

We request that you submit a request to the Commission office by email or fax. Please include your name, the organization you represent, if appropriate, and a brief description of the issue you would like to present. Participants will be allowed approximately 3 to 5 minutes to present their comments, depending on the number of individuals who reserve time on the agenda. At the meeting, participants are also encouraged to submit two written copies of their comments. Persons interested in making comments are encouraged to address the issues and questions discussed under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

Given the expected number of individuals interested in providing comments at the meetings, reservations for presenting comments should be made as soon as possible. Persons who are unable to obtain reservations to speak during the meetings are encouraged to submit written comments. Written comments will be accepted at each meeting site or may be mailed to the Commission at the address listed under **ADDRESSES**.

In addition to making reservations, individuals attending the public meetings, for security purposes, must be prepared to show photo identification in order to enter the meeting location.

*Request for Written Comments:* In addition to soliciting input during the public meetings, we invite the public to submit written comments relevant to the Commission.

**DATES:** We would like to receive your written comments on Title IX by November 29, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit all comments to the Commission using one of the following methods:

1. *Internet.* We encourage you to send your comments through the Internet to the following address:

*OpportunityinAthletics@ed.gov.*

2. *Mail.* You may submit your comments to The Secretary of Education's Commission on Opportunity in Athletics, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., ROB-3 Room 3060, Washington, DC 20202. Due to delays in mail delivery caused by heightened security, please allow adequate time for the mail to be received.

3. *Facsimile.* You may submit comments by facsimile at (202) 260-4560.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** See the Commission address under the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. View the Commission's Web site at: <http://www.ed.gov/inits/commissionsboards/athletics>. The Commission office number is 202-708-7417.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The nation is commemorating the 30th anniversary of the passage of Title IX, the landmark legislation prohibiting recipients of Federal funds from discriminating on the basis of sex. Since this legislation was enacted, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of women participating in athletics at the high school and college levels. The Secretary of Education has determined that this anniversary provides an appropriate time to review the application of Title IX to educational institutions' efforts to provide equal opportunity in athletics to women and men. In order to do so, the Secretary established the Commission on Opportunity in Athletics. The Commission will produce a report no later than January 31, 2002, outlining its findings relative to the opportunities for men and women in athletics in order to improve the effectiveness of Title IX.

Comments are encouraged on the following priority areas:

1. Are Title IX standards for assessing equal opportunity in athletics working to promote opportunities for male and female athletes?

2. Is there adequate Title IX guidance that enables colleges and school districts to know what is expected of them and to plan for an athletic program that effectively meets the needs and interests of their students?

3. Is further guidance or are other steps needed at the junior and senior high school levels where the availability or absence of opportunities will critically affect the prospective interests and abilities of student athletes when they reach college age?

4. How should activities such as cheerleading or bowling factor into the analysis of equitable opportunities?

5. How do revenue producing and large-roster teams affect the provision of equal athletic opportunities? The Department has heard from some parties that whereas some men athletes will "walk-on" to intercollegiate teams—without athletic financial aid and without having been recruited—women rarely do this. Is this accurate and, if so, what are its implications for Title IX analysis?

6. In what ways do opportunities in other sports venues, such as the Olympics, professional leagues, and community recreation programs, interact with the obligations of colleges and school districts to provide equal athletic opportunity? What are the implications for Title IX?

7. Apart from Title IX enforcement, are there other efforts to promote athletic opportunities for male and female students that the Department

might support, such as public-private partnerships to support the efforts of schools and colleges in this area?

#### Electronic Access to This Document

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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 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.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html>.

Dated: September 27, 2002.

**Rod Paige,**

*Secretary of Education.*

[FR Doc. 02-25097 Filed 10-2-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Information Quality Guidelines

**AGENCY:** Office of the Chief Information Officer, Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability—Final information quality guidelines.

**SUMMARY:** This Notice of Availability informs the public that the Department of Education (Department) has issued information quality guidelines, which are available to the public through the Internet as further described in this notice.

**DATES:** The information quality guidelines are applicable to information the Department disseminates on or after October 1, 2002.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** *For a Copy of the Guidelines and Further Information:* The guidelines are available through the Internet at the following site: [http://www.ed.gov/offices/OCIO/info\\_quality/](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OCIO/info_quality/). Agency specific Guidelines for the National Center for Education Statistics are available at the following site: <http://nces.ed.gov/statprog/pdf/2002standards.pdf>. Alternatively, you may contact Veena Bhatia, U.S. Department of Education, 7th and D Streets, SW., room 4036, Washington, DC 20202-4651. Telephone: (202) 708-9279.

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 contact person listed under *For a Copy of the Guidelines and Further Information*.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-554) requires all Federal agencies covered by the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), including the Department of Education, to issue guidelines by October 1, 2002, for the purpose of "ensuring and maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information (including statistical information) disseminated by the agency." (Public Law 106-554). The agency guidelines must be consistent with government-wide guidelines published by the Office of Management and Budget (66 FR 49718, September 28, 2001; 67 FR 8452, February 22, 2002) and must include "administrative mechanisms allowing affected persons to seek and obtain correction of information" that the agency maintains and disseminates, and that does not comply with the OMB or agency guidelines.

On May 1, 2002, the Department published in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 21641) a request for public comments on the Department's draft information quality guidelines. On June 11, 2002, the Department published in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 39962) a notice reopening and extending the public comment period. The Department received four sets of public comments on the guidelines. Three sets of comments were general suggestions that were addressed to all agencies and did not specifically address the Department's guidelines, *e.g.*, suggestions for how to define terms, set deadlines for review, and establish a correction and appeal process. These comments were considered and, where appropriate, suggested changes have been incorporated into the final guidelines.

The Department did receive one set of comments specifically on its guidelines. That commenter suggested that the Department should: (1) Categorize the types of data the Department would consider as "influential information"; (2) provide more detailed guidance to the program offices with respect to the

level of correction and the corresponding action to be taken; and (3) only decide not to process a request for correction if it is made in bad faith.

With respect to the first suggestion, the final guidelines include an expanded definition of influential information and examples of some of the types of data that would fall into this category. With respect to the second suggestion, the Department has not made any changes in the final guidelines; the Department believes that the appropriate program office will exercise good judgment in determining whether a correction is necessary and, if so, what that correction should be. In addition, the ability of the requester to appeal to the Chief Information Officer for an impartial review that is conducted by parties other than those who prepared the Department's initial decision serves as an opportunity for the Department to reconsider whether the initial decision was appropriate. Finally, with respect to the third suggestion, the Department has revised the final guidelines to state that the Department "may reject a request that appears to be made in bad faith or without justification, and is only required to undertake the degree of correction that it concludes is appropriate for the nature and timeliness of the information involved. In addition, the Department need not respond substantively to requests that concern information not covered by the information quality guidelines."

In addition, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) received substantive comments on its standard for Maintaining Confidentiality. In response to those comments, NCES expanded the discussion of laws in the standard and clarified the language required for a confidentiality pledge.

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Access at: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html>.

Dated: September 27, 2002.

**Craig B. Luigart,**

*Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 02-25105 Filed 9-30-02; 10:40 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER02-2567-000AES]

#### The AES Corporation; Capital Funding, LLC; AES New Energy, Inc.; Notice of Filing

September 24, 2002.

Take notice that on September 19, 2002, The AES Corporation, AES Capital Funding, LLC, AES NewEnergy, Inc. (NewEnergy), Constellation Energy Group, Inc. (CEG), and CEG Acquisition, LLC (CEG Acquisition) filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) a Notice of Consummation of the Disposition of Facilities regarding the consummation of CEG's acquisition of 100% of the stock of NewEnergy, through CEG's wholly owned subsidiary, CEG Acquisition, on September 9, 2002; and a Notice of Succession to properly reflect the change in name from AES NewEnergy, Inc. to Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. that became effective as of September 9, 2002.

Any person desiring to intervene or to protest this filing should file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's rules of practice and procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214). Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. All such motions or protests should be filed on or before the comment date, and, to the extent applicable, must be served on the applicant and on any other person designated on the official service list. This filing is available for review at the Commission or may be viewed on the Commission's web site at <http://www.ferc.gov>, using the "FERRIS" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number filed to access the document. For assistance, call (202) 502-8222 or TTY, (202) 502-8659. Protests and interventions may be filed electronically