

Federal Communications Commission Washington, D.C. 20554

December 18, 2014

DA 14-1856

<u>SENT VIA CERTIFIED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED</u> <u>AND E-MAIL</u>

Ms. Donna P. English 225 Warren Road Michigan City, IN 46360

Re: Debarment Notice, FCC Case No. EB-IHD-14-00015686

Dear Ms. English:

The Federal Communications Commission (Commission) hereby notifies you that, pursuant to Section 54.8 of its rules, you are prohibited from participating in activities associated with or relating to the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism (E-Rate program) for three years from either the date of your receipt of this Debarment Notice or of its publication in the Federal Register, whichever is earlier in time (Debarment Date).¹

On August 26, 2014, the Commission's Enforcement Bureau sent you a Notice of Suspension and Initiation of Debarment Proceedings that was published in the Federal Register on September 16, 2014.² That *Suspension Notice* suspended you from participating in activities associated with or relating to the E-Rate program. It also described the basis for initiating debarment proceedings against you, the applicable debarment procedures, and the effect of debarment.

As discussed in the *Suspension Notice*, in October 2011 you were convicted of multiple counts of wire fraud, one count of mail fraud, and one count of theft of government property for activities associated with the E-Rate program.³ As the owner of Project Managers, Inc. (PMI) you defrauded the E-Rate program by completing and filing E-Rate applications for the River Forest Community School Corporation (RFCSC) in violation of the E-Rate program rules.⁴ In addition, you submitted false invoices and received more than \$200,000 in E-Rate payments from RFCSC and the Universal Service Administrative Company for technical services you did not provide and for cash advances you did not

¹ 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.8(e), (g); *see also id.* § 0.111 (delegating authority to the Enforcement Bureau to resolve universal service suspension and debarment proceedings).

² Letter from Theresa Z. Cavanaugh, Chief, Investigations and Hearings Division, FCC Enforcement Bureau, to Donna P. English, Notice of Suspension and Initiation of Debarment Proceedings, 29 FCC Rcd 10119 (Enf. Bur. 2014) (*Suspension Notice*); 79 Fed. Reg. 55486 (Sept. 16, 2014).

³ United States v. Donna P. English, Criminal Docket No. 2:10-cr-00075-JTM-PRC, Judgment at 1 (N.D. Ind. entered Oct. 14, 2011); Suspension Notice, 29 FCC Rcd at 10120–21.

⁴ Suspension Notice, 29 FCC Rcd at 10120.

Donna P. English December 18, 2014 Page 2

repay.⁵ Pursuant to Section 54.8(c) of the Commission's rules, your conviction of criminal conduct in connection with the E-Rate program is the basis for this debarment.⁶

In accordance with the Commission's debarment rules, you were required to file with the Commission any opposition to your suspension or its scope, or to your proposed debarment or its scope, no later than 30 calendar days from either the date of your receipt of the *Suspension Notice* or of its publication in the Federal Register, whichever date occurred first. The Commission did not receive any such opposition from you.

For the foregoing reasons, you are debarred from participating in activities associated with or related to the E-Rate program for three years from the Debarment Date. ⁸ During this debarment period, you are excluded from participating in any activities associated with or related to the E-Rate program, including the receipt of funds or discounted services through the E-Rate program, or consulting with, assisting, or advising applicants or service providers regarding the E-Rate program. ⁹

Sincerely,

Jeffrey J. Gee Acting Chief Investigations and Hearings Division Enforcement Bureau

cc: Johnnay Schrieber, Universal Service Administrative Company (via e-mail)
Rashann Duvall, Universal Service Administrative Company (via e-mail)
Jonathan M. Minkus, Law Offices of Jonathan Minkus (via e-mail)
Toi Denise Houston, United States Attorney's Office, Hammond, IN (via e-mail)
Jennifer Dixton, United States Department of Justice, Antitrust Division (via e-mail)

⁵ *Id.* at 10120–2.

⁶ 47 C.F.R. § 54.8(c).

⁷ Id. § 54.8 (e)(3)–(4). Any opposition had to be filed no later than October 3, 2014.

⁸ *Id.* §§ 54.8(e)(5), (g).

⁹ *Id.* §§ 54.8(a)(1), (5), (d).