

**To Whom It May Concern:**

**SUSPENSION OF DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) FIRMS**

Date: September 7, 2016

This is a reminder that the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE) shall immediately suspend a DBE's certification for the reasons listed in 49 CFR.

A DBE whose certification is suspended will remain in the Directory of Certified Firms available on the OMWBE page however suspension constitutes decertification and therefore a suspended DBE does not count toward goals on contracts. Per 1-07.11 of the Contract Provisions, "When a DBE is "decertified" or "graduates" from the DBE program during the course of the Contract, the participation of that DBE shall continue to count towards the DBE COA Goals as long as the subcontract with the DBE was executed prior to the decertification notice. The Contractor is obligated to substitute when a DBE does not have an executed subcontract agreement at the time of decertification/graduation."

Because of this, contractors should check a DBE firm's status prior to their use for COA or substitution.

OMWBE recently enhanced its Directory of Certified Firms so that the suspension information is more prominent. Suspended DBE firms will have a notation in their Description of Work that reads: "\*Federal certification currently suspended\*." A complete listing of suspended DBE Firms is available at:

<http://omwbe.wa.gov/directory-of-certified-firms/>.