IV. Public Participation—Submission of Comments on This Notice and Internet Access to Comments and Submissions

You may submit comments in response to this document as follows: (1) Electronically at http://www.regulations.gov, which is the Federal eRulemaking Portal; (2) by facsimile (fax); or (3) by hard copy. All comments, attachments, and other materials must identify the Agency name and the OSHA docket number for the ICR (Docket No. OSHA—2011–0062). You may supplement electronic submissions by uploading document files electronically. If you wish to mail additional materials in reference to an electronic or facsimile submission, you must submit them to the OSHA Docket Office (see the section of this notice titled ADDRESSES). The additional materials must clearly identify your electronic comments by your name, date, and the docket number so that the Agency can attach them to your comments.

Because of security procedures, the use of regular mail may cause a significant delay in the receipt of comments. For information about security procedures concerning the delivery of materials by hand, express delivery, messenger, or courier service, please contact the OSHA Docket Office at (202) 693–2350, (TTY (877) 889–5627).

Comments and submissions are posted without change at http://www.regulations.gov. Therefore, OSHA cautions commenters about submitting personal information such as social security numbers and date of birth. Although all submissions are listed in the http://www.regulations.gov index, some information (e.g., copyrighted material) is not publicly available to read or download from this Web site. All submissions, including copyrighted material, are available for inspection and copying at the OSHA Docket Office. Information on using the http://www.regulations.gov Web site to submit comments and access the docket is available at the Web site’s “User Tips” link. Contact the OSHA Docket Office for information about materials not available from the Web site, and for assistance in using the Internet to locate docket submissions.

V. Authority and Signature

Loren Sweatt, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, directed the preparation of this notice. The authority for this notice is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) and Secretary of Labor’s Order No. 1–2012 (77 FR 3912).

Signed at Washington, DC, on September 19, 2017.

Loren Sweatt,
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health.

[FR Doc. 2017–20770 Filed 9–27–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510–26–P

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

[19 FR 17–05]

Notice of Entering into a Compact With the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal

AGENCY: Millennium Challenge Corporation.

ACTION: Notice.


Jeanne M. Hauch,
Vice President and General Counsel, Millennium Challenge Corporation.

Summary of the Nepal Compact

Overview of MCC Nepal Compact

MCC’s Board of Directors has approved a five-year, $500 million compact with Nepal aimed at reducing poverty through economic growth. The compact seeks to assist Nepal in addressing two binding constraints to economic growth: (i) Inadequate supply of electricity; and (ii) high cost of transportation. The compact will address these binding constraints by investing in two projects: The Electricity Transmission Project and the Road Maintenance Project.

Background and Context

Nepal’s economic growth, labor productivity, and gross domestic product per capita are among the lowest...
in South Asia. A decade of civil and political unrest from 1996 to 2006 continues to shape the social, economic, and political landscape of the country. The people of Nepal continue to deal with the fallout from a series of devastating earthquakes in 2015 that killed nearly 9,000 people and pushed an additional million below the poverty line. Almost half a million people leave the country each year for economic opportunities elsewhere. In September 2017, Nepal will hold the final phase of a three-phase local, democratic election in hundreds of municipalities throughout the country. These local elections are the first in 20 years and the first to be held since Nepal ratified its constitution in 2015, a critical step in continuing to foster transparency and accountability in government.

The proposed compact is designed to address the underlying causes of two binding constraints to Nepal’s growth: inadequate supply of electricity and high cost of transportation. Nepal suffers from the worst electricity shortages in South Asia, and new investment in Nepal’s electricity sector is critical to achieve economic growth. Only half of the demand for electricity can be met by the nation’s grid, which has resulted in load-shedding of up to 18 hours a day during the dry winter months when hydropower generation is low. The constraints to growth analysis found that the low availability of electricity incurs significant costs for businesses that must run generators on expensive imported fuel. The availability of electricity is further reduced by Nepal’s constrained ability to import power when needed and the high level of losses in transmission and distribution system.

The transportation sector has also suffered from Nepal’s past political instability, inadequate investment, weak planning, and poor project execution. These factors have contributed to poor road quality, inefficient customs and border enforcement, an inefficient trucking industry, and inadequate road coverage. The Government of Nepal recognizes that investments in this sector are needed to reduce transportation costs and promote economic growth.

**Compact Overview and Budget**

After MCC selected Nepal as eligible for threshold program assistance in December 2011, MCC and the Government of Nepal conducted a constraints to growth analysis. When MCC’s Board of Directors selected Nepal as eligible to develop a compact in December 2014, MCC and the Government of Nepal used the analysis completed for the threshold program to develop the proposed compact. MCC and Nepal identified four binding constraints and agreed to focus the proposed compact on the two best suited for MCC’s assistance: The inadequate supply of electricity and the high cost of transportation. The proposed compact seeks to address the selected constraints by investing in two projects: the Electricity Transmission Project and the Road Maintenance Project.

Nepal is already undertaking significant investments in the generation and distribution portions of the power sector value chain. The proposed Electricity Transmission Project therefore seeks to strengthen the transmission portion of the value chain, which has been weakened by historic underinvestment and poor implementation. The Electricity Transmission Project plans to add approximately 300 kilometers to the high-voltage transmission backbone inside Nepal, complete the Nepal portion of the second cross-border transmission line with India for increased electricity trade, and provide technical assistance aimed at improving the sustainability of Nepal’s power sector. The compact will also support Nepal’s establishment of an independent and capable power sector regulator, which is essential for maintaining open, non-discriminatory access to a transmission network with transparent pricing and clear rules of engagement.

The Road Maintenance Project focuses on improving Nepal’s road maintenance regime by providing technical assistance to key actors within the transportation sector. The Road Maintenance Project also includes an incentive-matching fund to encourage the expansion of Nepal’s road maintenance budget, in addition to the periodic maintenance of up to 305 kilometers of the country’s strategic road network.

The following summary describes the components of Nepal’s compact. The MCC investment for the compact is $500 million, with an additional $130 million committed by Nepal to support the compact program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Total (millions $)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Electricity Transmission Project</td>
<td>398.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Transmission Lines Activity</td>
<td>228.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Substation Activity</td>
<td>114.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Power Sector Technical Assistance Activity</td>
<td>22.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 Project Management Activity</td>
<td>33.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Roads Maintenance Project</td>
<td>52.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Technical Assistance Road Maintenance Reform</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Strategic Road Maintenance Works</td>
<td>45.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1 Monitoring and Evaluation Activities</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Program Administration and Oversight</td>
<td>40.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1 MCA-Nepal Program Administration</td>
<td>23.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2 Fiscal Agent, Procurement Agent, Audit</td>
<td>16.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total MCC Contribution</td>
<td>500.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government of Nepal Contribution</td>
<td>130.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Program Investment</td>
<td>630.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nepal Compact Budget

Project Summaries

The Electricity Transmission Project: The objective of this project is to spur economic activity and growth by improving the availability and reliability of electricity supply in Nepal’s power grid, thus increasing per capita electricity consumption. This project includes four activities:

- Transmission Lines Activity. This activity will fund the construction of an estimated 300 kilometers of high voltage transmission lines in Nepal, providing a vital missing link to the existing high voltage grid. Most of the proposed transmission lines traverse mountainous terrain, starting near the Kathmandu Valley, moving to the west and then southwest to the Indian border. The particular lines were selected following careful analyses and feasibility studies that weighed their technical and economic merit, their importing Nepal’s medium and long term electricity supply goals, and their consistency with Nepal’s domestic and cross border transmission investment plans. The transmission line route was selected to minimize impact on people and sensitive geographic areas, to the extent possible. Moreover, the activity includes funding for certain community benefit-sharing activities in order to further mitigate potential social impacts from construction of the transmission lines. Potential activities include rural electrification through off-grid solutions and community empowerment programs.

- Substations Activity. This activity is complementary to the Transmission Lines Activity. The proposed compact contemplates constructing three substations. In combination with the transmission lines, these substations would help evacuate and transmit power collected from three major river basins where large hydropower projects are under construction by investors, many of which are private. The substations are expected to be the starting point for the transmission line to the Indian border and power grid.

- Power Sector Technical Assistance Activity. This activity seeks to strengthen the proposed power sector regulator (Electricity Regulatory Commission) to help bring transparency, efficiency, and competition to the power sector. The activity would help Nepal embed experts within the Electricity Regulatory Commission to improve the skills of this nascent agency in areas such as rule-making, dispute resolution, and economic and technical regulation. This activity would also help the Nepal Electricity Authority improve its transmission operations and prepare for oversight from the new independent electricity regulator. This will help establish a regulatory cost recovery system, improved grid operations, and better power system planning within the Nepal Electricity Authority.

- Program Management and Technical Oversight Activity. This activity is designed to complement the Transmission Lines and Substation Activities by supporting project management, environmental and social impact assessment, and engineering and technical supervision. This will allow the compact to properly implement the proposed infrastructure investments while complying with MCC’s technical, environmental, and social standards.

The Road Maintenance Project: The objective of this project is to avoid future increases in transportation costs across Nepal’s road network by preventing further deterioration of maintained roads and to improve the administrative, technical, and financial management of the roads and their consistency with Nepal’s medium and long term electricity supply goals, and their consistency with Nepal’s domestic and cross border transmission investment plans. The transmission line route was selected to minimize impact on people and sensitive geographic areas, to the extent possible. Moreover, the activity includes funding for certain community benefit-sharing activities in order to further mitigate potential social impacts from construction of the transmission lines. Potential activities include rural electrification through off-grid solutions and community empowerment programs.

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MCC will require certain conditions to entry into force of the compact in order to ensure sustainability of compact investments. For example, given the proposed compact’s focus and the clear need for a second cross-border transmission connection with India, MCC will require that technical and financial arrangements for the construction of the complementary investment in India be finalized before entry into force of the compact. This requirement is expected to be further strengthened through conditions regarding the Nepal portion of the cross-border transmission line that must be met for certain compact disbursements.

The proposed compact includes several key reform elements, supported by technical assistance activities in each project. The Power Sector Technical Assistance Activity includes conditions to help Nepal create a transparent and efficient electricity market. MCC believes that the establishment of the Electricity Regulatory Commission as an independent and capable regulator is essential for maintaining open, non-discriminatory access to a transmission network with transparent pricing and clear rules of engagement for all power market participants, particularly investors in generation projects. The compact proposes to increase the utility’s planning, operations, and cost recovery mechanisms to help ensure the sustainability of the proposed investments. Strengthening the utility’s transmission operations should ensure its viability if Nepal decides to spin off or merge those operations with an independent transmission company. MCC has conditioned the entry into force of the compact on satisfactory progress toward parliamentary approval of a bill to establish the Electricity Regulatory Commission. Further, funding for the Power Sector Technical Assistance Activity will only be provided if the Electricity Regulatory
Commission bill has been passed by the Nepali parliament. For the Technical Assistance Activity in the Road Maintenance Project, MCC will provide compact funding for maintenance works only if Nepal increases its own historically low spending levels on road maintenance. The compact is expected to incentivize Nepal to increase its spending for road maintenance significantly by making MCC funding conditioned on increased Nepal spending.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jeanne M. Hauch,
VP/General Counsel and Corporate Secretary,
Millennium Challenge Corporation.

Jeanne M. Hauch,
VP/General Counsel and Corporate Secretary,
Millennium Challenge Corporation.

MCC Advisory Council

[Notice: (17–069)]

Notice of information collection.

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Notice of information collection.

SUMMARY: The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: All comments should be submitted within 30 calendar days from the date of this publication.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments regarding the proposed information collection to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 7th Street NW., Washington, DC 20503. Attention: Desk Officer for NASA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Lori Parker, NASA Clearance Officer, NASA Headquarters, 300 E Street SW., JF0000, Washington, DC 20546 or email Lori.Parker-1@nasa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The information submitted by recipients is an annual report of Government-owned property in the possession of educational or nonprofit institutions holding NASA grants. In addition to the annual report, a property report may also be required at the end of the grant, or on the occurrence of certain events. The collected information is used by NASA to effectively maintain an appropriate internal control system for equipment and property provided or acquired under grants and cooperative agreements with institutions of higher education and other nonprofit organizations, and to comply with statutory requirements.

II. Method of Collection

NASA is participating in Federal efforts to extend the use of information technology to more Government processes via Internet. NASA encourages recipients to use the latest computer technology in preparing documentation. Grant and Cooperative Agreement awardees submit annual property reports via an automated NASA Form 1018 by way of the NASA Electronic Submission System (NESS). Approximately 95% of reports are submitted via electronic means.

III. Data

Title: Property Inventory Report—Grants with Educational and Nonprofit Entities (formerly titled NASA Inventory Report: Property Management & Control, Grants).

OMB Number: 2700–0047.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Educational institutions and not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 238.

Estimated Time per Response: 8.33 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,983 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: $67,552.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of NASA, including whether the information collected has practical utility; (2) the accuracy of NASA’s estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the