

Lucy Manheim <lmanheim@yahoo.com>
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To: David C. Childs A-76comments/OMB/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Comment on A-76 process at USGS

Some support functions at the USGS should indeed be handled by private contractors--food services, upkeep of the grounds and building, physical security of personnel and facilities, for example. Even printing and sales of products can be handled effectively by private companies. However, all research functions and support of research, data collection, analysis, publications (up to printing; the government printing office is expensive, antiquated, and slow), answering of questions, etc., should be handled by government employees. Government employees should be managed and supervised with accountability in mind so that deadwood does not collect here and there and give the fine cadre of workers a bad reputation.

I am well acquainted with contracting out some of the services now versus having government employees handle the same services/functions before, and there is no doubt in my mind that there were better products before and certainly less waste of taxpayers money. Contractors cost a lot more overall and do not give better service generally, except perhaps in timeliness. One of the worst problems is lack of continuity of service and data; we are always having to hire and train training new contractors. That is a major waste of time and money.

L. Manheim
13126 Pebble Lane
Fairfax, VA 22033

703-631-0166
lmanheim@yahoo.com

I am making these comments as a private citizen and therefore do not wish to reveal my work name or affiliation.

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Lucy McCartan Manheim

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