

**DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR**  
**U.S. Bureau of Reclamation**  
**Buy America Nonavailability Project Level Waiver**  
**Columbia Basin Project: SCADA System**

**1. Summary**

Agency: Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)

Proposed Waiver: USBR is proposing a product nonavailability waiver of the requirements of section 70914 of the Build America, Buy America Act included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. No. 117-58) for the use of non-domestic servers, storage, networking equipment, radio equipment, Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs) and related components, and propane generators for the modernization of the Columbia Basin Project (CBP) Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system funded through the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District. This waiver is in effect for the duration of the project.

Waiver type: Nonavailability of domestic products of satisfactory quantity or quality.

Waiver level: Project level waiver.

Waiver justification summary: Electronic equipment and other manufactured products required for this project are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of satisfactory quality.

Length of the waiver: From the effective date of the final waiver until the end of the project. Construction is planned from 2026 through 2030.

Summary of items covered: Servers, storage, and network devices; communications equipment, Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC) and related components, and propane generators.

Summary of Project: The existing CBP SCADA system is over 30 years old and in need of replacement. The system spans across over 180 individual sites and allows for operations and monitoring of hundreds of miles of large canals and laterals as well as monitoring capability of approximately 60 pumping plant sites. Altogether, the CBP SCADA system facilitates irrigation district operation of facilities that deliver approximately 3.5-million-acre-feet of water annually to approximately 690,000 irrigated acres. The need for CBP SCADA modernization was highlighted by internal and external audits that culminated in over 40 Plans of Action and Milestones (audit findings). The main aspects driving the need for modernization are: Information Technology (IT) security requirements that are difficult and/or impossible to effectively achieve in the current outdated SCADA configuration; system components that are no longer supported and that have no commercially available replacement parts; the inability of the existing system configuration to support expansion of sites and enhancement of capabilities such as remote operation of pumping plants; and the need to establish a clear lifecycle maintenance/replacement schedule that will alleviate future

unsupported system component issues. Additionally, the CBP SCADA system requires remote access to promote effective and efficient operation of the CBP. This remote access scenario only occurs in a couple known examples across USBR.

## **2. Background**

The Buy America Preference set forth in section 70914 of the Build America, Buy America Act included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. No. 117-58), requires all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used for infrastructure projects under Federal financial assistance awards be produced in the United States.

Under section 70914(b), the Department of the Interior may waive the application of the Buy America Preference, in any case in which it finds that: applying the domestic content procurement preference would be inconsistent with the public interest; types of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality; or the inclusion of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent. All waivers must have a written explanation for the proposed determination; provide a period of not less than 15 calendar days for public comment on the proposed waiver; and submit the proposed waiver to the Office of Management and Budget Made in America Office for review to determine if the waiver is consistent with policy.

For more information on the Build America, Buy America Preference, please reference [www.doi.gov/grants/buyamerica](http://www.doi.gov/grants/buyamerica) or [MadeinAmerica.gov](http://MadeinAmerica.gov).

## **3. Description of Award**

Title of project: Columbia Basin Project Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition

Recipient name: South Columbia Basin Irrigation District (SCBID)

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI): UEI: NJ98FLYNYT3

Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN): R25AC00532

Federal Financial Assistance Listing: 15.581 – Water Resources Development Act

Federal financial assistance funding amount (if applicable): \$7,000,000.00

Total cost of infrastructure expenditures, including all Federal and non-Federal funds (to the extent known): \$17,084,358.00

Infrastructure project description and location: This project would provide a complete end-to-end replacement of almost all components of the existing Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. The components of the current system are no longer commercially available. This new modernized system would support expansion, enhance current capabilities, and alleviate future unsupported system component issues.

Located in the Columbia Basin of Washington state, the CBP is the largest USBR water project in the United States with a yearly irrigated crop value of \$2.66B. This modernized system would enable USBR and the recipient to continue providing uninterrupted water operations into the foreseeable future.

#### **4. Description of Covered Items**

Manufactured products: This waiver seeks an exemption from Buy America requirements for the following items.

- **Server Hardware**  
NAICS: 334111 – Electronic Computer Manufacturing  
PSC: 7B22 – IT and Telecom - Compute: Servers
- **Storage Devices**  
NAICS: 334112 – Computer Storage Device Manufacturing  
PSC: 7K20 – IT and Telecom – Storage Products
- **Network Devices**  
NAICS: 334118 – Computer Terminal and Other Computer Peripheral Equipment Manufacturing  
PSC: 7C20 – IT and Telecom – Data Center Products
- **Communications Equipment, including Antennas and Microwave Radio**  
NAICS: 334220 – Radio and Television Broadcasting and Wireless Communications Equipment Manufacturing  
PSC: 7G22 – IT and Telecom – Network: Satellite and RF Communications Products
- **PLCs, Power Supplies, and Related Components**  
NAICS: 335314 - Relay and Industrial Control Manufacturing  
PSC: 6110 – Electrical Control Equipment
- **Generators**  
NAICS: 335312 – Motor and Generator Manufacturing  
PSC: 6115 – Generators and Generator Sets, Electrical

#### **5. Waiver Justification**

Anticipated impact if no waiver is issued:

The electronics and other hardware mentioned above are integral to completing the project. The server, storage, and networking devices provide centralized control with the PLC hardware providing local control of the remote sites. The communications equipment and other listed hardware support the centralized control to the remote sites. No significant quantity or quality of these products are produced in the United States. If a waiver is not approved, the project cannot move forward.

#### Assessment of Cost Advantage of a Foreign-Sourced Product:

All products were chosen for functionality and effectiveness, not cost savings. DOI's analysis has concluded that this assessment is not applicable to this waiver as this waiver is not based on the cost of foreign-sourced products.

#### Description of efforts made to identify domestic products:

The SCADA system design consultant and project management staff performed market research for this project directly through outreach to manufacturers or their distributors. The system designs and specifications produced by design consultants provided the basis for the manufactured products needed. Four months of extensive research was conducted to identify any available US made components.

Major server manufacturers and distributors were contacted for the class of server needed for the system. Out of five manufacturers, no server hardware was found to be compliant. These manufacturers all reported that their products are being made in Mexico.

Manufacturers contacted for storage devices were the same as the server hardware. The storage controllers used need to be compatible with the servers with no mixing of brands. As such, no US manufactured storage devices were found.

Research done on the networking device manufacturers found that not all brands would be able to meet design specifications. Only three manufacturers were identified to make switches, routers, and firewalls that meet the specifications of this project. All their products were confirmed to be made in Mexico or Asia.

During project design, only one microwave manufacturer was identified as meeting the specifications. This equipment is integral to the communications backbone that connects the server to the remote sites. The SIAE microwave radio and antennas are made in Italy.

Programmable controllers (PLC's) are an important part of the project. They collect data and control operational equipment at the remote sites. Extensive comparison of PLC's was considered during design, including device class, industrial use, programming language, native protocols, and support libraries. The Siemens S7 PLC was selected for the project due to its deployment in water applications, native features of MQTT, PID control, and field testing. The S7 is not manufactured in the US and the nine other PLCs investigated did not meet specifications. Likewise, no electronic power supplies were found to be manufactured in the United States. For each power supply class, 2-3 manufacturers were contacted and there was either no response, or the item was made outside the US. Related components consist of smaller electrical hardware used to support the electronics, such as relays, terminal blocks, etc. Research did not find compliant components.

There are two power classes of generators used for the project, 25kW and 35kW. Market research found one compliant generator in the 35kW class. Manufacturer response has been slow with no 25kW compliant generator being found.

Expectations at the conclusion of the waiver:

Through ongoing market research DOI will seek to identify opportunities for domestic sourcing of electronic components for use within other projects going forward. This waiver will allow the recipient to proceed with the materials necessary to complete the project as designed. USBR will continue to work with future recipients to evaluate possible domestic sources of supply for upcoming or new projects to achieve compliance going forward.

**6. Summary of Public Comments**

The waiver was posted for public comment on [DOI's public-facing website](#) and the [Made in America website](#) for fifteen (15) days between April 27, 2026 and May 12, 2026, which satisfies the requirement to publish any proposed BABA waiver and provide the public with a reasonable period of time for notice and comment.

One public comment was received, which was supportive of the proposed waiver because the SCADA system modernization will improve operational reliability and water use efficiency.

For more information on the Buy America Preference, please visit [www.doi.gov/grants/buyamerica](http://www.doi.gov/grants/buyamerica) or [MadeinAmerica.gov](http://MadeinAmerica.gov).