on the wage determination which provides for less than full fringe benefits for apprentices. Any employee listed on the payroll at a trainee rate who is not registered and participating in a training plan approved by the Employment and Training Administration shall be paid not less than the applicable wage rate on the wage determination for the classification of work actually performed. In addition, any trainee performing work on the job site in excess of the ratio permitted under the registered program shall be paid not less than the applicable wage rate on the wage determination for the work actually performed. In the event the Employment and Training Administration withdraws approval of a training program, the contractor will no longer be permitted to utilize trainees at less than the applicable predetermined rate for the work performed until an acceptable program is approved.

(iii) Equal employment opportunity. The utilization of apprentices, trainees and journeymen under this part shall be in conformity with the equal employment opportunity requirements of Executive Order 11246, as amended and 29 CFR part 30.

(5) Compliance with Copeland Act requirements. The contractor shall comply with the requirements of 29 CFR Part 3, which are incorporated by reference in this contract.

(6) Subcontracts. The contractor or subcontractor shall insert in any subcontracts the clauses contained in 29 CFR 5.5(a)(1) through (10) and such other clauses as the EPA may by appropriate instructions require, and also a clause requiring the subcontractors to include these clauses in any lower tier subcontracts. The prime contractor shall be responsible for the compliance by any subcontractor or lower tier subcontractor with all the contract clauses in this term and condition.

(7) Contract termination: debarment. A breach of the contract clauses in 29 CFR 5.5 may be grounds for termination of the contract, and for debarment as a contractor and a subcontractor as provided in 29 CFR 5.12.

(8) Compliance with Davis-Bacon and Related Act requirements. All rulings and interpretations

of the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts contained in 29 CFR parts 1, 3, and 5 are herein incorporated by reference in this contract.

(9) Disputes concerning labor standards. Disputes arising out of the labor standards provisions of this contract shall not be subject to the general disputes clause of this contract. Such disputes shall be resolved in accordance with the procedures of the Department of Labor set forth in 29 CFR parts 5, 6, and 7. Disputes within the meaning of this clause include disputes between the contractor (or any of its subcontractors), *the RLF Recipient, borrower or subgrantee and EPA*, the U.S. Department of Labor, or the employees or their representatives.

(10) Certification of eligibility.

(i) By entering into this contract, the contractor certifies that neither it (nor he or she) nor any person or firm who has an interest in the contractor's firm is a person or firm ineligible to be awarded Government contracts by virtue of section 3(a) of the Davis-Bacon Act or 29 CFR 5.12(a)(1).

(ii) No part of this contract shall be subcontracted to any person or firm ineligible for award of a Government contract by virtue of section 3(a) of the Davis-Bacon Act or 29 CFR 5.12(a)(1).

(iii) The penalty for making false statements is prescribed in the U.S. Criminal Code, 18 U.S.C. 1001.

#### 4. Contract Provisions for Contracts in Excess of \$100,000

(a) Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act. ***The RLF Recipient shall ensure that subgrantees and borrowers*** insert the following clauses set forth in paragraphs (a)(1), (2), (3), and (4) of this section in full in any contract in an amount in excess of \$100,000 and subject to the overtime provisions of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act. These clauses shall be inserted in addition to the clauses required by Item 3, above or 29 CFF [4.6](#) . As used in this paragraph, the terms laborers and mechanics include watchmen and guards.

(1) Overtime requirements. No contractor or subcontractor contracting for any part of the contract work which may require or involve the employment of laborers or mechanics shall require or permit any such laborer or mechanic in any workweek in which he or she is employed on such work to work in excess of forty hours in such workweek unless such laborer or mechanic receives compensation at a rate not less than one and one-half times the basic rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty hours in such workweek.

(2) Violation; liability for unpaid wages; liquidated damages. In the event of any violation of the clause set forth in paragraph (a)(1) of this section the contractor and any subcontractor responsible therefor shall be liable for the unpaid wages. In addition, such contractor and subcontractor shall be liable to the United States (in the case of work done under contract for the District of Columbia or a territory, to such District or to such territory), for liquidated damages. Such liquidated damages shall be computed with respect to each individual laborer or mechanic, including watchmen and guards, employed in violation of the clause set forth in paragraph (a)(1)

of this section, in the sum of \$10 for each calendar day on which such individual was required or permitted to work in excess of the standard workweek of forty hours without payment of the overtime wages required by the clause set forth in paragraph (a)(1) of this section.

(3) Withholding for unpaid wages and liquidated damages. The RLF Recipient shall upon written request from the Award Official or an authorized representative of the Department of Labor withhold or cause to be withheld by the borrower or subgrantee, from any moneys payable on account of work performed by the contractor or subcontractor under any such contract or any other Federal contract with the same prime contractor, or any other federally-assisted contract subject to the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, which is held by the same prime contractor, such sums as may be determined to be necessary to satisfy any liabilities of such contractor or subcontractor for unpaid wages and liquidated damages as provided in the clause set forth in paragraph (a)(2) of this section.

(4) Subcontracts. The contractor or subcontractor shall insert in any subcontracts the clauses set forth in paragraph (a)(1) through (4) of this section and also a clause requiring the subcontractors to include these clauses in any lower tier subcontracts. The prime contractor shall be responsible for compliance by any subcontractor or lower tier subcontractor with the clauses set forth in paragraphs (a)(1) through (4) of this section.

(b) In addition to the clauses contained in Item 3, above, in any contract subject only to the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act and not to any of the other statutes cited in [29](#) CFR 5.1, the RLF Recipient shall insert a clause requiring that the contractor or subcontractor shall maintain payrolls and basic payroll records during the course of the work and shall preserve them for a period of three years from the completion of the contract for all laborers and mechanics, including guards and watchmen, working on the contract. Such records shall contain the name and address of each such employee, social security number, correct classifications, hourly rates of wages paid, daily and weekly number of hours worked, deductions made, and actual wages paid. Further, the RLF Recipient shall insert in any such contract a clause providing that the records to be maintained under this paragraph shall be made available by the contractor or subcontractor for inspection, copying, or transcription by authorized representatives of the (write the name of agency) and the Department of Labor, and the contractor or subcontractor will permit such representatives to interview employees during working hours on the job.

## 5. Compliance Verification

Note: RLF Recipients may require that borrowers or subgrantees verify that contractors and subcontractors comply with DB provisions or conduct compliance verification itself. RLF Recipients must ensure that borrowers and subgrantees understand the compliance verification requirements and can interpret prevailing wage determinations properly before placing the responsibility for compliance verification on borrowers or subgrantees. Moreover, the RLF Recipient remains accountable to EPA for ensuring that the borrowers' and subgrantees' contractors and subcontractors comply with DB.

(a). The RLF Recipient periodically interview, or require that borrowers or subgrantees interview, a sufficient number of employees entitled to DB prevailing wages (covered employees) to verify that contractors or subcontractors are paying the appropriate wage rates. As

provided in 29 CFR 5.6(a)(6), all interviews must be conducted in confidence. The RLF Recipient must use Standard Form 1445 or equivalent documentation to memorialize the interviews. Copies of the SF 1445 are available from EPA on request.

(b) The RLF Recipient shall establish and follow, or ensure that borrowers or subgrantees establish and follow an interview schedule based on its assessment of the risks of noncompliance with DB posed by contractors or subcontractors and the duration of the contract or subcontract. At a minimum, the RLF Recipient, or the borrower or subgrantee, must conduct interviews with a representative group of covered employees within two weeks of each contractor or subcontractor's submission of its initial weekly payroll data and two weeks prior to the estimated completion date for the contract or subcontract. RLF Recipients, or borrowers or subgrantees, must conduct more frequent interviews if the initial interviews or other information indicates that there is a risk that the contractor or subcontractor is not complying with DB. RLF Recipients shall immediately conduct necessary interviews in response to an alleged violation of the prevailing wage requirements that it uncovers itself or that is reported to it by a borrower or subgrantee. All interviews shall be conducted in confidence.

(c). The RLF Recipient shall conduct, or require that borrowers or subgrantees periodically conduct spot checks of a representative sample of weekly payroll data to verify that contractors or subcontractors are paying the appropriate wage rates. The RLF Recipient shall establish and follow or ensure that borrowers or subgrantees follow a spot check schedule based on an assessment of the risks of noncompliance with DB posed by contractors or subcontractors and the duration of the contract or subcontract. At a minimum, the RLF Recipient must spot check, or require that borrowers or subgrantees spot check, payroll data within two weeks of each contractor or subcontractor's submission of its initial payroll data and two weeks prior to the completion date of the contract or subcontract. RLF Recipients must conduct, or require that borrowers or subgrantees conduct, more frequent spot checks if the initial spot check or other information indicates that there is a risk that the contractor or subcontractor is not complying with DB. In addition, during the examinations the RLF Recipient shall verify, or require that borrower or subgrantees verify, evidence of fringe benefit plans and payments there under by contractors and subcontractors who claim credit for fringe benefit contributions.

(d). The RLF Recipient shall periodically review, or require that borrowers or subgrantees periodically review, contractors and subcontractors use of apprentices and trainees to verify registration and certification with respect to apprenticeship and training programs approved by either the U.S Department of Labor or a state, as appropriate, and that contractors and subcontractors are not using disproportionate numbers of, laborers, trainees and apprentices. These reviews shall be conducted in accordance with the schedules for spot checks and interviews described in Item 5(b) and (c) above.

(e) RLF Recipients must immediately report, or require that borrowers or subgrantees immediately report, potential violations of the DB prevailing wage requirements to the EPA DB contact listed above and to the appropriate DOL Wage and Hour District Office listed at <http://www.dol.gov/esa/contacts/whd/america2.htm>.