

## 35.017-4 Reviewing FFRDC's.

(a) The *sponsor*, prior to extending the contract or agreement with an FFRDC, *shall* conduct a comprehensive review of the use and need for the FFRDC. The review will be coordinated with any co-sponsors and *may* be performed in conjunction with the budget process. If the *sponsor* determines that its sponsorship is no longer appropriate, it *shall* apprise other agencies which use the FFRDC of the determination and afford them an opportunity to assume sponsorship.

(b) Approval to continue or terminate the sponsorship *shall* rest with the head of the sponsoring agency. This determination *shall* be based upon the results of the review conducted in accordance with paragraph (c) of this subsection.

(c) An FFRDC review *should* include the following:

(1) An examination of the *sponsor's* special technical needs and mission requirements that are performed by the FFRDC to determine if and at what level they continue to exist.

(2) Consideration of alternative sources to meet the *sponsor's* needs.

(3) An assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of the FFRDC in meeting the *sponsor's* needs, including the FFRDC's ability to maintain its objectivity, independence, quick response capability, currency in its field(s) of expertise, and familiarity with the needs of its *sponsor*.

(4) An assessment of the adequacy of the FFRDC management in ensuring a cost-effective operation.

(5) A determination that the criteria for establishing the FFRDC continue to be satisfied and that the sponsoring agreement is in compliance with [35.017-1](#).

**Parent topic:** [35.017 Federally Funded Research and Development Centers](#).