

Davis



Comptroller General  
of the United States  
Washington, D.C. 20548

# Decision

**Matter of:** Vocational Resources, Inc.

**File:** B-270182

**Date:** December 4, 1995

## DECISION

Vocational Resources, Inc. protests the award of a contract to the Sand Creek Group Ltd. under request for proposals No. R1-95-22, issued by the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. The protester received a redacted copy of the agency report on November 8, 1995. On November 16, GAO admitted protester's counsel to a protective order issued in the protest. In so doing, GAO directed the contracting agency to furnish any withheld, protected documents to protester's counsel by November 20 and instructed the protester to file comments on the agency report within 10 days (by November 30). The protester has failed to do so.

We dismiss the protest because the protester failed to file its comments on the agency report within 10 days after receiving documents initially withheld from the agency report, as required by the Bid Protest Regulations, Section 21.3(g), 60 Fed. Reg. 40, 737, 40,741 (Aug. 10, 1995) (to be codified at 4 C.F.R. § 21.3(g)).

The filing deadlines in our Regulations are prescribed under the authority of the Competition in Contracting Act of 1984; their purpose is to enable us to comply with the statute's mandate that we resolve protests expeditiously. See 31 U.S.C. § 3554(a); Green Management Corp.—Recon. B-233598.2, Feb. 27, 1989, 89-1 CPD ¶ 208. To avoid delay in the resolution of protests, our Regulations provide that a protester's failure to file comments within 10 days of receiving documents initially withheld from the agency report, or to file a request that the protest be decided on the existing record, or to request an extension of the time for submitting comments, will result in dismissal of the protest. Section 21.3(g), 60 Fed. Reg. supra; section 21.3(h), 60 Fed. Reg. 40,737, 40,741 (Aug. 10, 1995) (to be codified at 4 C.F.R. § 21.3(h)); Prio-Leau Culinary Servs., Inc.—Recon., B-236373.6, Jan. 23, 1990, 90-1 CPD ¶ 90. But for these provisions, a protester could idly await receipt of the report for an indefinite time, to the detriment of the protest system and our ability to resolve the protest expeditiously. Id.

The protest is dismissed.

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