§ 800.102 Review by Application Evaluation Panel.

(a) Applications for loans under this regulation shall be reviewed by an Application Evaluation Panel, which shall be appointed by the Application Approving Official. The Panel shall include, at a minimum, a representative of the Office of Minority Economic Impact, the contracting officer and a representative of the Office of the Controller.

(b) Panel review shall be conducted pursuant to paragraph (c) or (d) of this section, as applicable, to evaluate, to clarify and to develop information contained in the application and such other information as the Application Approving Official or the Panel may request.

(1) The Panel shall give priority to applications relating to competitive solicitations, because of time limits on such solicitations. The Panel may defer action a maximum of five days after a solicitation has been announced in the Commerce Business Daily to provide all interested applicants an opportunity to apply.

(2) Initial screening will be in the order applications are received, but time required to process an application may vary from case to case.

(c) Panel review of specific loan requests. (1) If an application contains a specific loan request, and complies with §800.101, the Panel shall arrange for risk analysis, independent of any such analysis submitted by or on behalf of the applicant. Risk analysis shall be directed both to the loan request and to applicant’s prospective performance of work pursuant to the bid or proposal.

(2) The Panel shall evaluate the loan request in light of the risk analysis, and shall give its conclusions in writing to the Application Approving Official, with respect to the following and to such other considerations as that official may direct:

(i) Applicant’s eligibility as a minority business enterprise.

(ii) Compliance with the application requirements of §800.101.

(iii) Compliance with §800.200 on allowable costs.

(iv) Applicant’s financial ability to make the bid or proposal without the loan.

(v) Applicant’s contribution of, or ability to contribute, the 25% minimum share of allowable costs, or more.

(vi) Applicant’s ability to prepare an adequate bid or proposal, if the loan is made.

(vii) Possibility of award to applicant pursuant to its bid or proposal.

(2) Normally, not more than three loans will be approved for the same competitive award.

(viii) Applicant’s ability to perform pursuant to the bid or proposal.

(ix) Likelihood that applicant will repay the requested loan, regardless of success of applicant’s bid or proposal.

(x) Optimal use of available program funds.
(xii) The Panel’s recommendation.
(d) Panel review of other applications.
If the application was submitted without a specific loan request, the Panel shall review the application in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section with the limited purpose of determining whether the applicant has complied with §800.101, except as to matters determinable only with respect to a future specific loan request, and shall inform the Application Approving Official in writing as to its determinations.

§ 800.103 Review by Application Approving Official.
(a) The Application Approving Official shall consider the results of the Panel’s review under section 102 (c) or (d), and such other information as the Application Approving Official determines to be relevant pursuant to the provisions of this regulation, and shall either approve or disapprove the application, giving it priority in accordance with the provisions of §800.102(b).
(b) The Application Approving Official shall authorize a contracting officer to notify the applicant of approval or disapproval.
(c) An applicant whose application has been rejected will be informed, on request, of the reason for rejection. Rejection is not a bar to submission of an appropriately revised application.

Subpart C—Loans

§ 800.200 Maximum loan; allowable costs.
(a) A loan under this regulation shall not exceed 75 percent of allowable costs of a bid or proposal to obtain a DOE contract or other agreement (such as a procurement contract, cooperative agreement, grant, loan or loan guarantee), or a subcontract with a DOE operating contractor, or a contract with a first-tier subcontractor of a DOE operating contractor in furtherance of the research, development, demonstration or other contract activities of DOE.
(b) To be allowable, costs must, in DOE’s judgment:
(1) Be consistent with the bidding cost principles of the Federal Procurement Regulation (41 CFR Ch. 1, 1-15.205-3) and DOE Procurement Regulation (41 CFR Ch. 9, 9-15.205-3); and;
(2) Be necessary, reasonable and customary for the bid or proposal contemplated by the application; and
(3) Be incurred, or expected to be incurred, by the applicant.
(c) Costs which are, in general, allowable, if consistent with paragraph (b) of this section include, but are not limited to:
(1) Bid bond premiums.
(2) Financial, accounting, legal, engineering and other professional, consulting or similar fees and service charges.
(3) Printing and reproduction costs.
(4) Travel and transportation costs.
(5) Costs of the loan application under this rule.
(D) Costs that are not considered as allowable costs include the following:
(1) Fees and commissions charged to the applicant, including finder’s fees, for obtaining Federal funds.
(2) Expenses, which, in DOE’s judgment, have primarily an application broader than the specific loan request.
(3) Costs which, in DOE’s judgment, fail to conform to paragraph (b) of this section.

§ 800.201 Findings.
A loan shall issue under this regulation only if the Secretary, having reviewed the action of the Application Approving Official, and having considered such other information as the Secretary may deem pertinent, has made all the findings that follow:
(a) That the applicant is a minority business enterprise.
(b) That the loan will assist the enterprise to participate in the research, development, demonstration or contract activities of the Department of Energy by providing funds needed by applicant for bidding for and obtaining a contract or agreement with the Department of Energy, a subcontract with a DOE operating contractor, or a contract with a first-tier subcontractor of a DOE operating contractor in furtherance of the research, development,