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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Administrative Appeals Office (AAO)
20 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., MS 2090
Washington, DC 20529-2090



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

PUBLIC COPY

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DATE:

OFFICE: NEBRASKA SERVICE CENTER

FILE:

MAR 14 2012

IN RE:

Petitioner:

Beneficiary:

PETITION:

Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker as a Member of the Professions Holding an Advanced Degree or an Alien of Exceptional Ability Pursuant to Section 203(b)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(2)

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:

INSTRUCTIONS:

Enclosed please find the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. All of the documents related to this matter have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Please be advised that any further inquiry that you might have concerning your case must be made to that office.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied by us in reaching our decision, or you have additional information that you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reconsider or a motion to reopen. The specific requirements for filing such a request can be found at 8 C.F.R. § 103.5. All motions must be submitted to the office that originally decided your case by filing a Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion, with a fee of \$630. Please be aware that 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(i) requires that any motion must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider or reopen.

Thank you,

Elizabeth McCormack

Perry Rhew
Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The Director, Nebraska Service Center, denied the employment-based immigrant visa petition, which is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The petitioner is a software consulting firm. It seeks to employ the beneficiary permanently in the United States as a database management specialist pursuant to section 203(b)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(2). As required by statute, a labor certification accompanied the petition. Upon reviewing the petition, the director determined that the petitioner failed to demonstrate that the beneficiary satisfied the minimum level of education stated on the labor certification. The director determined that the beneficiary's three-year bachelor degree from Osmania University and two years of additional study with the National Institute of Information Technology could not be accepted as a foreign equivalent degree to a U.S. bachelor's degree because no evidence in the record established that the beneficiary's three-year degree was the equivalent of a four-year U.S. bachelor's degree or that the combination of the beneficiary's studies or a combination of education and experience would be equivalent to a four-year, single-source U.S. bachelor's degree.

The AAO conducts appellate review on a *de novo* basis. See *Soltane v. DOJ*, 381 F.3d 143, 145 (3d Cir. 2004).

The AAO issued a request for evidence (RFE) on January 3, 2012 concerning the actual minimum educational requirements of the offered position.¹ The AAO explained that it consulted a database that did not equate the beneficiary's credentials to a U.S. baccalaureate degree and the evidence in the record of proceeding as currently constituted did not support a determination that the petitioner intended the actual minimum requirements of the offered position to include alternatives to a bachelor degree such as the credentials held by the beneficiary. The AAO solicited additional evidence of the beneficiary's credentials and evidence of how the petitioner expressed its actual minimum educational requirements to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) during the labor certification process.

The AAO specifically alerted the petitioner that failure to respond to the RFE would result in dismissal since the AAO could not substantively adjudicate the appeal without the information requested. The failure to submit requested evidence that precludes a material line of inquiry shall be grounds for denying the petition. See 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(b)(14).

Because the petitioner failed to respond to the RFE, the AAO is dismissing the appeal. The burden of proof in these proceedings rests solely with the petitioner. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361. The petitioner has not met that burden.

¹ The AAO issued a Notice of Derogatory Information (NDI) dated August 9, 2011 noting that the petitioner was not in good standing with the State of Texas. Although nothing was received in response to this NDI, the petitioner's status was changed to "good standing" with the Texas Secretary of State. The instant RFE followed.



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ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.