

**CLASS DEVIATION  
FINDINGS AND DETERMINATION  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ACQUISITION REGULATION (DEAR) PART 914 -  
SEALED BIDDING**

**Findings**

1. The objective of this class deviation is to update the Department of Energy Acquisition Regulation (DEAR) Part 914 - *Sealed Bidding* to implement the changes to the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 14 - *Sealed Bidding* by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council (FAR Council) through the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul (RFO) initiative and make other deregulatory revisions to DEAR Part 914 pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 14275, *Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement*.
2. On April 15, 2025, President Donald J. Trump issued E.O. 14275, *Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement*. Section 2 of the E.O. established the policy that the FAR “should only contain provisions required by statute or essential to sound procurement, and any FAR provisions that do not advance these objectives should be removed.”
3. On May 2, 2025, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued memorandum M-25-26, *Overhauling the Federal Acquisition Regulation*, initiating a major overhaul of the FAR (Revolutionary FAR Overhaul, or “RFO”). The memorandum tasked the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) with leading the RFO, in coordination with the other members of the FAR Council. The goal is to refocus the FAR on its statutory roots. To that end, the FAR is being updated to:
  - Remove language that is not required by statute
  - Remove duplicative or outdated language
  - Clarify or provide more plain language
  - Revise language for the new FAR framework
  - Retain language necessary for governmentwide acquisition standards

The OMB memorandum M-25-26 established a two phased approach to implement enterprise deregulation as follows: Phase one, FAR Council deviation guidance, and phase two, formal rulemaking. During phase one, the FAR Council issued plain language model deviation text for all applicable FAR parts.

4. On September 25, 2025, the FAR Council issued model deviation text for FAR Part 14 and the corresponding sections of FAR Part 52, which the Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) adopted through a class deviation (Attachment 3), issued via Policy Flash 2026-19 on January 2, 2026.
5. DOE, including NNSA, is implementing E.O. 14275 and the related FAR revisions from the RFO through updates to its FAR supplement (the DEAR) via class deviations. These class deviations update FAR references in the DEAR, and make additional substantive

changes, when necessary, driven by the RFO revisions to the relevant FAR parts, and the requirements of E.O. 14275 and OMB Memorandum M-25-26.

During phase one of the RFO – when the FAR is updated via class deviations incorporating the RFO model text – the DEAR will not be updated to align with the new FAR numbering structure. Once the RFO revisions to the FAR are finalized through formal rulemaking, the DEAR will be updated through formal rulemaking to align with the revised FAR numbering structure.

6. Accordingly, DEAR Part is revised to update internal references following the RFO, as implemented by DOE/NNSA class deviation, and make plain language edits to improve readability, including changes to the active voice. The plain language edits are not intended to change existing DEAR requirements, but rather to improve clarity pursuant to the federal plain language guidelines as directed by the Plain Writing Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111-274). Additionally, the DEAR is revised to replace the term “shall” with “must” or “will,” to impose requirements.

Specifically, DEAR Part 914 is updated to:

- a. Add new section 914.000 *Scope* to provide a notation that all references within Part 914 are to be read as implemented through the DOE and NNSA class deviation for FAR Part 14 that implemented the RFO for FAR Part 14. This avoids having to reference the DOE/NNSA class deviation for FAR Part 14 after every FAR reference, which breaks up the sentence structure, disrupts flow and hinders readability.
- b. Delete the content and mark as reserved section 914.502 *Conditions for use*, which prescribes the requirement for Head of the Contracting Activity approval of the use of two-step sealed bidding procedures. This requirement is not statutorily based and serves to limit contracting officer discretion, which is contrary to the RFO’s emphasis on promoting contracting officer discretion and responsibility.
- c. Reserve subpart 914.5—*Two-Step Sealed Bidding*, because the section under it is deleted pursuant to 6.b. above.

## **Determination**

In accordance with DEAR 901.404 *Class deviations*, to fully comply with the requirement of E.O. 14275 and the revised FAR Part 14 (Attachment 4), it is hereby determined that a class deviation is appropriate pursuant to OMB memorandum M-25-26 (Attachment 5), using the attached deviation text for DEAR Part 914 (Attachment 2). Specifically, DOE/NNSA will use the deviation text for Part 914 in lieu of 48 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 914. Once approved, the Department will share the deviation widely among its workforce to ensure full awareness of and compliance with the revisions to the affected regulations. This class deviation is effective upon issuance and will remain in effect until cancelled or incorporated into the DEAR.

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Attachments:

1. DEAR Part 914 Deviation Text – Track Changes
2. DEAR Part 914 Deviation Text – Final
3. Class Deviation to Adopt Revolutionary FAR Overhaul (RFO) Part 14 - Sealed Bidding
4. RFO FAR Part 14 Model Deviation Text
5. OMB Memorandum M-25-26, *Overhauling the Federal Acquisition Regulation*