

The 2004 Blue Book

INTRODUCTION

The Working Capital Fund (Fund) creates a market-like financial framework for common administrative services, allowing customers to become cost-conscious in selecting the mix and level of support that will best service the mission needs of their organization. As is the case in other intra-governmental services funds, the success of the Fund in reducing the costs of this support is linked directly to the ability of customers to understand the resource implications of their choices. That is, customers need to know the flexibility afforded them on selecting supply sources, volumes, and quality, and the budget effects of these selections. In the DOE Working Capital Fund, the relationships between customer choices and costs are embodied in “pricing policies” established by the Working Capital Fund Board.

The purpose of the Blue Book is to describe the current pricing policies of the Working Capital Fund Board in ways that support customer understanding of individual and collective choices. The first Blue Book was prepared in 1997, shortly after creation of the Fund, as a way of collecting, in a single hard-copy volume, all relevant WCF information for use by customers, suppliers, and the Fund staff itself. Over time, as the Fund matured, the volume expanded to cover financial procedures, changes in Board membership, new budget projections, and the like.

With advances in the use of web-based technology, we are moving this year to an electronic, rather than hard-copy, format. Most of the separate “businesses” in the Fund maintain web sites in conjunction with their parent organizations, and we have moved to electronic billing for the Fund itself. Most of the background material in the previous Blue Book editions has already been reorganized on the WCF home page <http://ma.mbe.doe.gov/wcf/>. We are trying to convert the business-specific Blue Book material to a more accessible form, with links to other home pages.

We welcome questions and comments, either about current service offerings and pricing policies or about the format and content of the Blue Book itself. Simply put, we cannot achieve our communication objectives if we do not know what you, the reader/customer, need. Please feel free to contact Howard Borgstrom (6-5923), Bob Emond (6-3254), Roscoe Harris (6-5527) or any of the business line points-of-contact listed in the text.

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