
MEETING AGENDA

AGC – Department of Veterans Affairs Meeting

2:15 PM – 4:00 PM

Welcoming Remarks and Introductions

Jason Hard
Chair, AGC Federal Facilities Committee

VA & USACE Discussion

VA Discussion

AGC Questions for VA/USACE

THE VA/USACE JOINT PROGRAM

- In 2015, Congress passed and the president signed into law a measure that requires another federal construction agency to execute projects above \$100 million for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). As it stands and to AGC's knowledge, USACE and the VA are working on a global agreement to determine which VA projects USACE will execute.
- Please name the existing VA projects for which USACE and VA know or have:
 - The status of the project in the study/design/construction process;
 - Established, firm agreements for execution (and which projects do not);
 - The various states of funding for those existing projects; and
 - Outlook for putting solicitations on the street.
- Where are USACE/VA in their negotiations on individual project/global project management agreements?
 - Will details of these agreements or arrangements be shared in writing with industry?
 - What are the most difficult issues to address or the issues that remain unresolved?
- Please explain the role the VA and USACE will have in various stages of the design and construction processes. For this topic, the agencies should consider touching upon:
 - Which agency will conduct project feasibility studies?

- Which agency is responsible for project design, project delivery method selection?
- Please explain the role of the agencies during procurement. Which agency conducts the design/construction procurement process?
- Which agency's rules apply when: DFARS or VAARS? USACE specs or VA specs? VA small business set-aside rules or USACE's?
- Please explain the role USACE/VA will have during construction when it comes to contract administration and project management decisions, i.e., change orders, construction scheduling, so forth.
 - Will there be any time restraints in place to help ensure timely decision making when the agencies communicate between one another during construction? How will contractors know which agency has ultimate authority on issues during execution? Will partnering be required?
 - How will decisions concerning medical equipment be made (identification, purchase and installation)?
 - Will there be representatives from both agencies on the construction site?
 - How will project closeout work? How does the custody transfer happen? Which agency makes decisions as to whether a project is substantially complete, so forth?
- A common feature in federal construction-regardless of the agency-is the need for the agency to effectively manage and communicate with end users.
 - How will VA/USACE manage the expectations/input of the end users? What is the pre- and post-contract award plan for this? How do the agencies prevent scope creep, failures to make timely decisions?
 - How will VA/USACE effectively communicate with the end users?
 - What role, if any, does VA/USACE see for the construction contractor to play in communicating with the end users-either before or after construction begins?
- USACE preforms both civil works and military construction work. AGC members are deeply concerned with USACE using civil works personnel-who may have very limited to no vertical construction experience-on complex hospital projects.
 - How will USACE ensure that it has qualified, experienced personnel on these complex medical facility projects? Will USACE utilize or establish centers of expertise? Hire CMs? Tap resources from Defense Health Agency?

**AGC-Department of Veterans Affairs Meeting
2018 Federal Contractors Conference
Pentagon City, VA
May 2, 2018**



- Building upon the previous inquiry, how will USACE hold Divisions and Districts accountable? Will HQ provide clear escalation ladders for when decisions need to be made or issues resolved?

VA/USACE Questions for AGC

VA/USACE questions for AGC?

General Questions

Open questions from the floor?

AGC Questions for VA CFM

AGENCY BUDGET UPDATE

- Please review the VA CFM FY 2017 and 2018 budgets and future projects in planning stage.
- Please comment on the VA's project backlog and the use of Enhanced Use Leases (EUL) as a delivery tool.

VA CFM EXECUTION OF PROJECTS BELOW \$100 MILLION AND ABOVE \$10 MILLION

- With the change noted above, what impact is this having on VA delivered projects, if any? What is the impact on VA construction program staff resources?

VA CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS

- In 2015, AGC put forth a host of internal improvements¹ the VA may consider to advance its construction program. Those improvements included: establishing decisions review boards; implementing recommendations from industry peer reviews; adoption of an RMS-type electronic construction management system; utilization of standardized VA facility designs, allowing for industry input on draft RFPs; instituting constructability reviews; and training for construction personnel. We understand that VA has implemented at least some of these suggested improvements and may be working on others. Please discuss what internal improvements are currently being implemented and the status of their implementation

VA SPECIFICATIONS

¹<http://newsmanager.commpartners.com/agefed/downloads/AGC%20Thank%20You%20Letter%20to%20Sec%20McDonald%20Gibson%20re%20Meeting.pdf>



- AGC members have noted that the VA's construction specifications may not always match specifications used in the private construction industry. Please explain the processes VA has in place to update its specifications.
 - Who does the VA engage with when updating VA specifications? Are construction contractors involved?
 - Is there any time given for public comment? If not, would the VA consider giving an opportunity for public comment on future updates to VA specs?

VA FIELD MANAGEMENT

- Please briefly describe the structure of the VA field management for a typical construction project. Which areas does the VA excel? Which areas does the VA believe can improve? AGC requests that contractors make suggestions for improvements to the structure.

VA SAFETY MANGEMENT

- AGC members have noted that it is sometimes difficult to follow the VA's safety management requirements. AGC understands that the VA has clarified its safety management. Please speak to the this updated guidance.

VA CFM Questions for AGC

VA CFM questions for AGC?

General Questions

Open questions from the floor?

AGC Questions for VA Minor Construction Program

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF MINOR CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM & AGENCY BUDGET UPDATE

- Please provide a general overview of the VA's Minor Construction Program.
- Please review the VA FY 2018 and 2019 budgets and future projects in planning stage.

OVERSIGHT OF VISNs

- How does VA HQ / VHA conduct oversight of VISNs in regard to their construction procurement and delivery programs under the minor construction program?

AGC CONCERNS WITH VISNs

- Many service disabled/veteran owned small business construction contractors have faced a number of issues with VISNs. These include:
 - VISN staff with little or no knowledge of the construction process (procurement/delivery); and

- Difficulties obtaining decisions during construction on project execution (e.g., change orders, REAs, schedule changes, so forth)

VA Minor Construction Program Questions for AGC

VA Minor Construction Program questions for AGC?

General Questions

Open questions from the floor?

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