

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR  
MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING  
REV. 12/2011  
[For Contracts Exempt from Procurement]**

**ARTICLE I - TERMS AND APPLICABILITY**

These General Conditions apply to contracts exempt from the requirements of State Finance and Procurement Article, §11-101 et seq. of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The General Conditions do not constitute a complete agreement but are part of a Memorandum of Understanding ("Memorandum" or "MOU") executed by all parties, which identifies the specific work to be performed, compensation, term, and special conditions, if any. The General Conditions and the MOU are intended to be complementary and shall be construed together. In the event of a direct conflict between them, the terms of the Memorandum shall govern and control.

Specific terms used in this document have the following meaning:

- A. "Contract" means the agreement between the Department and the Contractor for performance of services, including the MOU, Scope of Work and these General Conditions.
- B. "Scope of Work" or "Work" refers to the specific contractual obligation of the Contractor as identified in the MOU or other work statement incorporated into the Contract.
- C. "Contractor" means the State agency, political subdivision or government obligated to perform services for the Department under this Contract.
- D. "Department" means the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

**ARTICLE II - THE PARTIES**

- A. Independent Contractor - The Contractor is not an employee of the Department but is an independent contractor. The Contractor shall be responsible for providing all supplies and materials necessary for performance of all work under the Contract, and for withholding any taxes and social security payments due in relation to the Contract. The Contractor is not an agent of the Department and cannot commit the Department to any expenditure of funds or enter into any contractual obligation on behalf of the Department.
- B. Notices - Service of any notice required by the Contract shall be complete upon mailing of such notice, postage prepaid, to the appropriate contract representative at the address indicated in the MOU. If no contract representative is named, then the person executing the MOU for a party shall be the contract representative for purposes of notice.

### **ARTICLE III - PERFORMANCE**

A. Standard of Performance - The Contractor is responsible for the supervision and inspection of, and the technical accuracy and coordination of all data and work pursuant to this Contract, and shall provide services and products meeting professional standards of quality and methodology.

B. Prosecution of the Work - The Contractor agrees to prosecute all work under this Contract continuously and diligently and to meet all milestones contained in the Contract. The Contractor further agrees that no charges or claims for damages shall be made by it for any delays or hindrances from any cause whatsoever during the progress of any portion of the work specified in this Contract.

Time extensions will be granted only for excusable delays that arise from unforeseeable causes beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the Contractor, including but not restricted to, acts of God, acts of the public enemy, acts of the State in either its sovereign or contractual capacity, acts of another Contractor in the performance of a contract with the State, fires, floods, epidemics, quarantine restrictions, strikes, freight embargoes, or delays of subcontractors or suppliers arising from unforeseeable causes beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of either the Contractor or the subcontractors or suppliers.

C. Subletting or Assignment - The benefits and obligations hereunder shall inure to and be binding upon the parties hereto and their respective successors, provided the personnel of any such successor, whether such successor be an individual, a partnership or a corporation, is acceptable to the Department. The Contractor shall not hire consultants, sublet, sell, transfer, assign or otherwise dispose of this Contract or any portion thereof, or of its right, title or interest therein, without prior written consent of the Department.

In the case of any subcontract, the Contractor agrees to bind the subcontractor and every subcontractor agrees to be bound by all terms of this Contract unless particular provisions are expressly waived in writing by the Department.

D. Changes - The Department, by written direction to the Contractor, may at any time make any change in the work within the general scope of the Contract. Within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a Notice of Change, the Contractor shall advise the Department of the effect, if any, such changes would have on budgeting, cost, delivery schedules, milestones or any other Contract provisions. If such effects are acceptable to the Department, the Department shall issue a Notice to Proceed With Changes, upon receipt of which the Contractor shall immediately institute all such requested changes. Such directed additions or changes to the Scope of Work shall become part of the contractual obligation. Each contract modification or change order that affects contract price is subject to the prior written approval of the Department.

E. Suspension of Work - The Department unilaterally may order the Contractor in writing to suspend, delay, or interrupt all or any part of the work for a period of time the Department determines to be appropriate.

F. Disputes - If the Contractor intends to assert a claim against the Department, the Contractor shall do so within 30 days of the date the Contractor knows, or should know, of the basis of the claim. Failure to file a claim within the 30-day period is a complete bar to the claim. The claim shall consist of a written statement to the Department setting forth the nature and monetary extent of the claim, and the facts on which the claim is based. Pending resolution of a claim, the Contractor shall proceed diligently with the performance of the Contract.

#### **ARTICLE IV - PROPERTY**

A. Rights in Data, Public Disclosure - Unless otherwise specified by addendum to this Contract, the Contractor agrees that all reports, drawings, studies, specifications, estimates, maps, and computations prepared by or for it under the terms of this Contract shall be delivered to and become and remain the property of the Department upon termination or completion of the work. The Department shall have the absolute right to duplicate and use, for any purpose whatsoever, all or any part of the technical data which are to be delivered under this Contract.

The Contractor shall notify the Department in advance of public disclosure of any information related to this Contract, unless such disclosure is compelled by legislative or judicial process. The Contractor shall in all cases submit to the Department three (3) copies of any scientific or technical paper, abstract, report or other vehicle pertaining in whole or in part to this Contract which the Contractor desires to publish, submit for publication, distribute or otherwise publicly disseminate. Such submission shall be made by the Contractor to the Department at least thirty (30) days prior to its planned initial public dissemination, disclosure, or submission for publication. The Contractor shall include in any such documents or vehicles of public disclosure a statement which acknowledges the Department, the specific programs therein, and the financial support provided by this Contract. Furthermore, upon receipt of a written request from the Department, the Contractor shall also provide a disclaimer stating that the contents of the aforesaid document or vehicle of public disclosure do not in any way reflect the views, opinions, or policies of the Department.

B. Patents and Copyrights - The Contractor may retain the entire right, title, and interest throughout the world to each subject invention associated with or reduced to practice in the course of performance under this Contract. With respect to any subject invention in which the Contractor retains title, the Department, and in those cases where federal money is involved, the federal government, shall have a nonexclusive, nontransferable, irrevocable, paid-up license to practice or have practiced the subject invention throughout the world.

The Contractor shall have the duty to disclose to the Department any invention associated with or reduced to practice in the course of performance under this Contract. Furthermore, the Contractor agrees that, if at any time during the course of performance of this Contract, it should become aware of a potential conflict between the rights of the Department under this Contract,

and those of any other party or entity, as to ownership of any patent or copyright interests developing in relation to said performance, then the Department shall be immediately notified of such conflict. In such a case, it is agreed and understood that the terms of this Contract may be adjusted to provide for an equitable relationship between monies expended hereunder in pursuit of such patent or copyright interests and benefits to be obtained therefrom by the Department.

The Contractor assumes the risk that any materials, equipment, process, or other items required under the Contract or furnished by the Contractor are subject to any patent, copyright, trademark, trade secret or other property right of another. The Contractor shall pay for all royalties and license fees and shall obtain all necessary licenses or permits to permit use of any such item by the Department. The Contractor shall defend all suits or claims of infringement of any patent, copyright, trademark, trade secret or other property right of another and shall save the Department harmless from loss or expense on account thereof.

C. Equipment - Unless otherwise provided in the MOU, all non-expendable equipment, including major equipment as defined in this Article, procured with funds from this Contract, shall be Department property and shall be used primarily for work under this Contract. Prior written approval of the Department shall be required for use of the equipment, on a non-interference basis, for other work of the Contractor. The Contractor shall use all effort to care for and maintain the equipment. Upon termination of this Contract, the Department shall determine what disposition shall be made of the equipment and shall so notify the Contractor within thirty (30) days. The Contractor shall report its acquisition of non-expendable equipment covered by this Contract to the Department annually. Non-expendable equipment is that which: 1) has a probable useful life in excess of one year beyond the date of acquisition, and 2) costs at least \$500, either as an individual piece or as a group of pieces intended to be used together.

All items of Major Equipment to be procured with funds from this Contract shall be itemized in the budget of this Contract to the extent possible. "Major Equipment" shall be defined as any item of equipment costing Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) or more. Unless itemized in the budget approved by the Department, purchase of each item of Major Equipment shall require prior written approval of the Department.

## **ARTICLE V - INDEMNIFICATION**

A. Department Saved Harmless - The Contractor is, to the fullest extent permitted by law, responsible for all damage to life and property due to its activities, or those of its agents, employees, or subcontractors, in connection with its performance under this Contract, and is responsible for all work, both permanent and temporary, until all services under this Contract are declared accepted by the Department.

The Contractor shall, to the fullest extent permitted by law, indemnify and save harmless and defend the Department and all of its representatives from all suits, actions, or claims of any character, brought on account of any injuries or damage sustained by any person or property in consequence of any work performed under this Contract, either by the Contractor or any subcontractor, or their employees, agents, or representatives. This responsibility is not to be

deemed as a waiver of any immunity which may exist in any action against the Department.

- B. Insurance - If specified in the MOU, the Contractor shall provide insurance protecting the Department from bodily injury and property damage. Certificates of such insurance acknowledging the foregoing "Department Saved Harmless" clause shall be filed with the Department.

## **ARTICLE VI - WARRANTIES AND DISCLOSURES**

A. Nondiscrimination in Employment - The Contractor agrees: (1) not to discriminate in any manner against an employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, creed, age, sex, marital status, national origin, ancestry, or physical or mental handicap unrelated in nature and extent so as reasonably to preclude the performance of such employment; (2) to include a provision similar to that contained in subsection (1), above, in any subcontract except a subcontract for standard commercial supplies or raw materials; and (3) to post and to cause subcontractors to post in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment, notices setting forth the substance of this clause.

- B. Compliance with Laws - The Contractor hereby represents and warrants that:

1. It shall comply with all federal, State and local laws, regulations, and ordinances applicable to its activities and obligations under this Contract;  
and
2. It shall obtain, at its expense, all licenses, permits, insurance, and governmental approvals, if any, necessary to the performance of its obligations under this Contract.

## **ARTICLE VII - ACCOUNTING**

A. Retention of Records - Audit - The Contractor shall retain and maintain all records and documents relating to this Contract for three years after final payment by the Department hereunder or any applicable statute of limitations, whichever is longer, and shall make them available for inspection and audit by authorized representatives of the Department, including the procurement officer or designee, at all reasonable times. The Department shall have the right, during usual business hours, to examine and audit pertinent records of the Contractor to verify invoices submitted pursuant to this Contract.

B. Payment of State Obligations - Payments to the Contractor shall be made in accordance with the terms of the MOU. Charges for late payment are prohibited.

## **ARTICLE VIII - DURATION**

- A. Effective Date - It is understood and agreed by the parties hereto that this Contract

and any modification thereof shall not become effective or enforceable until executed by the Department.

B. Termination for Convenience - The performance of work under this contract may be terminated by the Department in accordance with this clause in whole, or from time to time in part, whenever the Department shall determine that such termination is in the best interest of the Department. The Department will pay all reasonable costs associated with this contract that the Contractor has incurred up to the date of termination and all reasonable costs associated with termination of the Contract. However, the Contractor shall not be reimbursed for any anticipatory profits that have not been earned up to the date of termination.

C. Termination for Default - If the Contractor fails to fulfill its obligation under this contract properly and on time, or otherwise violates any provision of the Contract, the Department may terminate the Contract by written notice to the Contractor. The notice shall specify the acts or omissions relied upon as cause for termination. All finished or unfinished work provided by the Contractor shall, at the Department's option, become the Department's property. The Department shall pay the contractor fair and equitable compensation for satisfactory performance prior to receipt of notice of termination, less the amount of damages caused by Contractor's breach. If the damages are more than the compensation payable to the Contractor, the Contractor will remain liable after termination and the Department can affirmatively collect damages.

D. Multi-Year Restriction - If the General Assembly fails to appropriate funds or if funds are not otherwise made available for continued performance for any fiscal period of this Contract succeeding the first fiscal period, this Contract shall be canceled automatically as of the beginning of the fiscal year for which funds were not appropriated or otherwise made available. The Contractor may not recover anticipatory profits or costs incurred after termination.

## **ARTICLE IX - LEGAL**

A. Severability - If any of these provisions shall contravene, or be invalid under, the laws of the particular state, county or jurisdiction where used, such contravention or invalidity shall not invalidate the whole agreement, but the Contract shall be construed as if not containing the particular provision or provisions held to be invalid in the particular state, county, or jurisdiction, and the rights and obligations of the parties shall be construed and enforced accordingly.

B. Law Applicable - Unless otherwise authorized by the Board of Public Works, this Contract shall be governed by the laws of the State of Maryland, and the parties hereby expressly agree that the courts of the State of Maryland shall have exclusive jurisdiction to decide any question arising hereunder.

**APPROVED** as to form and legal sufficiency  
Office of the Attorney General  
Department of Natural Resources  
December, 2011