

**DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS)**

ASSISTANCE DETERMINATION AND FINDINGS

Upon the basis of the following findings and determination, the proposed transactions described below may be executed as cooperative agreements pursuant to the authority of Section 7(a) of the Act of 41 USC 506, as implemented by final OMB Guidance for “Implementation of Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-224),” dated August 18, 1978. The authority to enter into this agreement is the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, P.L. 99-662, inclusive of Section 1103 the Upper Mississippi River Management Act of 1986, as amended.

Findings

The Upper Mississippi River Restoration (UMRR) program Long Term Resource Monitoring (LTRM) element cooperating partners will conduct resource component monitoring at selected sites along the Upper Mississippi River System through field stations operated by the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri. Data will be collected in accordance with the LTRM procedures manual. The anticipated awards will be for a base year and four renewal years, with an estimated start date of October 01, 2023. The total estimated amount of these actions, including renewal years, is \$32,783,000.00.

The principal purpose of this Cooperative Agreement is to provide the Upper Mississippi River System resource managers with the best scientific information available for sound decision making and to provide those decision makers with the information needed to maintain the Upper Mississippi River System as a viable multiple-use large river ecosystem. The long-term monitoring goals of the Program are to understand the system, determine resource trends and impacts, develop management alternatives, manage information, and develop useful products.

Determination

It is hereby determined that the proposed transactions are assistance versus contractual. This is because they will accomplish a public purpose of support resulting in field monitoring and analysis which will provide the Upper Mississippi River System resource managers with the best scientific information available for sound decision making. Awards are more appropriately Cooperative Agreements than Grants because significant involvement of the USGS is anticipated.

Based upon the above authorities and findings of fact, the undersigned Grant Specialist hereby determines that the use of Cooperative Agreements are the most appropriate instruments for the proposed transactions.

Tania Cerda
Grant Specialist