

Questions for Input

In the following paragraphs, we have listed the specific questions on which we seek input. These relate to both SEA and subgrantee uses of funds.

All input, including expert presentations and discussions, public input, and written submissions, should focus primarily on responding to these questions. We encourage you to make your input as specific as possible, to provide evidence to support your proposals, and to present the information in a context and format that will be helpful to the Department in developing the Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy program competition and to States implementing comprehensive literacy plans and making high-quality literacy subgrant awards.

To ensure that your input is fully considered in the development of the notice inviting applications, we urge you to identify clearly the specific question, purpose, or characteristic that you are addressing, and to arrange your input in the order of the questions as they are listed in the next section.

SEA and LEA Capacity and Support

(1) What should States be considering in their State Literacy Plans to ensure effective literacy and language development and instruction? For example, what are core components of a State Literacy Plan? What roles and capacities should States have or develop in order to effectively support subgrantees in carrying out substantial improvements in literacy and language development, teaching, and learning?

(2) How can this program most effectively support States' and LEAs' transition to new internationally-benchmarked college- and career-ready standards held in common by multiple States, as well as their alignment with State early learning standards?

(3) How can SEAs and subgrantees best leverage the use of funds under the ESEA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, as well as other Federal, State, and local funds, for effective literacy development and instruction?

(4) What other key factors should a State consider in regards to how it would structure and administer its subgrant competition?

Transition and Alignment Across Birth Through Grade 12

(1) How should States and LEAs assess the needs of children from birth through grade 12 in order to effectively target the funds to appropriately support literacy and language development?

(2) How can subgrantees ensure that the needs of children from birth through age five will be met under this program? How should subgrantees create effective partnerships with relevant organizations, including the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care in their State?

(3) How can subgrantees ensure that the needs of adolescent learners will be met under this program? Specifically, how can subgrantees ensure that schools integrate effective literacy development and instruction into core subject areas and increase motivation and interest in reading and writing?

Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners

(1) How can a State best ensure that its comprehensive literacy plan will effectively address the needs of economically disadvantaged children and youth, limited-English-proficient children and youth, and children and youth with disabilities?

(2) How can a State ensure that subgrantees will effectively address the needs of economically disadvantaged children and youth, limited-English-proficient children and youth, and children and youth with disabilities?

(3) What should subgrantees consider when addressing the needs of their diverse learners across the age spans?

Professional Development, Instruction, and Assessment

(1) What are the essential components of high-quality literacy-related professional development? What aspects, if any, should be considered essential in a successful subgrant proposal?

(2) In what ways can technology and materials conforming to principles of universal design for learning (UDL) support effective literacy development and instruction for limited-English-proficient children and youth and children and youth with disabilities? What aspects of technology and UDL should be considered for incorporation in subgrant proposals?

(3) What are the critical elements of an integrated, age-appropriate assessment system for identifying the strengths and weaknesses of children and youth and improving literacy development and instruction?

(4) What are the most important ways to collect, analyze, and use data to improve literacy development and instructional practices and child and youth outcomes in early learning settings and in schools?

Evidence and Evaluation

(1) In order to have a rigorous competition and make high-quality

subgrant awards, what evidence should States require subgrantees to put forward in their applications? How can early learning providers demonstrate a "record of effectiveness," as required in the Act?

(2) What approaches should States and subgrantees implement in order to effectively monitor program implementation and outcomes so as to inform continuous program improvement?

(3) What strategies should States and subgrantees implement in order to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of job-embedded, ongoing professional development for teachers, coaches, principals, and administrators?

(4) What should the Department require regarding rigorous, independent State evaluations of the program, given limited State-level administrative funds?

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Program Authority: Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010, Pub. L. 111-117.

Dated: November 10, 2010.

Thelma Meléndez de Santa Ana,
Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Privacy Act of 1974; Computer Matching Program

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice—Computer matching between the Department of Education and the Department of Justice.

SUMMARY: Section 421(a)(1) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 862(a)(1)) includes provisions regarding the judicial denial of Federal benefits. Section 421 of the Controlled Substances Act, which was originally enacted as section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, and which was amended and redesignated as section 421 of the Controlled Substances Act by section 1002(d) of the Crime Control Act of 1990, Public Law 101–647 (hereinafter referred to as “section 5301”), authorizes Federal and State judges to deny certain Federal benefits (including student financial assistance under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA)) to individuals convicted of drug trafficking or possession of a controlled substance.

In order to ensure that Title IV, HEA student financial assistance is not awarded to individuals subject to denial of benefits under court orders issued pursuant to section 5301, the Department of Justice and the Department of Education implemented a computer matching program. The 18-month computer matching agreement (CMA) was recertified for an additional 12 months on December 19, 2009. The 12-month recertification of the CMA will automatically expire on December 17, 2010.

The Department of Education must continue to obtain from the Department of Justice identifying information regarding individuals who are the subject of section 5301 denial of benefits court orders for the purpose of ensuring that Title IV, HEA student financial assistance is not awarded to individuals subject to denial of benefits under court orders issued pursuant to the Denial of Federal Benefits Program. The purpose of this notice is to announce the continued operation of the computer matching program and to provide certain required information concerning the computer matching program.

In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a), as amended by the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100–503) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Guidelines on the Conduct of Matching Programs (54 FR 25818, June 19, 1989), and OMB Circular A–130, the following information is provided:

1. *Names of Participating Agencies.*

The Department of Education (ED) (recipient agency) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) (source agency).

2. *Purpose of the Match.*

The purpose of this matching program is to ensure that the requirements of section 421 of the Controlled Substances Act (originally enacted as section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, Pub. L. 100–690, 21 U.S.C. 853a, which was amended and redesignated as section 421 of the Controlled Substances Act by section 1002(d) of the Crime Control Act of 1990, Pub. L. 101–647) (hereinafter referred to as “section 5301”), are met.

DOJ is the lead contact agency for information related to section 5301 violations and, as such, provides this data to ED. ED (recipient agency) seeks access to the information contained in the DOJ (source agency) Denial of Federal Benefits Clearinghouse System (DEBARS) database that is authorized under section 5301 for the purpose of ensuring that Title IV, HEA student financial assistance is not awarded to individuals subject to denial of benefits under court orders issued pursuant to the Denial of Federal Benefits Program.

3. *Authority for Conducting the Matching Program.*

Under section 5301, ED must deny Federal benefits to any individual upon whom a Federal or State court order has imposed a penalty denying eligibility for those benefits. Student financial assistance under Title IV of the HEA is a Federal benefit under section 5301, and ED must, in order to meet its obligations under the HEA, have access to information about individuals who have been declared ineligible under section 5301.

While DOJ provides information about section 5301 individuals who are ineligible for Federal benefits to the General Services Administration (GSA) for inclusion in GSA’s List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurements and Nonprocurement Programs, DOJ and ED have determined that matching against the DOJ database is more efficient and effective than access to the GSA List. The DOJ database has specific information about the Title IV, HEA programs for which individuals are ineligible, as well as the expiration of the debarment period, making the DOJ database more complete than the GSA List. Both of these elements are essential for a successful match.

4. *Categories of Records and Individuals Covered by the Match.*

ED will submit, for verification, records from its Central Processing System files (Federal Student Aid Application File (18–11–01)), the Social Security number (SSN), and other identifying information for each applicant for Title IV, HEA student financial assistance. ED will use the SSN, date of birth, and the first two

letters of an applicant’s last name for the match.

The DOJ DEBARS system contains the names, SSNs, dates of birth, and other identifying information regarding individuals convicted of Federal or State offenses involving drug trafficking or possession of a controlled substance who have been denied Federal benefits by Federal or State courts. This system of records also contains information concerning the specific program or programs for which benefits have been denied, as well as the duration of the period of ineligibility. DOJ will make available for the matching program the records of only those individuals who have been denied Federal benefits under one or more of the Title IV, HEA programs.

5. *Effective Dates of the Matching Program.*

The matching program will be effective on the last of the following dates: (1) December 18, 2010, the day after the expiration of the current CMA; (2) thirty (30) days after notice of the matching program has been published in the **Federal Register**; or (3) forty (40) days after a report concerning the matching program has been transmitted to OMB and transmitted to the Congress along with a copy of this agreement, unless OMB waives 10 days of this 40-day period for compelling reasons shown, in which case, 30 days after transmission of the report to OMB and Congress.

The matching program will continue for 18 months after the effective date of the CMA and may be extended for an additional 12 months thereafter, if the conditions specified in 5 U.S.C. 552a(o)(2)(D) have been met.

6. *Address for Receipt of Public Comments or Inquiries.*

Leroy Everett, Management and Program Analyst, U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid, Union Center Plaza, 830 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20202–5454. Telephone: (202) 377–3265. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), call the Federal Relay Service (FRS), toll free, at 1–800–877–8339.

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Authority: 5 U.S.C. 552a; 21 U.S.C. 862(a)(1).

Dated: November 10, 2010.

James F. Manning,

Chief of Staff, Federal Student Aid, U.S. Department of Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[OE Docket No. PP-371]

Application for Presidential Permit; Northern Pass Transmission LLC

AGENCY: Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of application.

SUMMARY: Northern Pass Transmission LLC (Northern Pass) has applied for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the United States border with Canada.

DATES: Comments, protests, or requests to intervene must be submitted on or before December 16, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Comments, protests, or requests to intervene should be addressed as follows: Brian Mills, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian Mills (Program Office) at 202-586-8267 or via electronic mail at Brian.Mills@hq.doe.gov, or Michael T. Skinker (Program Attorney) at 202-586-2793.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The construction, operation, maintenance, and connection of facilities at the international border of the United States for the transmission of electric energy between the United States and a foreign country is prohibited in the absence of a Presidential permit issued pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 10485, as amended by EO 12038.

On October 14, 2010, Northern Pass filed an application with the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy

Reliability of the Department of Energy (DOE) for a Presidential permit. Northern Pass is jointly owned by NU Transmission Ventures, Inc. (75% owner), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Northeast Utilities, a publicly held public utility holding company, and NSTAR Transmission Ventures, Inc. (25% owner), a wholly-owned subsidiary of NSTAR, a publicly held public utility holding company.

The proposed international transmission line would originate at a high-voltage direct current (HVDC) converter terminal to be constructed at the Des Canton Substation in Quebec, Canada, from which a single circuit \pm 300 kilovolt (kV) HVDC overhead electric transmission line would extend southward in Province of Quebec for approximately 45 miles where it would cross the Canada-U.S. border into Coos County, New Hampshire. In New Hampshire the proposed HVDC transmission line would continue southward for approximately 140 miles to a proposed converter terminal to be constructed in Franklin, New Hampshire. At the Franklin converter terminal the electric energy would be converted from direct current to 345-kV alternating current (AC). The single circuit overhead 345-kV AC line would continue another 40 miles to Public Service Company of New Hampshire's existing Deerfield Substation, located in Deerfield, New Hampshire. Facilities to be constructed in Canada would be owned and operated by Hydro-Quebec TransEnergie, a division of Hydro-Quebec. The 180 miles of transmission inside the United States and the Franklin converter terminal would be owned and operated by Northern Pass. The proposed international transmission facilities would enable the bidirectional transmission of 1,200 megawatts (MW) of power between Quebec, Canada, and New England.

Since the restructuring of the electric power industry began, resulting in the introduction of different types of competitive entities into the marketplace, DOE has consistently expressed its policy that cross-border trade in electric energy should be subject to the same principles of comparable open access and non-discrimination that apply to transmission in interstate commerce. DOE has stated that policy in export authorizations granted to entities requesting authority to export over international transmission facilities. Specifically, DOE expects transmitting utilities owning border facilities to provide access across the border in accordance with the principles of comparable open access and non-

discrimination contained in the Federal Power Act and articulated in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Order No. 888 (Promoting Wholesale Competition Through Open Access Non-Discriminatory Transmission Services by Public Utilities; FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,036 (1996)), as amended. In furtherance of this policy, DOE invites comments on whether it would be appropriate to condition any Presidential permit issued in this proceeding on compliance with these open access principles.

Procedural Matters: Any person desiring to become a party to this proceeding or to be heard by filing comments on, or protests to, this application should file a petition to intervene, comment, or protest at the address provided above in accordance with §§ 385.211 or 385.214 of FERC's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214). Fifteen copies of each petition and protest should be filed with DOE on or before the date listed above.

Additional copies of such petitions to intervene, comments, or protests should also be filed directly with: Anne Bartosewicz, Northeast Utilities, 107 Selden Street, Berlin, CT 06037 AND Mary Anne Sullivan, Hogan Lovells, LLP, 555 13th St., NW., Washington, DC 20004.

Before a Presidential permit may be issued or amended, DOE must determine that the proposed action is in the public interest. In making that determination, DOE considers the environmental impacts of the proposed project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, determines the project's impact on electric reliability by ascertaining whether the proposed project would adversely affect the operation of the U.S. electric power supply system under normal and contingency conditions, and any other factors that DOE may also consider relevant to the public interest. Also, DOE must obtain the concurrences of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense before taking final action on a Presidential permit application.

Copies of this application will be made available, upon request, for public inspection and copying at the address provided above, by accessing the program Web site at http://www.oe.energy.gov/permits_pending.htm, or by e-mailing Odessa Hopkins at Odessa.hopkins@hq.doe.gov.