

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**GENERAL SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION****NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND
SPACE ADMINISTRATION****48 CFR Part 12, 14, 15, 26, 36, and 52****[FAR Case 97-603]****RIN 9000-AH58****Federal Acquisition Regulation;
Empowerment Contracting**

AGENCIES: Department of Defense (DoD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Withdrawal of proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Civilian Agency Acquisition Council and the Defense Acquisition Regulations Council have decided to withdraw FAR case 97-603, Empowerment Contracting, published in the **Federal Register** at 62 FR 19200,

April 18, 1997. The rule proposed to amend the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to establish phase one of an Empowerment Contracting Program that provided procurement incentives to both large and small businesses to encourage their activity in areas of general and severe economic distress. That action was taken to implement Executive Order 13005 of May 21, 1996, Empowerment Contracting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The FAR Secretariat, Room 4035, GS Building, Washington, DC 20405, (202) 501-4755, for information pertaining to status or publication schedules. For clarification of content, contact Ms. Victoria Moss, Procurement Analyst, at (202) 501-4764. Please cite FAR case 97-603, Empowerment Contracting; Withdrawal.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**A. Background**

Executive Order 13005 established the Empowerment Contracting Program to

encourage business activity in areas of general economic distress by providing procurement incentives to qualified businesses. This initiative has been effectively superseded by the HUBZone Act of 1997, enacted on December 2, 1997, and the subsequent implementation of Sections 601-607 of the Act in the Federal Acquisition Regulation under FAR case 97-307, HUBZone Program. An interim rule was published in the **Federal Register** on December 12, 1998 (63 FR 70265). Therefore, the proposed rule for FAR case 97-603 is withdrawn.

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Parts 12, 14, 15, 26, 36, and 52

Government procurement.

Dated: July 20, 1999.

Edward C. Loeb,

Director, Federal Acquisition Policy Division.

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