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DECISION



**THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL
OF THE UNITED STATES**
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20548

FILE: B-201613.2

DATE: January 27, 1982

MATTER OF: Brumm Construction Company

DIGEST:

In the absence of specific statutory authorization or judicial precedent, attorneys' fees and related costs of pursuing a complaint regarding the award of a contract under a Federal grant will not be allowed.

Brumm Construction Company (Brumm) requests that we direct the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to reimburse it for the costs, including attorneys' fees, of pursuing a grant complaint regarding a procurement under an EPA construction grant. Brumm's complaint was sustained by this Office in our decision B-201613, October 6, 1981, 81-2 CPD 280. Brumm believes that in the absence of such reimbursement, claimants will be dissuaded from bringing illegal actions to the attention of our Office. We find no legal basis to award these costs. This Office will not award the cost of pursuing a bid protest in direct Federal procurements because of the absence of specific legal authority to do so. T & H Company, 54 Comp. Gen. 1021 (1975), 75-1 CPD 345. In this respect, we are not aware of any statute or binding judicial precedent that authorizes such an award. Similarly, we are not aware of any legal authority that would permit us to sanction the payment of these costs in proceedings involving complaints pertaining to the award of contracts under Federal grants.

The request is denied.

Wilton J. Jordan

Acting Comptroller General
of the United States