

## § 12.115

noted in paragraph (a)(2) of this section: grants, cooperative agreements, scholarships, fellowships, contracts of assistance, loans, loan guarantees, subsidies, insurance, payments for specified use, donation agreements, Federal acquisition of a leasehold interest or any other interest in real property, concession contracts, dispositions of Federal real and personal property and natural resources, subawards, subcontracts and transactions at any tier that are charged as direct or indirect costs, regardless of type (including subtier awards under awards which are statutory entitlement or mandatory awards), and any other nonprocurement transactions between the Department and a person.

(b) *Relationship to other sections.* This section describes the types of transactions to which a debarment or suspension under the regulations will apply. Subpart B, "Effect of Action," §12.200, "Debarment or suspension," sets forth the consequences of a debarment or suspension. Those consequences would obtain only with respect to participants and principals in the covered transactions and activities described in §12.110(a). Sections 12.325, "Scope of debarment," and 12.420, "Scope of suspension," govern the extent to which a specific participant or organizational elements of a participant would be automatically included within a debarment or suspension action, and the conditions under which affiliates or persons associated with a participant may also be brought within the scope of the action.

(c) *Relationship to Federal procurement activities.* In accordance with E.O. 12689 and section 2455 of Public Law 103-355, any debarment, suspension, proposed debarment or other governmentwide exclusion initiated under the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) on or after August 25, 1995 shall be recognized by and effective for Executive Branch agencies and participants as an exclusion under this regulation. Similarly, any debarment, suspension or other governmentwide exclusion initiated under this regulation on or after August 25, 1995 shall be recognized by

## 43 CFR Subtitle A (10-1-02 Edition)

and effective for those agencies as a debarment or suspension under the FAR.

[53 FR 19199 and 19204, May 26, 1988, as amended at 60 FR 33041, 33061, June 26, 1995]

### § 12.115 Policy.

(a) In order to protect the public interest, it is the policy of the Federal Government to conduct business only with responsible persons. Debarment and suspension are discretionary actions that, taken in accordance with Executive Order 12549 and these regulations, are appropriate means to implement this policy.

(b) Debarment and suspension are serious actions which shall be used only in the public interest and for the Federal Government's protection and not for purposes of punishment. Agencies may impose debarment or suspension for the causes and in accordance with the procedures set forth in these regulations.

(c) When more than one agency has an interest in the proposed debarment or suspension of a person, consideration shall be given to designating one agency as the lead agency for making the decision. Agencies are encouraged to establish methods and procedures for coordinating their debarment or suspension actions.

### EFFECT OF ACTION

### § 12.200 Debarment or suspension.

(a) *Primary covered transactions.* Except to the extent prohibited by law, persons who are debarred or suspended shall be excluded from primary covered transactions as either participants or principals throughout the Executive Branch of the Federal Government for the period of their debarment, suspension, or the period they are proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4. Accordingly, no agency shall enter into primary covered transactions with such excluded persons during such period, except as permitted pursuant to §12.215.

(b) *Lower tier covered transactions.* Except to the extent prohibited by law, persons who have been proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, debarred or suspended shall be excluded from participating as either participants or principals in all lower

## Office of the Secretary, Interior

## § 12.225

tier covered transactions (see §12.110(a)(1)(ii)) for the period of their exclusion.

(c) *Exceptions.* Debarment or suspension does not affect a person's eligibility for—

(1) Statutory entitlements or mandatory awards (but not subtier awards thereunder which are not themselves mandatory), including deposited funds insured by the Federal Government;

(2) Direct awards to foreign governments or public international organizations, or transactions with foreign governments or foreign governmental entities, public international organizations, foreign government owned (in whole or in part) or controlled entities, and entities consisting wholly or partially of foreign governments or foreign governmental entities;

(3) Benefits to an individual as a personal entitlement without regard to the individual's present responsibility (but benefits received in an individual's business capacity are not excepted);

(4) Federal employment;

(5) Transactions pursuant to national or agency-recognized emergencies or disasters;

(6) Incidental benefits derived from ordinary governmental operations; and

(7) Other transactions where the application of these regulations would be prohibited by law.

(8) Transactions entered into pursuant to Public Law 93-638, 88 Stat. 2203.

(9) Under natural resources management programs, permits, licenses, exchanges and other acquisitions of real property, rights-of-way, and easements.

(10) Mineral patent claims entered into pursuant to 30 U.S.C. 33 *et seq.*

(11) Water service contracts and repayment contracts entered into pursuant to 43 U.S.C. 485.

[60 FR 33041, 33061, June 26, 1995]

### § 12.205 Ineligible persons.

Persons who are ineligible, as defined in §12.105(i), are excluded in accordance with the applicable statutory, Executive order, or regulatory authority.

### § 12.210 Voluntary exclusion.

Persons who accept voluntary exclusions under §12.315 are excluded in accordance with the terms of their settle-

ments. The Department of the Interior shall, and participants may, contact the original action agency to ascertain the extent of the exclusion.

### § 12.215 Exception provision.

The Department of the Interior may grant an exception permitting a debarred, suspended, or voluntarily excluded person, or a person proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, to participate in a particular covered transaction upon a written determination by the agency head or an authorized designee stating the reason(s) for deviating from the Presidential policy established by Executive Order 12549 and §12.200. However, in accordance with the President's stated intention in the Executive Order, exceptions shall be granted only infrequently. Exceptions shall be reported in accordance with §12.505(a).

[60 FR 33041, 33061, June 26, 1995]

### § 12.220 Continuation of covered transactions.

(a) Notwithstanding the debarment, suspension, proposed debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, determination of ineligibility, or voluntary exclusion of any person by an agency, agencies and participants may continue covered transactions in existence at the time the person was debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded. A decision as to the type of termination action, if any, to be taken should be made only after thorough review to ensure the propriety of the proposed action.

(b) Agencies and participants shall not renew or extend covered transactions (other than no-cost time extensions) with any person who is debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, ineligible or voluntarily excluded, except as provided in §12.215.

[60 FR 33041, 33061, June 26, 1995]

### § 12.225 Failure to adhere to restrictions.

(a) Except as permitted under §12.215 or §12.220, a participant shall not