MEMORANDUM:

From: Cognizant DACS/CSB Grants and Agreements Officer
To: Cognizant POC, Large Facility Awardee Organization
Subject: General Information Concerning Circumstances of Unavailability of Funding

The following information is being provided as a periodic reminder and for general planning purposes specific to actions that may become necessary during a period of time when funds may not be available for Recipient draw down. Circumstances that could trigger such an event include unavailability of NSF systems necessary for cash draw-downs, or a lapse in NSF appropriations. Please note that NSF is not currently anticipating that a funding lapse will occur.

NSF Recipients will be notified by their cognizant Grants and Agreements Officer in situations where the unavailability of NSF systems is anticipated and could impact cash draw-downs.

In situations where a lapse in federal appropriations occurs, agencies whose appropriations are impacted by the lapse generally shut down operations with limited exceptions for specifically exempted activities. Recipients that are required to continue performance of such exempted activities, which are associated with the preservation of life or property, will be separately notified of such circumstances. Otherwise, awardees may continue to perform under their cooperative agreements to the extent sufficient funds have been obligated prior to the funding lapse, and performance does not require Government support, including for example quality assurance oversight or other actions requiring NSF staff interaction. Please note that the absence of NSF personnel to provide technical oversight, process administrative actions, or provide needed authorizations during any lapse in appropriations does not constitute agency approval of any pending action.

In the event of unavailability of NSF systems necessary for cash draw-downs or a lapse in appropriations, with the absence of NSF staff and/or the unavailability of NSF business systems, awardees would not be able to drawdown funds from NSF systems. Recipients dependent upon NSF funding may request a drawdown of funds to mitigate this situation in order to cover expenses as reasonably necessary while minimizing the time elapsing between the drawdown and disbursement. Such a request must be submitted to the cognizant NSF Program Officer and Grants and Agreements Officer no later than 7 calendar days prior to the planned drawdown and using the Standard Form (SF) 270 REQUEST FOR ADVANCE OR REIMBURSEMENT (See Attachment 1). Immediately upon subsequent startup of routine payment operations, the awardee would be required to submit any adjusting transactions necessary to bring their award
cash balances up to date. Recipients that do not promptly return funds in excess of actual needs following a lapse may be subject to administrative action by the Agency.

Finally, for Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction (MREFC) activities, please note that for situation associated with a lapse in appropriations, even in situations where awardees have drawn sufficient funds prior to the lapse in appropriations to continue work, NSF has previously limited awardees to continuing work only through the next full monthly reporting period, not to exceed 30 days, but not allowing Recipients to enter into any subawards, contracts or other like arrangements that require NSF prior approval. Recipients have also been required to minimize expenditures while taking such steps to orderly suspend activities at the end of the monthly reporting period in a manner that does not threaten the safety of human life or the protection of property. In all cases, Recipients have been instructed to take appropriate steps to ensure that property and equipment acquired in whole or in part with federal funds are protected and otherwise secured from harm during the funding hiatus.

If you have questions concerning this correspondence, please contact the cognizant Grants and Agreements Officer.

Attachment 1 – SF 270 Request for Advance or Reimbursement