

Distance Education Accrediting Commission

Public Notice: Official Comment by New Learning Resources Online to

August 25, 2021 Adverse Action

October 27, 2021

Section XV.G. (*Additional Information Regarding Adverse Actions*), Processes and Procedures, DEAC Accreditation Handbook requires the Commission to make available to the U.S. Secretary of Education, the appropriate state licensing agencies, the appropriate accrediting organizations, and the public, within sixty days following the effective date of any decision to deny or withdraw accreditation, a brief statement summarizing the reasons for the Commission's decision and the official comments, if any, that the affected institution makes regarding the Commission's decision. If no official comments by the institution are provided within 14 days of notification, the Commission will document that the affected institution was offered the opportunity to provide an official comment.

DEAC provided the required public notice of its August 25, 2021 decision to withdraw the accreditation of New Learning Resources Online (NLRO) and to deny NLRO's application for reaccreditation, along with a brief summary of the reasons for that decision, on August 30, 2021. On September 9, 2021, DEAC updated the [August 30, 2021 notice](#) to reflect that NLRO had not exercised its right to appeal the Commission's August 25, 2021 decision and that the Commission's decision was therefore in full effect and no longer appealable.

By letter dated September 24, 2021, NLRO exercised its right under Section XV.G. to provide to DEAC an official comment on the Commission's August 25, 2021 decision. That letter can be found in its entirety at this link: [NLRO Official Comment](#).

Although DEAC vigorously disagrees with NLRO's allegation that DEAC acted other than in a fair, transparent, and reasoned way and in strict accordance with DEAC's published accreditation standards, policies, and procedures, DEAC will limit its response to the official comment submitted by NLRO to the following corrections of the procedural record:

1. The March 30, 2021 Appeals Panel decision did not reverse the Commission's decision to withdraw NLRO's accreditation but rather directed the Commission to provide NLRO with additional time to submit required financial reports and to reconsider its decision to withdraw the institution's accreditation upon the Commission's receipt and review of those reports. Consistent with DEAC's published procedures for appeals, the Commission acted upon the direction of the Appeals Panel at its next regular meeting (June 18, 2021) and [notified the public](#) of its actions in the [July 16, 2021 Report](#) from the Accrediting Commission.
2. In accordance with DEAC's published policies and procedures, NLRO retained its accredited status pending the conclusion of the appellate process or unless earlier

terminated or withdrawn for independent reasons. NLRO's 2020 application for renewal of accreditation also remained active and under review.

3. NLRO's continued failure to comply with DEAC's annual institutional reporting requirements caused the Commission to deliver a show cause directive to the institution on [May 13, 2021](#). On July 16, 2021, the Commission issued a second show cause directive to NLRO. The second directive on [July 16, 2021](#) continued the May 13, 2021 show cause directive and expanded the earlier directive to require NLRO's remediation of uncured material deficiencies in the institution's 2020 application for renewal of its accreditation.
4. NLRO's failure to respond to the July 16, 2021 show cause directive resulted in the August 25, 2021 decision by the Commission to withdraw NLRO's accreditation and deny its application for renewal of accreditation.