

## 41.204 GSA areawide contracts.

(a) *Purpose.* GSA enters into areawide contracts (see [41.101](#)) for use by *Federal agencies*. Areawide contracts provide a pre-established contractual vehicle for ordering utility services under the conditions in paragraph (c)(1) of this section.

(b) Features.

(1) Areawide contracts generally provide for ordering utility service at rates approved and/or established by a regulatory body and published in a tariff or rate schedule. However, agencies are permitted to negotiate other rates and terms and conditions of service with the supplier (see paragraph (c) of this section). Rates other than those published *may* require the approval of the regulatory body.

(2) Areawide contracts are negotiated with utility service suppliers for the provision of service within the supplier's franchise territory or service area.

(3) Due to the regulated nature of the utility industry, as well as statutory restrictions associated with the *procurement* of electricity (see [41.201\(d\)](#)), competition is typically not available within the entire geographical area covered by an areawide contract, although it *may* be available at specific locations within the utility's service area. When competing suppliers are available, the provisions of paragraph (c)(1) of this section apply.

(c) Procedures for obtaining service.

(1) Any *Federal agency* having a requirement for utility services within an area covered by an areawide contract *shall* acquire services under that areawide contract unless-

(i) Service is available from more than one supplier, or

(ii) The *head of the contracting activity* or designee otherwise determines that use of the areawide contract is not advantageous to the Government. If service is available from more than one supplier, service *shall* be acquired using competitive *acquisition* procedures (see [41.202\(a\)](#)). The determination required by paragraph (c)(1)(ii) of this section *shall* be documented in the contract file with an information copy furnished to GSA at the address in [41.301\(a\)](#).

(2) Each areawide contract includes an authorization form for ordering service, connection, disconnection, or change in service. Upon execution of an authorization by the *contracting officer* and utility supplier, the utility supplier is required to furnish services, without further negotiation, at the current, applicable published or unpublished rates, unless other rates, and/or terms and conditions are separately negotiated by the *Federal agency* with the supplier.

(3) The *contracting officer shall* execute the Authorization, and attach it to a [Standard Form \(SF\) 26](#), Award/Contract, along with any modifications such as connection charges, special facilities, or service arrangements. The *contracting officer shall* also attach any specific fiscal, operational, and administrative requirements of the agency, applicable rate schedules, technical information and detailed maps or drawings of delivery points, details on Government ownership, maintenance, or repair of facilities, and other information deemed necessary to fully define the service conditions in the Authorization/contract.

(d) *List of areawide contracts.* A list of current GSA areawide contracts is available from the GSA office specified at [41.301\(a\)](#). The list identifies the types of services and the geographic area served. A copy of the contract *may* also be obtained from this office.

(e) *Notification.* Agencies *shall* provide GSA at the address specified at [41.301\(a\)](#) a copy of each [SF 26](#) and executed Authorization issued under an areawide contract within 30 days after execution.

**Parent topic:** [Subpart 41.2 - Acquiring Utility Services](#)