

the Headquarters level or those specific HCA protests cited in paragraph (i)(1) of this section) or an HCA (for protests at the contracting activity level) will render a decision on a protest within 35 calendar days, unless a longer period of time is determined to be needed.

[51 FR 31336, Sept. 3, 1986, as amended at 67 FR 14871, Mar. 28, 2002]

933.104 Protests to GAO. (DOE coverage—paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (g))

(a)(2) The contracting officer shall provide the notice of protest.

(b) *Protests before award.* (1) When the Department has received notice from the GAO of a protest filed directly with the GAO, a contract may not be awarded until the matter is resolved, unless authorized by the Head of the Contracting Activity in accordance with FAR 33.104(b). Before the Head of the Contracting Activity authorizes the award, the required finding shall be concurred in by the DOE counsel handling the protest, endorsed by the Senior Program Official, and approved by the Procurement Executive. The finding shall address the likelihood that the protest will be sustained by the GAO.

(c) *Protests after award.* Before the Head of the Contracting Activity authorizes performance, the finding required by FAR 33.104(c)(2) shall be concurred in by the DOE counsel handling

the protest, endorsed by the Senior Program Official, and approved by the Procurement Executive.

(g) *Notice to GAO.* (1) The report to the GAO regarding a decision not to comply with the GAO's recommendation, discussed at FAR 33.104(f), shall be provided by the HCA making the award, after approval of the Procurement Executive. If a DOE-wide policy issue is involved, the report shall be provided by the Procurement Executive.

(2) It is the policy of the Department to comply promptly with recommendations set forth in Comptroller General Decisions except for compelling reasons.

(3) The GAO does not have jurisdiction to consider subcontractor protests. 933.106 Solicitation provisions.

933.106 Solicitation provisions.

(a) The contracting officer shall supplement the provision at FAR 52.233-2, Service of Protest, in solicitations for other than simplified acquisitions by adding the provision at 48 CFR 952.233-2.

(b) The contracting officer shall include the provision at 48 CFR 952.233-4 in solicitations for purchases above the simplified acquisition threshold.

(c) The contracting officer shall include the provision at 48 CFR 952.233-5 in solicitations for purchases above the simplified acquisition threshold.