

September 13, 2012

The Honorable Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member, U.S. House of Representatives  
400 N. 8th Street, Suite 430  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Representative Scott:

Thank you for your follow-up inquiry on behalf of Mr. Christopher Coleson, Vice President of Operation, NEIE, Inc., regarding his concerns related to an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) solicitation for which the contracting officer has asked the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to perform a Certificate of Competency review (COC).

Contracting officers can request that SBA perform a COC review when there is a concern related to a small business' responsibility to perform a specific contract. Once requested, the Agency performs an independent review which results in either granting or denying a COC. If granted, the contracting officer must proceed with an award. If denied, the contracting officer can make an award to another firm.

In order to provide you with the most current information, the Industrial Specialist (IS) who was assigned to perform the COC request has confirmed the status of the COC case. The EPA contracting official has requested SBA remove suspended action on making a COC decision. Previously, the EPA contracting official requested SBA suspend action on making a COC decision. Because COCs are performed by SBA when requested by a contracting officer, the Agency IS will proceed with the COC review at the request of the contracting officer. We anticipate a final decision by the later part of next week.

We appreciate your support of the SBA and the Virginia small business community. If you and your staff have any questions, you can contact the SBA Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs at (202) 205-6700.

Sincerely,

Kenneth W. Dodds  
Director  
Office of Government Contracting