

**From:** Fisher, George  
**To:** [Bowman, Randal](#)  
**Cc:** [Murphy, Rosslyn](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Heads up - we will be applying additional funding to the DiscoverText contract  
**Date:** Thursday, August 03, 2017 8:48:09 AM

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Thank you for the update. I will immediately make the change once I have the PR.

George Fisher  
Contract Specialist

- Telework every Friday

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On Thu, Aug 3, 2017 at 9:24 AM, Bowman, Randal <[randal\\_bowman@ios.doi.gov](mailto:randal_bowman@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

As a result of circumstances beyond our or the contractor's control, all of the project management funding has been expended under this contract, and we will be applying some additional amount.

The public comments submitted to [regulations.gov](http://regulations.gov) on the final day or two of the comment period broke the record for number of submissions, and broke the [regs.gov](http://regs.gov) computer system as well, as many of the comments apparently had large numbers of other comments as attachments. The [regs.gov](http://regs.gov) system then started generating duplicate records in some cases and combining comments in others, luckily leaving a record that the staff there could track. It took them 2 weeks to unscramble that so the records could be transferred to us.

The resulting transfer, because of the large number of attachments, was a massive amount of data and took approximately 8 days (I'm waiting for specifics), rather than the usual one, to be uploaded into DiscoverText and sorted so we could use the system to review the comments. This ate up all the project management funding, as the process had to be overseen by Dr. Shulman or his engineer. While this could possibly have been covered by the funding allocated to student work, we will need to use them to ensure we complete reviewing the comments on time, due to the 3 week delay we have encountered, and I don't want to risk another shortfall in 2 weeks.

No one could have anticipated any of this, so there is no fault by the contractor; if anything, they have performed beyond expectations in dealing with this and other unexpected circumstances.

In addition, I am advised our licenses to use the system expire August 23. The report on the monument review is due to the President on the 24th. We accordingly will want to extend at least 2 licenses for a month in the event we need to use the system for follow-up. The Secretary's office has approved additional funding for these items, leaving details to me, and as soon as I know how much is needed I will go to Amy Holly for sign-off on the amount. I am expecting it to be around or below \$2,500 again.