

MEMA Policy on Individual Meetings with Contractors

The fundamental principle of the competitive bidding process is that all bidders must be treated alike. When it comes to meeting with a private company, issues arise concerning the appearance of impropriety or favoritism. As a matter of public policy, MEMA will not hold any meeting that could create an appearance of impropriety (or where one is likely to arise), resulting in reasonable suspicion among the public regarding the integrity of the MEMA. Therefore, MEMA will not schedule individual meetings with contractors.

All communication with potential respondents to requests for proposals or bids and contractors with interests in state contracts shall be made only through Edward Williams, Support Services Branch Director.

To achieve the purpose of this policy, it is essential that those doing business with the State of Mississippi also observe the ethical standards prescribed herein.

Note: A contractor that contacts someone other than purchasing staff regarding contracts may be disqualified.

References:

Miss. Code Ann. §§ 25-4-101, 31-7-11
DFA Procurement Manual 9.102, 9.104, 9.106.02, 9.110
PSCRB Rules and Regulations 3-103, 6-101 (j)(3), 6-203
AG Opinion 2013-00057
MS Ethics Advisory Opinion 02-111-E