oversight responsibilities and provide
dissemination of technical informa-
tion.
 § 402.5 [Reserved]

Subpart B—Description of Water-
Resources Programs

§ 402.6 Water-Resources Research Pro-
gram.
(a) Subject to the availability of ap-
propriated funds, the Water-Resources
Research Program will provide sup-
port, in the form of a dollar-for-dollar
matching grant, to educational institu-
tions, private foundations, private
firms, individuals, and agencies of local
or State governments for research con-
cerning any aspect of a water-resource
related problem deemed to be in the
national interest. Federal agencies are
excluded from receiving matching
grants. Grants may be awarded on
other than a dollar-for-dollar matching
basis in cases where the USGS deter-
mines that research on a high-priority
subject is of a basic nature that other-
wise would not be undertaken.
(b) The types of research to be under-
taken under this program are listed
below, without indication of priority:
(1) Aspects of the hydrologic cycle;
(2) Supply and demand for water;
(3) Demineralization of saline and
other impaired waters;
(4) Conservation and best use of
available supplies of water and meth-
ods of increasing such supplies;
(5) Water reuse;
(6) Depletion and degradation of
groundwater supplies;
(7) Improvements in the productivity
of water when used for agricultural,
municipal, and commercial purposes;
and
(8) The economic, legal, engineering,
social, recreational, biological, geo-
graphic, ecological, and other aspects
of water problems.
(9) Scientific information-dissemina-
tion activities, including identifying,
assembling, and interpreting the re-
results of scientific and engineering re-
search on water-resources problems.
(10) Providing means for improved
communications of research results,
having due regard for the varying con-
ditions and needs for the respective
States and regions.

§ 402.7 Water-Resources Technology
Development Program.
(a) Subject to the availability of ap-
propriated funds, the Water-Resources
Technology Development Program will
provide funds in the form of grants or
contracts to educational institutions,
private firms, private foundations, in-
dividuals, and agencies of local or
State governments for technology de-
velopment concerning any aspect of
water-related technology deemed to be
of State, regional, and national impor-
tance, including technology associated
with improvement of waters of im-
paired quality and the operation of test
facilities. Federal agencies are ex-
cluded from receiving grants or con-
tracts. The types of technology-devel-
opment to be undertaken under this
program shall include paragraphs 1
through 10 of § 402.6(b).
(b) The USGS may establish any con-
dition for the matching of funds by the
recipient of any grant or cost-sharing
under a contract under the technology-
development program which the USGS
considers to be in the best interest of
the Nation.

§§ 402.8–402.9 [Reserved]

Subpart C—Application, Evalua-
tion, and Management Proce-
dures

§ 402.10 Research-project applications.
(a) Only those applications for grants
that are in response to and meet the
guidelines of specific USGS announce-
ments will be considered for funding
appropriated for this program.
(b) The USGS program announce-
ments will identify priorities, matching
requirements, particular areas of
interest, criteria for evaluation, OMB
regulations as appropriate, assurances,
closing date, and proposal submit-
tal instructions. Program announce-
ments may also include criteria for high-pri-
ority subjects of a basic nature that
may be funded on other than a dollar-
for-dollar basis. Program announce-
ments will be distributed to names on
the current USGS mailing list for the
§ 402.11 Technology-development project applications.

(a) Grant awards will be used to support those portions of the program for which the principal purpose is other than as described in §402.11(b). Program announcements and applications will be governed by the same procedures provided in §402.10.

(b) If it is determined that the principal purpose of a planned award (or awards) is to acquire goods or services for the direct benefit or use of the Government, the action must be regarded as a procurement contract. A competitive solicitation prepared in accordance with applicable acquisition regulations will be issued to interested parties. Notification of the availability of any contract solicitation will be published in the Commerce Business Daily, unless waived in accordance with §5.202 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). Contracts may be awarded without full and open competition only if justified in accordance with FAR subpart 6.3.

§ 402.12 Evaluation of applications for grants and contracts.

(a) Grants. (1) Each grant application will receive technical evaluations from Government and/or non-Government scientific or engineering personnel. Utilizing the criteria for evaluation identified in the applicable announcement, each reviewer will assign a technical score.

(2) Grant applications with low technical ratings will be screened out, and the remaining grant applications will be rank-ordered by review panels.

(3) USGS program officials will compile a single, consolidated rank-ordered list of the grant applications based on technical scoring, program needs and published priorities, and the available Federal funds.

(b) Contracts. Proposals for contract awards will be evaluated by a USGS panel. Contracts will be awarded according to procedures contained in the FAR, the Department of the Interior Acquisition Regulation, and in acquisition policy releases issued by the Department and by the USGS.

§ 402.13 Program management.

(a) After the conclusion of negotiations, the USGS will transmit a grant or contract-award document, as appropriate, setting forth the terms of the award.

(b) Grants. Recipients will be required to execute funded projects in accordance with OMB Circulars governing cost principles, administrative requirements, and audit, as applicable to their organization type. In addition, OMB Circular A-67, Coordination of Federal Activities in the Acquisition of Certain