

granted by MSHA applies, for a period of not less than 60 consecutive days and a copy shall be made available to all miners' representatives.

(k) The proposed radios will be available for inspection and testing during MSHA's investigation. As other radios are acquired, if the petition is granted, such radios shall be made available for MSHA inspection. The radios shall be made available for MSHA testing during the investigation.

(l) The Motorola radio is rated IP 66 and IP 68. It is powered by a lithium cell. Two such radios have been purchased by Peabody and are available at Gateway North for examination and testing by MSHA. Peabody has not, itself, tested such radios because it is presumed that MSHA will intend to conduct tests at the mine and would be unlikely to accept Peabody's results.

(m) The miners at Gateway North Mine are not currently represented by a labor organization and this petition is posted at the mine.

In support of the proposed alternative method, the petitioner has also submitted manufacturer product specification sheets for MSHA-approved permissible radios indicating they are no longer available and manufacturer product specification sheets for the proposed Motorola R-7 Portable Two-Way Radio.

The petitioner asserts that the alternative method in the petition will at all times guarantee no less than the same measure of protection afforded to the miners by the standard.

Song-ae Aromie Noe,

Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances.

[FR Doc. 2024-22931 Filed 10-3-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4520-43-P

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

[MCC FR 24-09]

Notice of Entering Into a Compact With the Republic of Sierra Leone

AGENCY: Millennium Challenge Corporation.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the provisions of the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003, as amended, the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is publishing a summary of the Millennium Challenge Compact (Compact) between the United States of America and the Republic of Sierra Leone. Representatives of the United States of America and the Republic of

Sierra Leone executed the Compact on September 27, 2024. The complete text of the Compact has been posted at: <https://www.mcc.gov/resources/doc/compact-sierra-leone/>.

(Authority: 22 U.S.C. 7709 (b)(3))

Dated: September 30, 2024.

Peter E. Jaffe,

Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary.

Summary of Sierra Leone Compact Overview of MCC Sierra Leone Compact

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), on behalf of the United States of America, has signed a five-year Compact with the Republic of Sierra Leone aimed at reducing poverty through economic growth. MCC funding of \$480,669,000, together with a voluntary contribution of \$14,200,000 from the Government of Sierra Leone, will support economic growth in Sierra Leone through investments in the energy sector to address the constraints of insufficient availability of affordable and reliable electricity. The Compact will address these constraints through three projects: (1) the Transmission Backbone Project; (2) the Distribution and Access Project; and (3) the Power Sector Reform Project.

Background and Context

Sierra Leone's economy suffers from a power sector that cannot serve its existing customer base or keep up with future business and household demand. This is due to limited and high-cost supply, low capacity and poor reliability of the transmission and distribution networks, and the ineffectiveness of sector policies and institutions. These bottlenecks negatively impact current customers, most of whom are in the capital city, and prevent Sierra Leone from expanding electricity service to the 70% of the population without electricity. As the economy grows and the grid expands, load forecasts suggest demand will more than double by the end of the compact term.

Meeting this demand will require large investments in foundational infrastructure and institutional capabilities. The need to simultaneously address multiple sector constraints, combined with the long lead times required to plan, finance, and construct large scale infrastructure, poses a major coordination challenge for public and private investment in the sector. This coordination challenge is magnified by the lack of capacity at sector institutions to reassess, update, and execute against sector planning documents—as well as

sector wide issues with transparency and governance. As a result, much needed public and private investment is all too often delayed, withdrawn, or exceedingly costly due to the risks and uncertainties involved.

Given this sector context, the Compact strengthens the foundations of a reliable electricity sector through investments in transmission and distribution infrastructure, development of a strong enabling environment for independent power producers, and substantial capacity building support for the utilities and key sector institutions.

Project Summaries

The compact program consists of three projects:

(1) The Transmission Backbone Project (\$226,702,000) will expand Sierra Leone's transmission network to increase network coverage, increase the throughput capacity needed to evacuate increasing electricity supply, and increase reliability of service. With less than 500 miles of transmission lines currently in Sierra Leone, the country's extremely limited grid means most citizens do not have access to power. This project connects a high-voltage West African Power Pool transmission line to the capital city. The project also builds and operationalizes a main and back up transmission dispatch center critical for network reliability and integration into the regional power marketplace. Technical assistance supports critical capacity development for the transmission utility in transmission operations and maintenance.

(2) The Distribution and Access Project (\$123,634,000) is designed to increase reliability of the grid, improve the financial viability of the distribution utility, and make strategic investments in connecting new customers to the grid and regularizing existing connections. This project refurbishes critical components of the distribution network in the capital city where 80% of power is consumed in Sierra Leone and reduces both technical and commercial losses through the provision of new meters and organizational change. Access investments include distribution line and substation expansion as well as direct connections to select end users, driven by socioeconomic data and planned transmission expansion. In addition, this project will involve the construction and operationalization of a main and a back-up distribution dispatch center to improve the Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority's operations and maintenance performance.

(3) The Power Sector Reform Project (\$50,490,000) is designed to improve sector financial sustainability, reduce the cost of service, and improve regulation by investing in priority sector reforms and capacity-building for key sector actors, including the utilities, regulator, and Ministry of Energy. The project includes embedded support to key sector institutions such as the regulator, the Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission, and the Ministry of Energy (especially its planning functions) to help them

develop the capabilities needed to shepherd sector development over the coming decade. This support is intended to help Sierra Leone implement its Power Sector Reform Roadmap and Action Plan, including achieving improvements on key sector performance indicators targeting improved sector financial sustainability, reduced cost of service while fostering cost recovery for supplied electricity, and improved regulation. Additionally, this project seeks to spur private sector financed generation through project

preparation support, transaction advisory services, and de-risking mechanisms.

Compact Budget

The table below presents the overall compact budget of approximately \$495 million, which includes MCC funding under the Compact of up to \$480,669,000 and a voluntary Government of Sierra Leone contribution of \$14,200,000.

Component	Amount
1. Transmission Backbone Project	\$226,702,000
Activity 1.1: Transmission Dispatch Center	23,447,000
Activity 1.2: Southern Transmission Corridor	170,900,000
Activity 1.3: Bumbuna-Freetown Line Upgrade	24,390,000
Activity 1.4: EGTC Capacity Building	7,965,000
2. Distribution and Access Project	123,634,000
Activity 2.1: Distribution Dispatch Center	30,554,000
Activity 2.2: Distribution Refurbishment	44,335,000
Activity 2.3: Access	26,850,000
Activity 2.4: EDSA Capacity Building	21,895,000
3. Power Sector Reform Project	50,490,000
Activity 3.1: MIAA	25,250,000
Activity 3.2: Financial Sustainability	8,300,000
Activity 3.3: Policy & Planning	10,420,000
Activity 3.4: Cross-Cutting Capacity Activity	6,520,000
4. Monitoring and Evaluation	7,800,000
5. Program Administration and Oversight	72,043,000
Total MCC Compact Funding	480,669,000
Total MCC Compact Funding	480,669,000
Government of Sierra Leone Contribution	14,200,000
Total Program Funding	494,869,000

[FR Doc. 2024-22902 Filed 10-3-24; 8:45 am]
 BILLING CODE 9211-03-P

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

National Endowment for the Arts

National Council on the Arts 214th Meeting

AGENCY: National Endowment for the Arts, National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given that a meeting of the National Council on the Arts will be held open to the public by videoconference. Additional sessions will be closed to the public for reasons stated below.

DATES: See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for meeting time and date. The meeting is located in

eastern time and the ending time is approximate.

ADDRESSES: The National Endowment for the Arts, Constitution Center, 400 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20560. This meeting will be held by videoconference. Public portions of the meeting will be webcast. Please see [arts.gov](https://www.arts.gov) for the most up-to-date information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Liz Auclair, Office of Public Affairs, National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, DC 20506, at 202/682-5744.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting will take place on October 24 and 25, 2024. The meeting on October 25, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., will be open to the public by videoconference. If, in the course of the open session discussion, it becomes necessary for the Council to discuss non-public commercial or financial information of intrinsic value, the Council will go into closed session pursuant to subsection (c)(4) of the

Government in the Sunshine Act, 5 U.S.C. 552b, and in accordance with the March 11, 2022 determination of the Chair. Additionally, discussion concerning purely personal information about individuals, such as personal biographical and salary data or medical information, may be conducted by the Council in closed session in accordance with subsection (c) (6) of 5 U.S.C. 552b. The meeting session that occurs on October 24, 2024, will be closed to the public for the aforementioned reasons.

Detailed Meeting Information:
Closed Session: October 24, 2024; 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. *Location:* Videoconference.

Open Session: October 25, 2024; 11:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. *Location:* Videoconference.

There will be opening remarks and voting on recommendations for grant funding and rejection, updates from NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson, and presentations about the state of the nation's Local Arts Agency field. This session will be held open to the public by videoconference. To view the