This is in reference to Roger Thompson’s October 8, 2013 email message that forwarded an SEP-14 workplan and related information from the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) to evaluate the use of State small procurement procedures on various preventive maintenance contracts at rest areas throughout Vermont. The work plan is approved under our SEP-14 innovative contracting experimental program subject to your resolution of the following issues with VTrans:

a) VTrans must provide an assurance that geographic preferences will not be used in the solicitation of price quotations. The solicitation must be open to in-State and out of State contractors alike;

b) VTrans should provide an explanation of the steps it will take to ensure opportunities are made available to Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms and that DBEs are not excluded from any of these simplified procedures; and

c) The SEP-14 evaluations should provide:
   o a comparison of the cost, schedule and quality obtained through small procurement procedures versus the estimated cost, schedule and quality obtained under a traditional procurement procedures;
   o an assessment of impacts on DBE firms and small businesses; and
   o an assessment of the impact on industry as a whole, including whether there are potential opportunities for small procurement procedures for other work types in VTrans construction program.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this SEP-14 request. Should you have any questions, please contact Gerald Yakowenko at (202) 366-1562.