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Sent: Monday, November 20, 2023 2:35 PM

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Guidance error - please read

Importance: High

Hi All,

Thank you for your hard work on IP volumes one and two. Montana is on top of it!

Now for some unfortunate news:

We just looked through your latest IPv2 that slightly modifies the scoring criteria. I don't have any comments for you about most of it, but I do have one important note. We have just learned that there was an error in our guidance, and the solicitor has determined that each individual secondary criteria must weigh LESS than each primary criteria. Tim, John, we discussed at the October CAC that the "tricky topics" guidance states, on slide 5, "Note that a single secondary scoring criteria cannot weigh more than a primary criteria." We interpreted this (correctly) to mean that "equal to" was acceptable. However, the solicitor has just revisited the topic in conjunction with another IP submission and decided that each secondary criteria has to be less than, and that "equal to" is **not** acceptable. The slide deck is incorrect. I have flagged this for our folks to fix, but that doesn't help you with the fact that you have to adjust your point totals so that either Unserved Areas (Secondary) is worth fewer than 15 points or so that Fair Labor Practices (primary) is greater than 15.

I sincerely apologize for the error in our materials.

Also, please take a look at comments we provided on 10/26 (email below) to the other sections of the IP - those comments don't appear to have been addressed in the 11/10 version. It may be that you only posted the scoring modifications, and you have yet to turn your attention to the other feedback - that's fine, of course, just want to make sure that you remember that you have these comments that our TA team provided on 10/26.

Thanks again and hope everyone has a nice holiday -  
Grace

**Grace Stephens**

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