

(c) BLM will revise paragraph (b) of this section to update the processing fees for Categories 1 through 4 in the schedule each calendar year, based on the previous year's change in the IPD-GDP, as measured second quarter to second quarter. BLM will round these changes to the nearest dollar. BLM will update Category 5 processing fees as specified in the Master Agreement. You also may obtain a copy of the current schedule from any BLM state or field office or by writing: Director, BLM, 1849 C St., NW., Mail Stop 1000LS, Washington, DC 20240. BLM also posts the current schedule on the BLM Homepage on the Internet at <http://www.blm.gov>.

(d) After an initial review of your application, BLM will notify you of the processing category into which your application fits. You must then submit the appropriate payment for that category before BLM begins processing your application. Your signature on a cost recovery Master Agreement constitutes your agreement with the processing category decision. If you disagree with the category that BLM has determined for your application, you may appeal the decision under § 2801.10 of this part. For Processing Categories 5 and 6 applications, see §§ 2804.17, 2804.18, and 2804.19 of this subpart. If you paid the processing fee and you appeal a Processing Category 1 through 4 or a Processing Category 6 determination, BLM will process your application while the appeal is pending. If IBLA finds in your favor, you will receive a refund or adjustment of your processing fee.

(e) In processing your application, BLM may determine at any time that the application requires preparing an EIS. If this occurs, BLM will send you a decision changing your processing category to Processing Category 6. You may appeal this decision under § 2801.10 of this part.

(f) To expedite processing of your application, you may notify BLM in writing that you are waiving paying reasonable costs and are electing to pay the full actual costs incurred by BLM in processing your application and monitoring your grant.

**§ 2804.15 When does BLM reevaluate the processing and monitoring fees?**

BLM reevaluates the processing and monitoring fees (see § 2805.16 of this part) for each category and the categories themselves within 5 years after they go into effect and at 10-year intervals after that. When reevaluating processing and monitoring fees, BLM considers all factors that affect the fees, including, but not limited to, any changes in:

- (a) Technology;
- (b) The procedures for processing applications and monitoring grants;
- (c) Statutes and regulations relating to the right-of-way program; or
- (d) The IPD-GDP.

**§ 2804.16 Who is exempt from paying processing and monitoring fees?**

You are exempt from paying processing and monitoring fees if:

- (a) You are a state or local government, or an agency of such a government, and BLM issues the grant for governmental purposes benefitting the general public. If your principal source of revenue results from charges you levy on customers for services similar to those of a profit-making corporation or business, you are not exempt; or
- (b) Your application under this subpart is associated with a cost-share road or reciprocal right-of-way agreement.

**§ 2804.17 What is a Master Agreement (Processing Category 5) and what information must I provide to BLM when I request one?**

(a) A Master Agreement (Processing Category 5) is a written agreement covering processing and monitoring fees (see § 2805.16 of this part) negotiated between BLM and you that involves multiple BLM grant approvals for projects within a defined geographic area.

(b) Your request for a Master Agreement must:

- (1) Describe the geographic area covered by the Agreement and the scope of the activity you plan;
- (2) Include a preliminary work plan. This plan must state what work you must do and what work BLM must do to process your application. Both parties must periodically update the work