

## **H.XX WORKFORCE RESTRUCTURING**

- (a) The Contractor shall regularly analyze workforce requirements and will develop appropriate workforce restructuring strategies to ensure continued availability of the critical workforce knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for performance under this Contract.
- (b) When the Contractor determines that a change in the workforce is necessary, the Contractor shall accomplish the workforce restructuring in a manner consistent with the DOE General Workforce Restructuring Plan, if applicable, in effect for the facility or site. The General Plan lays out how contractor workforce restructuring will be conducted at the applicable site in a manner that is consistent with DOE policy.

The Contractor is only required to provide notification of Self-Select Voluntary Separation Programs (SSVSP) of 100 or more if consistent with the following parameters: 1) in accordance with approved laboratory and contractor policies and contract requirements; 2) no enhanced benefits (severance or pension); 3) no backfilling or re-employment of employees for a one-year period after severance is paid; 4) business case submitted 5 business days in advance of notification date that includes maximum number of voluntary separations, maximum dollars, positions/skills impacted; reasons separations are needed, including how conducting a SSVSP will better position the contractor to conduct the mission work; copies of the self-select application and any employee waivers or releases of claims, and a communication plan; and 5) voluntary separations offered to employees in a non-discriminatory and legally compliant manner. There is no backfilling where a separating employee is replaced by an internal candidate so long as:

- (A) The separating employee is leaving voluntarily;
  - (B) The internal replacement is a regular, permanent employee on the contractor's payroll, not a temporary hire, staff augmentee, or someone serving under a post-doctoral program, or other short term program;
  - (C) The replacement results in a net reduction in headcount and costs of regular employees; and
  - (D) The replacement is accomplished in an otherwise legally compliant manner, including no unlawful intent to discriminate based upon age.
- (c) The Contractor shall ensure it does not hire or rehire individuals who volunteered for termination during a Self-Select Voluntary Separation Program, at any DOE or NNSA site, during the one-year period following the separation. If an employee is hired or rehired prior to the one-year period, the employee may be required to pay back, to the contractor who provided the severance payment, all or a pro-rata amount of the severance received under the Voluntary Separation Program.
  - (d) The Contractor must prepare and submit to the Contracting Officer a specific workforce restructuring plan (Specific Plan), as described below in paragraph (e), if the Contractor

intends to reduce its workforce by 100 or more employees through an involuntary separation action within a rolling 12-month period.

- (e) The Contractor's Specific Plan shall lay out how the Contractor will conduct its workforce restructuring action at the site. The Contractor's Specific Plan for reducing 100 or more employees through an involuntary separation action shall be submitted to the Contracting Officer for approval at least [The number of days may be changed based upon Program requirements.] days in advance of the first communication planned to be given to the employees and public. Any other Specific Plans must be submitted just in advance of the first communication planned to be given to the employees and public. The templates for contractor Involuntary Separation Plan, as well as the General Release and Waiver Forms, are available online at:  
<http://www.energy.gov/gc/services/technology-transfer-and-procurement/office-assistant-general-counsel-labor-and-pension>.
- (f) Pay-in-lieu of notice beyond two work-weeks requires written advance Contracting Officer approval. The Contractor shall submit the request to the Contracting Officer as part of the Workforce Restructuring package submitted for approval in (e) above, and include the number of days of pay-in-lieu of notice requested, above two work-weeks, a detailed business justification, and the associated costs.
- (g) The Contractor is encouraged to consider the use of employee waivers and releases. DOE has developed a model waiver and release of claims. The forms are available on line at the website set forth in (e) above. Any deviation from the models must be approved by the Contracting Officer.
- (h) The Contractor must perform an adverse impact analysis (also known as a diversity analysis) as part of its determination to undertake involuntary separation action(s). A copy of the diversity analysis for involuntary separation action(s) affecting 100 or more contractor employees within a rolling 12-month period shall be submitted to the Contracting Officer and DOE or National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) site counsel, as applicable, prior to notification of employees selected for involuntary separation.
- (i) The Contracting Officer will review and approve any Specific Plan or diversity analysis submitted for review affecting the reduction of 100 or more employees through an involuntary separation action within 10 business days after submission of a complete package by the Contractor unless the Contractor is notified of issues necessitating an extension of time. Should DOE request additional information from the Contractor regarding any Specific Plan or diversity analysis, the Contractor will respond to such request within 3 business days.
- (j) The Contractor is responsible and accountable for conducting and defending all voluntary and involuntary separation actions in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and the contract terms and conditions.

- (k) Questions of cost allowability related to: a) any SSVSPs for which the Contractor provides only notification, or b) any involuntary separation program(s) conducted without Contracting Officer approval will be resolved consistently with applicable laws and regulations and with the terms and conditions of this contract, including, but not limited to, Department of Energy Acquisition Regulation (DEAR) at 48 C.F.R. 952.231-71(f).