

reaching agreement with Interior in these matters are anticipated. Where large expenditures are involved it will usually be necessary to request a special appropriation, leaving the final decision to Congress. In any instance, if difficulty in reaching agreement with officials of the Bureau of Land Management (or the Secretary of the Interior) should occur, it will be reported promptly to DAEN-REM with complete background data for review and instructions.

**§644.535 Support in clearance of Air Force lands.**

Where Air Force range lands are proposed for disposal, the AFLC, in most cases, will make an economic study to determine the extent of clearance that is justified by the relative values of the property before and after decontamination. For this purpose, AF commands declaring range lands excess will submit a copy of the excess recommendation to the AFLC. Upon request, the DE will prepare and furnish a disposal planning report to the AF Logistics Command for assistance in making the economic study. The disposal planning report will include, but need not be limited to, the following:

(a) A map which depicts and annotates differing areas according to their estimated highest and best use.

(b) An appraisal report reflecting the fair market value of each of the differing areas based on their highest and best use, and based on the assumption that the lands are entirely free of dangerous materials or other contamination. AFLC will compare such evaluation with cost of decontamination work. While needed primarily in connection with the return of AF range lands to the public domain, economic studies may be made and disposal planning reports requested by the AF in other areas.

**§§ 644.536—644.539 [Reserved]**

SALE PROCEDURE

**§644.540 Advertising.**

(a) *Definition and Purposes.* GSA regulations require that disposal agencies shall widely publicize all surplus real property which becomes available for sale. Sales will be made to the highest

responsible bidder after advertising. Advertising consists of the preparation of Invitation for Bids, the posting of copies thereof in public places, their distribution to interested persons or prospective bidders, and publication of notice of sale in newspapers where such publication is deemed advisable or is required by this Subpart F. The purpose of advertising and obtaining competition in selling Government property is:

(1) To give all qualified persons equal opportunity to bid for the property.

(2) To secure for the Government the benefits which flow from competition.

(3) To prevent criticism that favoritism has been shown by officers or employees of the Government in making sales of public property.

(b) *Notice to Department of Commerce.* A condensed statement of proposed sales of surplus real property by advertising for competitive bids, except where the estimated fair market value of all the property included in the advertisement is less than \$5,000, shall be prepared for publication in the U.S. Department of Commerce publications, "Commerce Business Daily." Guideline is contained in the Defense Acquisition Regulation (DAR) 1-1005.1, (formerly the Armed Services Procurement Regulation). Forward statement to: U.S. Department of Commerce, Commerce Business Daily, P.O. Box 5999, Chicago, Illinois 60680.

(c) *Procedure.* Whether newspaper advertising in addition to distribution and posting of Invitation for Bids is desirable will depend upon the value of the property and in some instances the anticipated interest in the property. The ever-changing market requires different methods or efforts to obtain the best price for the Government. The time allowed for submission of bids will depend upon the time available, usually 30 days. If available, a longer period may be desirable based on value and other factors. A shorter period may be necessary and, in an emergency, a period of less than 10 days may be allowed. However, the contracting officer should make a record of written findings to support such a decision. If the emergency is based on requirements of the using command that appear questionable, a report with

recommendations should be forwarded to DAEN-REM by the most expeditious means.

(d) *Bidders Mailing Lists.* Instructions contained in procurement regulations are applicable generally for establishing, maintaining, and controlling bidders mailing lists (DAR 2-205). Generally, all proposed sales should be preceded by an advance notice, to eliminate disinterested bidders and as a measure of economy in printing and distributing voluminous Invitation for Bids. Notice to bidders will provide that their failure to respond to two successive sales offerings will result in the removal of their names from the bidders list. When time does not permit an advance notice, one copy of the Invitation may be sent to the potential bidder, which contains the following notice: "*Attention Bidders.* If interested in bidding on any or all items, three (3) additional copies will be furnished on request." The advance notice will describe the property offered and ordinarily provide that Invitation for Bids will be mailed on request or may be picked up at the installation or project at the time the property is inspected.

(e) *Inspection of the Property.* Upon request, interested persons should be permitted to make appropriate inspection of the property, including inventory records, plans, specifications, and engineering reports, subject to any restrictions necessary in the interest of national security and to such reasonable rules as may be prescribed by the using command or the DE.

**§ 644.541 Award of contract.**

(a) *Opening of Bids.* All bids shall be opened and publicly disclosed by a duly authorized representative of the responsible DE at the time and place stated in the Invitation and advertisements.

(b) *Award and Notice to Bidders.* Award shall be made with reasonable promptness by notice to the responsible bidder whose bid, conforming to the Invitation for Bids, will be most advantageous to the Government, price and other factors considered, provided that any or all bids may be rejected when it is in the public interest to do so. When an award is made, unsuccessful bidders should be notified promptly

and their earnest money deposits returned.

(c) *Equal Offers.* Equal offers mean two or more offers that are equal in all respects taking into consideration the best interests of the Government. When equal acceptable offers are received, award shall be made by a drawing by lot limited to the equal acceptable offers received (See also § 644.542.)

(d) *Public Auction.* When authorized by GSA, sales of surplus property may be made through contract auctioneers. Consideration should be given to auction sales when there is likely to be considerable interest in the property. GSA Regional Offices have had experience with actions, maintain lists of qualified auctioneers, are in a position to give other advice and assistance, and may authorize auction sales on behalf of GSA, pursuant to FPMR 101-47.304-7. Auctioneers retained under contract shall be required to publicly advertise for bids in accordance with applicable provisions of that regulation. The prior approval of DAEN-REM will be obtained before auction sales are undertaken.

**§ 644.542 Application of anti-trust laws.**

The Federal Property Act provides that real property and related personal property with an aggregate total cost of \$1,000,000 or more (or personal property with an acquisition cost of \$3,000,000 or more) or patents, processes, techniques, or inventions, regardless of cost, shall not be disposed of to any private interest until the advice of the Attorney General has been received as to whether the proposed disposal would tend to create or maintain a situation inconsistent with the anti-trust laws. Prior to obligating the Government on any such disposal, Division Engineers will furnish DAEN-REM information on the probable terms and conditions of the sale. DAEN-REM will use the information as the basis for a request to the Attorney General for advice. Under the provision cited, the Attorney General is allowed up to 60 days to furnish the advice requested. The Federal Property Management Regulation, § 101-47.301.2 provides guidance on the information to be furnished. Where indential bids