

## § 2804.22

with prudent and appropriate management of public lands and with your equitable interests or the equitable interests of the United States.

(b) *Fee determination.* With your written application, submit your analysis of how each of the factors, as applicable, in paragraph (a) of this section pertain to your application. BLM will notify you in writing of the BLM State Director's fee determination. You may appeal this decision under § 2801.10 of this part.

### **§ 2804.22 How will the availability of funds affect the timing of BLM's processing?**

If BLM has insufficient funds to process your application, we will not process it until funds become available or you elect to pay full actual costs under § 2804.14(f) of this part.

### **§ 2804.23 What if there are two or more competing applications for the same facility or system?**

(a) If there are two or more competing applications for the same facility or system and your application is in:

(1) *Processing Category 1 through 4.* You must reimburse BLM for processing costs as if the other application or applications had not been filed.

(2) *Processing Category 6.* You are responsible for processing costs identified in your application. If BLM cannot readily separate costs, such as costs associated with preparing environmental analyses, you and any competing applicants must pay an equal share or a proportion agreed to in writing among all applicants and BLM. If you agree to share costs that are common to your application and that of a competing applicant, and the competitor does not pay the agreed upon amount, you are liable for the entire amount due. The applicants must pay the entire processing fee in advance. BLM will not process your application until we receive the advance payments.

(b) *Who determines whether competition exists?* BLM determines whether the ap-

## 43 CFR Ch. II (10–1–05 Edition)

plications are compatible in a single right-of-way system or are competing applications for the same system.

(c) If BLM determines that competition exists, BLM will describe the procedures for a competitive bid through a bid announcement in a newspaper of general circulation in the area affected by the potential right-of-way and by a notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

### **§ 2804.24 Do I always have to submit an application for a grant using Standard Form 299?**

You do not have to file an application using Standard Form 299 if:

(a) BLM determines that competition exists (*see* § 2804.23(c) of this subpart); or

(b) You are an oil and gas operator. You may include your right-of-way requirements for a FLPMA grant as part of your Application for Permit to Drill or Sundry Notice under the regulations in parts 3160 through 3190 of this chapter.

### **§ 2804.25 How will BLM process my application?**

(a) BLM will notify you in writing when it receives your application and will identify your processing fee described at § 2804.14 of this subpart.

(b) BLM may require you to submit additional information necessary to process the application. This information may include a detailed construction, operation, rehabilitation, and environmental protection plan, *i.e.*, a "Plan of Development," and any needed cultural resource surveys or inventories for threatened or endangered species. If BLM needs more information, we will identify this information in a written deficiency notice asking you to provide the additional information within a specified period of time. BLM will notify you of any other grant applications which involve all or part of the lands for which you applied.

(c) *Customer service standard.* BLM will process your completed application as follows:

Processing category	Processing time	Conditions
1-4 .....	60 calendar days .....	If processing your application will take longer than 60 calendar days, BLM will notify you in writing of this fact prior to the 30th calendar day and inform you of when you can expect a final decision on your application.
5 .....	As specified in the Master Agreement.	BLM will process applications as specified in the Agreement.
6 .....	Over 60 calendar days .....	BLM will notify you in writing within the initial 60-day processing period of the estimated processing time.

(d) Before issuing a grant, BLM will:

(1) Complete a NEPA analysis for the application or approve a NEPA analysis previously completed for the application, as required by 40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508;

(2) Determine whether or not your proposed use complies with applicable Federal and state laws;

(3) If your application is for a road, determine whether it is in the public interest to require you to grant the United States an equivalent authorization across lands that you own;

(4) Consult, as necessary, with other governmental entities;

(5) Hold public meetings if sufficient public interest exists to warrant their time and expense. BLM will publish a notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER, a newspaper of general circulation in the vicinity of the lands involved, or both, announcing in advance any public hearings or meetings; and

(6) Take any other action necessary to fully evaluate and decide whether to approve or deny your application.

**§ 2804.26 Under what circumstances may BLM deny my application?**

(a) BLM may deny your application if:

(1) The proposed use is inconsistent with the purpose for which BLM manages the public lands described in your application;

(2) The proposed use would not be in the public interest;

(3) You are not qualified to hold a grant;

(4) Issuing the grant would be inconsistent with the Act, other laws, or these or other regulations;

(5) You do not have or cannot demonstrate the technical or financial capability to construct the project or operate facilities within the right-of-way; or

(6) You do not adequately comply with a deficiency notice (*see* §2804.25(b) of this subpart) or with any BLM requests for additional information needed to process the application.

(b) If BLM denies your application, you may appeal this decision under §2801.10 of this part.

**§ 2804.27 What fees do I owe if BLM denies my application or if I withdraw my application?**

If BLM denies your application or you withdraw it, you owe the processing fee set forth at §2804.14 of this subpart, unless you have a Processing Category 5 or 6 application. Then, the following conditions apply:

(a) If BLM denies your Processing Category 5 or 6 application, you are liable for all reasonable costs that the United States incurred in processing it. The money you have not paid is due within 30 calendar days after receiving a bill for the amount due.

(b) You may withdraw your application in writing before BLM issues a grant. If you do so, you are liable for all reasonable processing costs the United States has incurred up to the time you withdraw the application and for the reasonable costs of terminating your application. Any money you have not paid is due within 30 calendar days after receiving a bill for the amount due. Any money you paid that is not used to cover costs the United States incurred as a result of your application will be refunded to you.

**§ 2804.28 What processing fees must I pay for a BLM grant application associated with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licenses or re-license applications under part I of the Federal Power Act (FPA)?**

(a) You must reimburse BLM for the costs which the United States incurs in