

§ 404.19 What requirements must be met before I can request assistance to conduct a feasibility study?

All of the following requirements must be met before you can request assistance to conduct a feasibility study:

- (a) An appraisal investigation must be completed, with or without assistance from Reclamation;
- (b) Reclamation must have reviewed any appraisal investigation prepared without its assistance;
- (c) Reclamation must have prepared an appraisal report evaluating the appraisal investigation; and,
- (d) The appraisal report must include a recommendation by Reclamation, if appropriate, that a feasibility study should be conducted, as described in § 404.45.

§ 404.20 What information must I include in my full proposal to conduct an appraisal or a feasibility study?

A full proposal to conduct an appraisal investigation or a feasibility study is a detailed scope of work that must include sufficient information to address the eligibility criteria described in §§ 404.6 and 404.7, and the prioritization criteria in § 404.13. In general this may include, but is not limited to:

- (a) The issues to be addressed in the appraisal investigation or feasibility study and a plan for addressing those issues. The information provided must also address each of the prioritization criteria in § 404.13;
- (b) A description of who will conduct the appraisal investigation or feasibility study, which could include you, your contractor, or Reclamation;
- (c) If you propose that either you or your contractor will conduct the appraisal investigation or feasibility study, you must include the information necessary for Reclamation to determine whether you or your contractor are qualified to conduct the investigation or study, and whether having you or your contractor conduct it is a cost-effective alternative, in accordance with the criteria in §§ 404.23 and 404.24;
- (d) A schedule for conducting the work, identifying specific tasks and the duration of each task, and major milestones with dates for each milestone;

- (e) A complete budget for conducting the appraisal investigation or feasibility study, including an itemized tabular summary of known or expected costs and a narrative description of those costs;

- (f) A funding plan that details how the appraisal investigation or feasibility study will be paid for, taking into consideration applicable assistance and non-Federal cost-share requirements; and

- (g) Any other information requested by Reclamation in the program announcement.

§ 404.21 What is Reclamation's role in preparing the full proposal?

- (a) If you are requesting Reclamation to prepare an appraisal investigation or feasibility study on your behalf under § 404.11(a), Reclamation will work with you on a collaborative basis to provide the information requested in § 404.20(a), (b), (d), (e) and (f).

- (b) If you are requesting funding through a grant or cooperative agreement under § 404.11(b), Reclamation will be available to provide you with guidance and assistance in preparing your full proposal, upon request.

§ 404.22 How will Reclamation evaluate my full proposal?

- (a) Reclamation will evaluate the full proposal to conduct an appraisal or a feasibility study in order to ensure that it meets the requirements in § 404.20 and is, therefore, complete. Reclamation will notify you in writing of the outcome of this determination.

- (b) If it is complete, Reclamation will evaluate your proposal against all other proposals received, using a competitive review process based on an application of the prioritization criteria in § 404.13.

- (c) Full proposals will be selected for award of assistance based on:

- (1) The evaluation process, as described in § 404.22(b); and
- (2) The availability of appropriations; and
- (3) Other criteria that Reclamation deems appropriate.

- (d) Once the proposal evaluation and selection process is complete, you will be notified in writing of the outcome of your request for assistance.