(b) The AGAR and its subsequent changes are published in:
(1) Daily issues of the Federal Register,
(2) Cumulative form in the CFR, and,
(3) Electronic form on the USDA Departmental Administration Procurement Homepage (see 401.170).
(c) Section 553(a)(2) of the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 553, provides an exception from the standard public rulemaking procedures to the extent that the rule involves a matter relating to agency management or personnel or to public property, loans, grants, benefits, or contracts. In 1971, Secretary of Agriculture Hardin announced a voluntary partial waiver from the Administrative Procedure Act exception, and USDA agencies generally are required to provide notice and an opportunity for public comment on proposed rules (36 FR 13804, July 24, 1971). The AGAR has been promulgated and may be revised from time to time in accordance with the rulemaking procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act. The USDA also is required to publish for public comment procurement regulations in the Federal Register, pursuant to the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 418b), and FAR 1.301.

Subpart 401.2—Administration
401.201 Maintenance of the FAR.
401.201–1 The two councils.
(a) USDA’s representative on the Civilian Agency Acquisition Council is designated by the SPE.
(b) The Procurement Policy Division will coordinate proposed FAR revisions within USDA.

Subpart 401.3—Agency Acquisition Regulations
401.301 Policy.
(a) The SPE, subject to the authorities in 401.103 and FAR 1.301, may issue and publish Departmental regulations, that together with the FAR, constitute Department-wide policies, procedures, solicitation provisions, and contract clauses governing the contracting process or otherwise controlling the relationship between USDA (including any of its contracting activities) and contractors or prospective contractors.