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United States General Accounting Office
Washington, DC 20548

Office of
General Counsel

In Reply
Refer to: B-196344

January 30, 1980

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Mr. Strat Valakis
FAR Project Review Coordinator
Office of Federal Procurement Policy
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Mr. Valakis:

By letter dated October 1, 1979, you transmitted for our comment a draft segment of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). The segment covers Part 10 - Specifications, Standards, and Other Product Descriptions and Part 11 - Acquisition and Distribution of Commercial Products. Our comments follow.

Part 10 - Specifications, Standards, and Other Product Descriptions.

FAR 10.008 (a) - Identification and Availability of Product Descriptions.

The proposed section indicates that product descriptions should not normally be furnished with solicitations but does not indicate when it might be appropriate to do so. Currently Defense Acquisition Regulation (DAR) 1-1203.2(b) (1976 ed.) lists the circumstances under which specifications listed in the DODISS may be provided with solicitations. We believe similar guidance as to when product descriptions may be provided with solicitations might be useful to contracting officers and would appear to be an appropriate addition to the FAR. We have no further comment on the proposed FAR segment.

Sincerely yours,

Milton J. Socolar
General Counsel

