

1. You are a registered user of e-Application, and you have initiated an e-Application for this competition; and

2. (a) The e-Application system is unavailable for 60 minutes or more between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date; or

(b) The e-Application system is unavailable for any period of time during the last hour of operation (that is, for any period of time between 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time) on the application deadline date.

We must acknowledge and confirm these periods of unavailability before granting you an extension. To request this extension or to confirm our acknowledgement of any system unavailability, you may contact either (1) the person listed elsewhere in this notice under For Further Information Contact (see VII. Agency Contact) or (2) the e-GRANTS help desk at 1-888-336-8930.

You may access the electronic grant application for Early Childhood Educator Professional Development at: <http://e-grants.ed.gov/>.

#### V. Application Review Information

1. *Selection Criteria:* The selection criteria for this program are from section 75.210 of EDGAR, 34 CFR 75.210, and are identified in the application package.

2. *Review and Selection Process:* An additional factor we consider in selecting an application for an award is geographical distribution (section 2151(e)(4)(B) of the ESEA).

#### VI. Award Administration Information

1. *Award Notices:* If your application is successful, we notify your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators and send you a Grant Award Notice (GAN). We may also notify you informally.

If your application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we notify you.

2. *Administrative and National Policy Requirements:* We identify administrative and national policy requirements in the application package and reference these and other requirements in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice.

We reference the regulations outlining the terms and conditions of an award in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice and include these and other specific conditions in the GAN. The GAN also incorporates your approved application as part of your binding commitments under the grant.

3. *Reporting:* At the end of your project period, you must submit a final performance report, including financial information, as directed by the

Secretary. If you receive a multi-year award, you must submit an annual performance report that provides the most current performance and financial expenditure information as specified by the Secretary in 34 CFR 75.118.

4. *Performance Measures:* For FY 2004, grants under this program will be governed by the achievement indicators that the Secretary published in the **Federal Register** on March 31, 2003 (68 FR 15646-15648). These achievement indicators are included in the application package.

#### VII. Agency Contact

*For Further Information Contact:* Early Childhood Educator Professional Development (ECEPD) program, c/o Rosemary Fennell, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20202-6132. Telephone: (202) 260-0792, or via Internet: [ecprofdev@ed.gov](mailto:ecprofdev@ed.gov).

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the program contact person listed in this section.

#### VIII. Other Information

*Electronic Access to This Document:* You may view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: [www.ed.gov/news/fedregister](http://www.ed.gov/news/fedregister).

To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free, at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC, area at (202) 512-1530.

**Note:** The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at: [www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html).

Dated: February 2, 2004.

**Raymond Simon,**

*Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education.*

[FR Doc. 04-2520 Filed 2-4-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Recognition of Accrediting Agencies, State Agencies for the Approval of Public Postsecondary Vocational Education, and State Agencies for the Approval of Nurse Education

**AGENCY:** National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, Department of Education (The Advisory Committee).

#### What Is the Purpose of This Notice?

The purpose of this notice is to invite written comments on accrediting agencies and State approval agencies whose applications to the Secretary for initial or renewed recognition or whose interim reports will be reviewed at the Advisory Committee meeting to be held on June 10-11, 2004.

#### Where Should I Submit My Comments?

Please submit your written comments by March 22, 2004, to Ms. Carol Griffiths, Accreditation and State Liaison. You may contact her at the U.S. Department of Education, room 7105, MS 8509, 1990 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006, telephone: (202) 219-7011. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

#### What Is the Authority for the Advisory Committee?

The National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity is established under Section 114 of the Higher Education Act (HEA), as amended, 20 U.S.C. 1011c. One of the purposes of the Advisory Committee is to advise the Secretary of Education on the recognition of accrediting agencies and State approval agencies.

#### Will This Be My Only Opportunity To Submit Written Comments?

Yes, this notice announces the only opportunity you will have to submit written comments. However, a subsequent **Federal Register** notice will announce the meeting and invite individuals and/or groups to submit requests to make oral presentations before the Advisory Committee on the agencies that the Committee will review. That notice, however, does not offer a second opportunity to submit written comment.

#### What Happens to the Comments That I Submit?

We will review your comments, in response to this notice, as part of our evaluation of the agencies' compliance with the Secretary's Criteria for Recognition of Accrediting Agencies

and State Approval Agencies. The Criteria are regulations found in 34 CFR Part 602 (for accrediting agencies) and in 34 CFR Part 603 (for State approval agencies) and are found at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred>.

We will also include your comments with the staff analyses we present to the Advisory Committee at its June 2004 meeting. Therefore, in order for us to give full consideration to your comments, it is important that we receive them by March 22, 2004. In all instances, your comments about agencies seeking initial or continued recognition must relate to the Criteria for Recognition. In addition, your comments for any agency whose interim report is scheduled for review must relate to the issues raised and the Criteria for Recognition cited in the Secretary's letter that requested the interim report.

#### **What Happens to Comments Received After the Deadline?**

We will review any comments received after the deadline. If such comments, upon investigation, reveal that the accrediting agency is not acting in accordance with the Criteria for Recognition, we will take action either before or after the meeting, as appropriate.

#### **What Agencies Will the Advisory Committee Review at the Meeting?**

The Secretary of Education recognizes accrediting agencies and State approval agencies for public postsecondary vocational education and nurse education if the Secretary determines that they meet the Criteria for Recognition. Recognition means that the Secretary considers the agency to be a reliable authority as to the quality of education offered by institutions or programs it accredits that are encompassed within the scope of recognition he grants to the agency. The following agencies will be reviewed during the June 2004 meeting of the Advisory Committee:

#### **Nationally Recognized Accrediting Agencies**

##### *Petitions for Initial Recognition*

1. Middle States Commission on Secondary Schools (Requested scope of recognition: The accreditation of institutions with postsecondary, non-degree granting career and technology programs, in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands).

##### *Petitions for Renewal of Recognition*

1. Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (Current scope of recognition: The accreditation of private, postsecondary allied health education institutions and institutions that offer predominantly allied health programs, private medical assistant programs, and public and private medical laboratory technician programs leading to the Associate of Applied Science and the Associate of Occupational Science degrees.) (Requested scope of recognition: The accreditation of private, postsecondary institutions in the United States offering predominantly allied health education, medical assistant programs, and medical laboratory technician programs leading to a certificate, diploma or the Associate of Applied Science and Associate of Occupational Science degrees, including those offered via distance education.)

2. Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, Commission on Accrediting (Current scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accredited Status") of freestanding institutions, as well as schools affiliated with larger institutions, that offer graduate professional education for ministry and graduate study of theology in the United States) (Requested scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accredited Membership") of freestanding theological schools and seminaries and schools or programs that are parts of colleges or universities offering graduate professional and graduate academic theological education, including delivery via distance education.)

3. Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation (Current scope of recognition: The accreditation of institutions in the United States, that award postsecondary certificates or diplomas in the practice of massage therapy and bodywork.) (Requested scope of recognition: The accreditation of institutions in the United States, that award postsecondary certificates or diplomas, including Associates degrees, in the practice of massage therapy and bodywork.)

4. North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement, Board of Trustees (Requested scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation ["Candidacy status"] of schools offering non-degree, postsecondary education in Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New

Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and in the Navajo Nation.)

*Interim Reports* (An interim report is a follow-up report on an accrediting agency's compliance with specific criteria for recognition that was requested by the Secretary when the Secretary granted renewed recognition to the agency.)

1. American Academy for Liberal Education.

2. American Optometric Association, Accreditation Council on Optometric Education.

3. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology.

4. National Accrediting Commission of Cosmetology Arts and Sciences.

5. National Association of Schools of Art and Design, Commission on Accreditation.

6. National Association of Schools of Dance, Commission on Accreditation.

7. National Association of Schools of Music, Commission on Accreditation, Commission on Non-Degree-Granting Accreditation, Commission on Community/Junior College Accreditation.

8. National Association of Schools of Theatre, Commission on Accreditation.

9. New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education.

10. New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Technical and Career Institutions.

11. New York State Board of Regents, the Commissioner of Education.

12. North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, The Higher Learning Commission.

13. Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.

#### **State Agencies Recognized for the Approval of Public Postsecondary Vocational Education**

##### *Petition for Initial Recognition*

1. Pennsylvania State Board for Vocational Education.

##### *Petition for Renewal of Recognition*

1. Puerto Rico State Agency for the Approval of Public Postsecondary Vocational, Technical Institutions and Programs.

##### *Interim Reports*

1. Oklahoma Board of Career and Technology Education.

#### **State Agencies Recognized for the Approval of Nurse Education**

##### *Petitions for Renewal of Recognition*

1. Montana State Board of Nursing.

2. North Dakota Board of Nursing.

### Where Can I Inspect Petitions and Third-Party Comments Before and After the Meeting?

All petitions and those third-party comments received in advance of the meeting, will be available for public inspection and copying at the U.S. Department of Education, room 7105, MS 8509, 1990 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006, telephone (202) 219-7011 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, until May 17, 2004. They will be available again after the June 10-11 Advisory Committee meeting. An appointment must be made in advance of such inspection or copying.

### How May I Obtain Electronic Access to This Document?

You may view this document, as well as all other Department of Education documents published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister>.

To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free, at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC, area at (202) 512-1530.

**Note:** The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at: <http://www.gpoaccess.gpo/nara/index.html>.

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2.

Dated: January 30, 2004.

**Sally L. Stroup,**

*Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.*

[FR Doc. 04-2533 Filed 2-4-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Golden Field Office; Development and Maintenance of Testing Standards for Solar Energy Systems

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Issuance of Funding Opportunity Announcement DE-PS36-04GO94005.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is announcing its intention to seek applications for financial assistance for development and maintenance of standards for testing

solar thermal energy systems. Through a single financial assistance award (Cooperative Agreement), DOE intends to provide financial support to advance the widespread application of solar energy technologies. Applications are sought from organizations, or teams of organizations, that are experienced in the development and maintenance of testing regimes, certification of results and performance, and the establishment of relevant performance standards, particularly concerned with thermal efficiency.

**DATES:** The Funding Opportunity Announcement will be issued January 26, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** To obtain a copy of the announcement, interested parties should access the DOE Golden Field Office Home Page at <http://www.go.doe.gov/funding.html>, click on the word "access." The link will open the Industry Interactive Procurement System (IIPS) Web site and provide instructions on using IIPS. The announcement can also be obtained directly through IIPS at <http://e-center.doe.gov> by browsing opportunities by Contract Activity, for those announcements issued by the Golden Field Office. DOE will not issue paper copies of the announcement.

IIPS provides the medium for disseminating announcements, receiving financial assistance applications, and evaluating the applications in a paperless environment. The application may be submitted in the Industry Interactive Procurement System (IIPS) by the applicant or a designated representative that receives authorization from the applicant; however, the application documentation must reflect the name and title of the representative authorized to enter the applicant into a legally binding contract or agreement. The applicant or the designated representative must first register in IIPS, entering their first name and last name, then entering the company name/address of the applicant.

For questions regarding the operation of IIPS, contact the IIPS Help Desk at [IIPS\\_HelpDesk@e-center.doe.gov](mailto:IIPS_HelpDesk@e-center.doe.gov) or at (800) 683-0751.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Beth H. Dwyer, DOE Golden Field Office, 1617 Cole Boulevard, Golden, CO 80401-3393 or via facsimile to (303) 275-4788, or electronically to [beth.dwyer@go.doe.gov](mailto:beth.dwyer@go.doe.gov).

Issued in Golden, Colorado, on January 26, 2004.

**Jerry L. Zimmer,**

*Director, Office of Acquisition and Financial Assistance.*

[FR Doc. 04-2399 Filed 2-4-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP04-52-000]

### CenterPoint Energy Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

January 29, 2004.

Take notice that on January 14, 2004, CenterPoint Energy Gas Transmission Company (CEGT), 1111 Louisiana Street, Houston, Texas 77002-5231, filed in Docket No. CP04-52-000, a request pursuant to sections 157.205 and 157.216 of the Commission's regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205 and 157.216) for authorization to abandon certain facilities in the State of Texas, under CEGT's blanket certificate issued in Docket Nos. CP82-384-000 and 001 pursuant to section 7(C) of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully described in the request.

Copies of this request are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection. This filing may also be viewed on the Web at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll-free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659.

CEGT proposes to abandon, by sale and transfer, certain above-ground facilities that are currently a part of various CEGT delivery point facilities in the State of Texas as described more fully in the request. CEGT further proposes to sell and transfer these facilities to CenterPoint Energy Entex (Entex), a distribution division of CenterPoint Energy, Incorporated, at the estimated net book value, of \$23,025.96. CEGT states that no services would be abandoned as a result of the proposed sale and transfer. Entex, it is said, would own and operate these facilities as part of its distribution system.

Any person or the Commission's Staff may, within 45 days after the issuance of the instant notice by the Commission, file pursuant to rule 214 of the