

occur under the proposed use conditions of 2-bromo-2-nitro-1, 3-propanediol as a preservative at very low concentrations in pesticide products intended for applications, principally to growing crops, raw agricultural commodities after harvest, and animals; as either a direct pour-on application or as a spray. Neither method of application is expected to contaminate water supplies intended for human consumption. Bronopol is not applied to water and is not used for the disinfection of human or animal drinking water.

2. *Non-dietary exposure.* 2-bromo-2-nitro-1, 3-propanediol is used as an industrial biocide for the prevention of biofouling in areas such as recirculating water in cooling towers and evaporative condensers, air conditioners, air washers and humidifier systems, oil, gas and industrial process water, metal working fluids and paper mill pulp and process water; and for the preservation of surfactants, adhesives, starch, pigment and extender slurries, paints, latex and antifoam emulsions, absorbent clays, water based printing inks and print solutions, water based pesticides and chemical toilet solutions. The margins of exposure (MOEs) calculated for direct applicators occupationally exposed by either the dermal or inhalation route, based on worst-case estimates, revealed there is no level for concern. Estimated exposures to professional painters using paint preserved with 2-bromo-2-nitro-1, 3-propanediol were used as the worst-case for estimating secondary occupational exposure risk. MOEs were not exceeded and EPA has concluded that risk associated with secondary exposure are not of concern.

2-bromo-2-nitro-1, 3-propanediol is also used in the preservation of consumer, household and institutional products. Based on the worst-case estimate for professional painters chronically exposed to 2-bromo-2-nitro-1, 3-propanediol, EPA has concluded that risk associated with these uses are not of concern.

2-bromo-2-nitro-1, 3-propanediol also is used to preserve pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and toiletries, which are regulated by FDA. The Cosmetic, Toiletries and Fragrance Association's (CTFA's) Cosmetic Ingredient Review (1980) states that 2-bromo-2-nitro-1,3-propanediol is safe as a cosmetic ingredient at concentrations up to 0.1% except where there is a risk of nitrosamine or nitrosamide formation. Similarly, 2-bromo-2-nitro-1,3-propanediol is listed in Annex VI of the EC Cosmetics directive as an approved preservative for use up to 0.1% except

where there is a risk of nitrosamine formation.

Based on toxicity data, an aggregate risk or likelihood of the occurrence of an adverse health effect resulting from all routes of exposure to 2-bromo-2-nitro-1, 3-propanediol is not expected.

D. Cumulative Effects

There is no reliable information that would indicate or suggest that 2-bromo-2-nitro-1, 3-propanediol has any toxic effects on mammals that would be cumulative with those of any other chemical.

E. Safety Determination

1. *U.S. population.* The reference dose (RfD) for 2-bromo-2-nitro-1, 3-propanediol based on the 2-year chronic study (drinking water) in rats with a NOAEL of 10 mg/kg/day and using an uncertainty factor of 100 is calculated to be 0.1 mg/kg of body weight (bwt)/day. The estimated worst-case theoretical maximum residue contribution (TMRC) resulting from this action will be 0.000024 mg/kg/bwt/day for the overall U.S. population and represents 0.024 percent of the RfD. Based upon this information and review of its use, EPA has found that, when used in accordance with good agricultural practice, this ingredient is useful and a tolerance is not necessary to protect the public health.

2. *Infants and children.* Nothing in the available literature would suggest that infants and children are more sensitive to the effects of 2-bromo-2-nitro-1, 3-propanediol than adults. Exposure of infants to 2-bromo-2-nitro-1, 3-propanediol resulting from its proposed use as an inert ingredient in certain pesticide formulations is expected to be negligible and will not put infants and children at increased risk.

F. International Tolerances

BASF Corporation is not aware of the existence of any international tolerances for 2-bromo-2-nitro-1, 3-propanediol.

[FR Doc. 02-32400 Filed 12-23-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-S

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
SUMMARY: Background. On June 15, 1984, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) delegated to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve

System (Board) its approval authority under the Paperwork Reduction Act, as per 5 CFR 1320.16, to approve of and assign OMB control numbers to collection of information requests and requirements conducted or sponsored by the Board under conditions set forth in 5 CFR 1320 Appendix A.1. Board-approved collections of information are incorporated into the official OMB inventory of currently approved collections of information. Copies of the OMB 83-I's and supporting statements and approved collection of information instruments are placed into OMB's public docket files. The Federal Reserve may not conduct or sponsor, and the respondent is not required to respond to, an information collection that has been extended, revised, or implemented on or after October 1, 1995, unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Request for Comment on Information Collection Proposal

The following information collection, which is being handled under this delegated authority, has received initial Board approval and is hereby published for comment. At the end of the comment period, the proposed information collection, along with an analysis of comments and recommendations received, will be submitted to the Board for final approval under OMB delegated authority. Comments are invited on the following:

- whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the Federal Reserve's functions; including whether the information has practical utility;
- the accuracy of the Federal Reserve's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- ways to minimize the burden of information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before February 24, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to Ms. Jennifer J. Johnson, Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20551. However, because paper mail in the Washington area and at the Board of Governors is subject to delay, please consider submitting your comments by e-mail to regs.comments@federalreserve.gov, or

faxing them to the Office of the Secretary at 202-452-3819 or 202-452-3102. Comments addressed to Ms. Johnson may also be delivered to the Board's mail facility in the West Courtyard between 8:45 a.m. and 5:15 p.m., located on 21st Street between Constitution Avenue and C Street, N.W. Members of the public may inspect comments in Room MP-500 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on weekdays pursuant to 261.12, except as provided in 261.14, of the Board's Rules Regarding Availability of Information, 12 CFR 261.12 and 261.14.

A copy of the comments may also be submitted to the OMB desk officer for the Board: Joseph Lackey, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A copy of the proposed form and instructions, the Paperwork Reduction Act Submission (OMB 83-I), supporting statement, and other documents that will be placed into OMB's public docket files once approved may be requested from the agency clearance officer, whose name appears below. Cindy Ayouch, Federal Reserve Board Clearance Officer (202-452-3829), Division of Research and Statistics, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC 20551. Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) users may contact (202-263-4869), Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC 20551.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposals to approve under OMB delegated authority the extension for three years, with revision, of the following reports:

1. Report title: The Weekly Report of Eurodollar Liabilities Held by Selected U.S. Addressees at Foreign Offices of U.S. Banks.

Agency form number: FR 2050.

OMB control number: 7100-0068.

Frequency: Weekly.

Reporters: Foreign branches and banking subsidiaries of U.S. depository institutions.

Annual reporting hours: 1,872 burden hours.

Estimated average hours per response: 1.0 hour.

Number of respondents: 36.

Small businesses are not affected.

General description of report: This information collection is voluntary (12 U.S.C. §§248(a)(2), 353 et seq., 461, 602, and 625). Individual respondent's data are confidential under section (b)(4) of the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4)).

Abstract: The report collects data on Eurodollar deposits payable to nonbank U.S. addressees from foreign branches and subsidiaries of U.S. commercial banks and Edge and agreement corporations. The data are used for the construction of the Eurodollar component of the monetary aggregates and for analysis of banks' liability management practices.

Current Actions: The Federal Reserve proposes that the reporting cutoff be raised from a weekly average of \$500 million to \$550 million in Eurodollar liabilities.

2. Report title: The Quarterly Report of Assets and Liabilities of Large Foreign Offices of U.S. Banks.

Agency form number: FR 2502q.

OMB control number: 7100-0079.

Frequency: Quarterly.

Reporters: Large foreign branches and banking subsidiaries of U.S. depository institutions.

Annual reporting hours: 32,662 hours.

Estimated average hours per response: 3.5 hours.

Number of respondents: 2,333.

Small businesses are not affected.

General description of report: This information collection is required (12 U.S.C. §§248(a)(2), 353 et seq., 461, 602, and 625) and is given confidential treatment (5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4)).

Abstract: The report collects gross assets and liability positions from foreign branches and subsidiaries of U.S. commercial banks and Edge and agreement corporations vis-a-vis individual countries. A separate schedule collects information on Eurodollar liabilities payable to certain U.S. addressees.

Current Actions: The Federal Reserve proposes to revise the country list in the body of the reporting form to conform to the Department of State's official country list. Claims and liabilities that are not allocated by country of customer would be further broken out into that portion that is attributable to the fair value of derivatives contracts. Claims on and liabilities to other non-U.S. offices of the parent bank would be further broken out into that portion that is attributable to unallocated claims and liabilities. In addition, the instructions would be clarified with respect to the year-end panel review process and the definition of unallocated claims. Finally, the single data item collected on Schedule A would be reported as a seven-day average (one number) instead of daily (five numbers).

Proposal to approve under OMB delegated authority the revision, without extension, of the following reports:

Report title: Financial Statements for Bank Holding Companies

Agency form numbers: FR Y-9C, FR Y-9LP, FR Y-9SP, FR Y-9CS, and FR Y-9ES

OMB control number: 7100-0128.

Frequency: Quarterly, semiannually, and annually

Reporters: Bank holding companies (BHCs).

Annual reporting hours: 349,800.

Estimated average hours per response: FR Y-9C: 34.95 hours, FR Y-9LP: 4.85 hours, FR Y-9SP: 4.19 hours, FR Y-9CS: 30 minutes, FR Y-9ES: 30 minutes

Number of respondents: FR Y-9C: 1,959, FR Y-9LP: 2,320, FR Y-9SP: 3,541, FR Y-9CS: 600; FR Y-9ES: 100.

Small businesses are affected.

General description of report: This information collection is mandatory (12 U.S.C. 1844(c)). Confidential treatment is not routinely given to the data in these reports. However, confidential treatment for the reporting information, in whole or in part, can be requested in accordance with the instructions to the form.

Abstract: The FR Y-9C consists of standardized consolidated financial statements similar to the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC) Consolidated Reports of Condition and Income (Call Reports) (FFIEC 031 & 041; OMB No. 7100-0036). The FR Y-9C is filed quarterly by top-tier BHCs that have total assets of \$150 million or more and by lower-tier BHCs that have total consolidated assets of \$1 billion or more. In addition, multibank holding companies with total consolidated assets of less than \$150 million with debt outstanding to the general public or engaged in certain nonbank activities must file the FR Y-9C.

The FR Y-9LP includes standardized financial statements filed quarterly on a parent company only basis from each BHC that files the FR Y-9C. In addition, for tiered BHCs, a separate FR Y-9LP must be filed for each lower tier BHC.

The FR Y-9SP is a parent company only financial statement filed semiannually by one-bank holding companies with total consolidated assets of less than \$150 million, and multibank holding companies with total consolidated assets of less than \$150 million that meet certain other criteria. This report, an abbreviated version of the more extensive FR Y-9LP, is designed to obtain basic balance sheet and income statement information for the parent company, information on intangible assets, and information on intercompany transactions.

The FR Y-9CS is a free form supplement that may be utilized to

collect any additional information deemed to be critical and needed in an expedited manner. It is intended to supplement the FR Y-9C and FR Y-9SP reports.

The FR Y-9ES, effective for December 31, 2002, is filed annually by BHCs that are Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs). These BHCs previously filed either the FR Y-9LP or the FR Y-9SP reports.

Current Actions: Many of the proposed reporting revisions that pertain to the FR Y-9 reports are being requested to parallel revisions to the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC) Commercial bank Consolidated Reports of Condition and Income (Call Reports) (FFIEC 031 & 041; OMB No. 7100-0036). However, there are other revisions not directly related to the Call Report. A detailed description of the proposed changes follows.

FR Y-9C

Revisions to parallel proposed changes to the Call Report

Charge-offs of Accrued Fees and Finance Charges on Credit Card Accounts

The Federal Reserve proposes to add the following items related to charge-offs of accrued fees and finance charges on credit card accounts.

(1) Add to Schedule HI-B, Part I, a new Memorandum item 3, "Uncollectable credit card fees and finance charges reversed against income (i.e., not included in charge-offs against the allowance for loan and lease losses)" to collect the amount of credit card fees and finance charges that the BHC reversed against either interest and fee income or a separate contra-asset account during the calendar year-to-date. This item would exclude credit card fees and finance charges reported as charge-offs against the allowance for loan and lease losses reported in Schedule HI-B, Part I, item 5.a, column A.

(2) Add to Schedule HI-B, Part II, a new Memorandum item 1, "Separate valuation allowance for uncollectable credit card fees and finance charges" to collect the amount of any valuation allowance or contra-asset account that the BHC maintains separate from the allowance for loan and lease losses to account for uncollectable credit card fees and finance charges. Because this amount is separate from the amount included in Schedule HC, item 4.c, and Schedule HI-B, Part II, item 7, this Memorandum item is only applicable for those BHCs that maintain an allowance or contra-asset account separate from the allowance for loan and lease losses.

(3) Add to Schedule HI-B, Part II, a new Memorandum item 2, "Amount of allowance for loan and lease losses attributable to credit card fees and finance charges," to collect the amount of the allowance for loan and lease losses that is attributable to outstanding credit card fees and finance charges. This amount is included in the amount reported in Schedule HC, item 4.c, and Schedule HI-B, Part II, item 7.

(4) Add to Schedule HC-C a new Memorandum item 4, "Outstanding credit card fees and finance charges," to collect the amount of fees and finance charges included in the amount of credit card receivables reported in Schedule HC-C, item 6.a.

(5) Add to Schedule HC-S, a new Memorandum item 4, "Outstanding credit card fees and finance charges," to collect the amount of fees and finance charges included in the credit card receivables that the BHC has reported as securitized and sold in Schedule HC-S, item 1, column C.

Many institutions engaged in credit card lending have adopted the practice of "purifying" charge-offs for financial reporting purposes. "Purification" refers to the practice of reversing uncollectable accrued fees and finance charges against earnings rather than accounting for them as charge-offs against the allowance for loan and lease losses. This practice obscures charge-off ratios (i.e., charge-offs divided by loan balances) because the charged-off amount does not include the accrued fees and finance charges while the aggregate loan balance does include them. Thus, the transparency of financial reports is diminished.

Further, the effect of this practice on credit card lending institutions' financial statements has become more material as the level of accrued but uncollected finance charges and fees have become more significant during the past several years. Most if not all of the accrued fees and finance charges reversed under the purification practice are included in credit card loan balances, or in other words, have been capitalized into the credit card loan balances.

The proposed additional items would collect information on reversals of credit card fees and finance charges that are not reported as charge-offs against the loan loss allowance. The proposed additions would also collect information on the outstanding amount of fees and finance charges included in credit card receivables and the related allowance, whether it is a component of the allowance for loan and lease losses or a separate contra-asset account.

These new items would cover both bank

holding company-owned portfolios and securitized portfolios of credit cards. Additionally, these proposed changes would include clarifications to the instructions for three items: Schedule HC-S, items 1, 5.a, and 8, column C, as discussed below.

The proposed changes would improve financial reporting transparency for losses on credit card accounts and permit users of FR Y-9C data to calculate loss rates for credit card loan receivables that are comparable across credit card lending institutions. Users of FR Y-9C data would have more complete loss information relating to credit card fees and finance charges that are written off as uncollectable. Furthermore, the changes would provide better information regarding the composition of and level of credit risk in credit card loan receivables that the institution manages both for its own account and in securitizations. The items regarding outstanding credit card fees and finance charges would provide useful information to facilitate the agencies' supervision of credit card lending activities.

The proposed new items would be completed only by those BHCs that: (1) either individually or on a combined basis with their affiliated depository institutions report outstanding credit card receivables that exceed, in the aggregate, \$500 million as of the report date. Outstanding credit card receivables will be measured as the sum of Schedule HC-C, Part I, item 6.a; Schedule HC-S, item 1, column C; and Schedule HC-S, item 6.a, column C. OR

(2) are BHCs that on a consolidated basis are considered credit card specialty holding companies, defined as those that exceed 50 percent for the following two criteria:

(a) credit card loans (HC-C, Part I, item 6.a) plus securitized and sold credit card loans (HCS, item 1, column C) divided by total loans (HC-C, item 12, column A) plus securitized and sold credit card loans;

(b) total loans plus securitized and sold credit card loans divided by total assets (HC, item 12) plus securitized and sold credit card loans.

Breakdown of Seller-provided Credit Enhancements to the Bank's Securitization Structures

The Federal Reserve proposes to revise Schedule HC-S as follows.

(1) Revise item 2.b, "Maximum amount of credit exposure arising from recourse or other seller provided credit enhancements provided to structures reported in item 1 in the form of standby letters of credit, subordinated securities, and other enhancements," to

collect the carrying value of "Subordinated securities and other residual interests" carried as on-balance-sheet assets that have been retained in connection with the securitization structures reported in Schedule HC-S, item 1, "Outstanding principal balance of assets sold and securitized with servicing retained or with recourse or other seller-provided credit enhancements."

(2) Add a new item 2.c, "Standby letters of credit and other enhancements," to collect the unused portion of standby letters of credit and the maximum contractual amount of recourse or other credit exposure not in the form of an on-balance-sheet asset that have been provided or retained in connection with the securitization structures reported in Schedule HC-S, item 1.

(3) Clarify item 2.a, "Retained interest-only strips," by changing the item description to "Credit enhancing interest-only strips."

These proposed revisions would distinguish between the amount of a BHC's seller-provided credit enhancements that are on-balance-sheet assets (other than credit-enhancing interest-only strips) and those that are not, and to better understand the types of credit support that BHCs are providing to their securitizations, including which types are typically used for different types of securitized loans. BHCs currently report the maximum amount of credit exposure from seller provided credit enhancements to securitization structures (other than credit-enhancing interest-only strips, which are reported separately) in Schedule HC-S, item 2.b. These credit enhancements include both on-balance-sheet assets (such as subordinated securities, spread accounts, and cash collateral accounts) and enhancements that are not assets (such as recourse liabilities and standby letters of credit). When credit enhancements are in the form of assets, credit losses on the securitized loans result in reduced cash inflows to the asset holder. In contrast, when seller-provided credit enhancements take some other form, cash outflows from the seller are required to cover credit losses on the securitized loans. In addition, under the risk-based capital standards that were revised as of January 1, 2002, seller-provided credit enhancements that are on-balance-sheet assets are "residual interests" subject to a dollar-for-dollar capital charge unless they qualify for the ratings-based approach. The capital charge for enhancements that are not assets generally is capped at 8 percent of the assets enhanced.

Income from Insurance Activities

The Federal Reserve proposes to split Schedule HI, item 5.h, "Insurance commissions and fees", into two new items, "Insurance and reinsurance underwriting income" and "Income from other insurance and reinsurance activities." In new item 5.h.(1), "Insurance and reinsurance underwriting income," BHCs would report all income from insurance and reinsurance underwriting, including the amount of premiums earned by property-casualty insurers and the amount of premiums written by life and health insurers. This item would also include the BHC's proportionate share of the income or loss before extraordinary items and other adjustments from its investments in equity method investees that are principally engaged in insurance and reinsurance underwriting. In new item 5.h.(2), "Income from other insurance and reinsurance activities," BHCs would report income from insurance agency and brokerage operations (including sales of annuities and supplemental contracts); service charges, commissions, and fees from the sale of insurance (including credit life insurance), reinsurance, and annuities; and management fees from separate accounts, deferred annuities, and universal life products. This item would also include the BHC's proportionate share of the income or loss before extraordinary items and other adjustments from its investments in equity method investees that are principally engaged in insurance activities other than insurance underwriting.

The risks arising from insurance underwriting are significantly different from those arising from other insurance activities. Given this distinction in risk, splitting the current single income statement item for insurance-related income into two items to separately identify underwriting income would enable the Federal Reserve to more clearly identify institutions engaged in underwriting and to better monitor the results of these underwriting activities.

Proposed Revisions to the FR Y-9C Instructions

(1) Modify the reporting instructions to include the "Provision for allocated transfer risk" with the "Provision for loan and lease losses" in item 4 of Schedule HI, Income Statement. In addition, in order for the end-of-period allowance in the reconciliation of the "Allowance for loan and lease losses" in Schedule HI-B, Part II, to equal the loan loss allowance on the balance sheet (Schedule HC, item 4.c), which excludes the - the instructions for Schedule HI-B, Part II, item 6, "Adjustments," would

also be revised to direct respondents to report as a negative number in item 6 the amount of any "Provision for allocated transfer risk" included in the amount of "Provision for loan and lease losses" reported in item 4 of the Income Statement (Schedule HI).

Prior to 2001, Schedule HI included a specific line item for "Provision for allocated transfer risk," but amounts were reported in this item only infrequently and only by a small number of BHCs. This separate item was removed from the face of the income statement in 2001 and respondents were instructed to include these provisions in "Other noninterest expense" on Schedule HI, item 7.d. However, in reviewing the continuing merits of this instructional change, the Federal Reserve has found that institutions exposed to transfer risk generally view these provisions more like provisions for loan losses than a noninterest expense.

(2) Revise the Glossary entry for "Trading Account" to provide guidance for regulatory reporting purposes on the use of the trading account designation for loans. Conforming changes would be made elsewhere in the instructions where appropriate. A new second paragraph of the "Trading Account" Glossary entry would read as follows:

"There is a rebuttable presumption that loans and leases (hereafter, loans) should not be reported as trading assets. In order to overcome this presumption for particular loans, a BHC must demonstrate, from the pattern and practice of its activity, that it is acquiring these loans principally for the purpose of selling them in the near term with the objective of generating profits on short-term differences in price. Thus, such loans are held for only a short period of time (generally not months or years). This presumption is not overcome if a BHC acquires loans (through origination or purchase) with the intent or expectation that they may or will be sold at some date in the future. In addition, loans acquired and held for securitization purposes should not be reported as trading assets, but should be reported as loans held for sale."

(3) Modify Schedule HC-S, item 1, "Outstanding principal balance of assets sold and securitized by the reporting BHC with servicing retained or with recourse or other seller-provided credit enhancements" to add the following sentence to the instructions for this item: -For credit card receivables, include in column C any fees and finance charges capitalized into the credit card receivable balances that the

reporting BHC has securitized and sold.”

(4) Modify Schedule HC–S, item 5.a, “Charge–offs” [on assets sold and securitized with servicing retained or with recourse or other seller–provided credit enhancements (calendar year–to–date)] to add the following sentence to the instructions for this item: “Include in column C charge–offs or reversals of uncollectable credit card fees and finance charges that had been capitalized into the credit card receivable balances that have been securitized and sold.”

(5) Modify Schedule HC–S, item 8.a, “Charge–offs” [on loan amounts included in interests reported as securities in item 6.a (calendar year–to–date)] to add the following sentence to the instructions for this item: “Include in column C the amount of credit card fees and finance charges written off as uncollectable that were attributable to the credit card receivables included in ownership interests reported as securities in item 6.a, column C.”

Other Proposed Revisions Not Directly Related to Call Report Changes

The following proposed revisions are not directly related to the proposed Call Report changes for March 2003. Some of these changes are proposed to provide greater consistency with current Call Report items that are not part of the March 2003 revisions.

Accelerated Filing Deadline

The Federal Reserve proposes to require the filing of FR Y–9C reports within 35 days after the quarter–end reporting date. This proposed change is consistent with the Call Report proposal to require all banks to file no later than 30 days after the quarter–end report date, effective with the June 30, 2003 reporting date, and the Security and Exchange Commission’s (SEC’s) final rule to accelerate the filing of quarterly reports from 45 days to 35 days after the quarter–end. In recognition of respondents’ time and resource needs to modify reporting systems and review procedures, the proposed implementation date would be delayed until June 30, 2004.

The Federal Reserve seeks more timely filing of bank holding company information to obtain more immediate feedback about the risks and financial condition of these institutions, allowing the Federal Reserve to make evaluations and develop plans of action more quickly to address supervisory concerns. Accelerated disclosure of bank holding company information would also enhance data transparency and market discipline. Market discipline relies on market participants having timely information about the

risks and financial condition of banking organizations. The FR Y–9C, in particular, is widely used by securities analysts, rating agencies, and large institutional investors as sources of bank holding company–specific data. Disclosure that increases transparency leads to more accurate market assessments of risk and value. This, in turn, should result in more effective market discipline on BHCs.

Schedule HI – Income Statement

The Federal Reserve proposes to revise Schedule HI as follows.

(1) Add two new items to the memoranda section, item 14, “Stock–based employee compensation expense (net of tax effects)” and item 15, “Stock–based employee compensation expense (net of tax effects) calculated for all awards under the fair value method.” Stock–based employee compensation plans include all arrangements by which employees receive shares of stock or other equity instruments of the employer or the employer incurs liabilities to employees in amounts based on the price of the employer’s stock. Stock–based employee compensation is used by many BHCs as a mechanism to provide substantial compensation to executives. Information on both the stock options expense and the amount of stock options expense related to all awards under the fair value method would provide an indication of the magnitude and the speed with which options are recognized as a cost of doing business. The information collected would be used in the analysis of the quality of earnings and comparability of profitability across BHCs.

The Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) recently proposed amendments to the disclosure provisions of FASB Statement 123, “Accounting for Stock–Based Compensation” to require more prominent disclosures about the method of accounting for stock–based employee compensation and the effect of the method used on reported results in both annual and interim financial statements. The proposed new items are captioned consistently with these disclosure requirements.¹ Currently, companies are not required to present stock option disclosures in interim financial statements. The proposed amendments prescribe transition provisions for companies that voluntarily adopt a fair value based method. For institutions choosing a fair value method,

amendments to Statement 123 will be effective for financial statements with fiscal years ending after December 15, 2002.

(2) Modify the instructions for the Notes to the Income Statement to accommodate the collection of selected income information of large predecessor institutions for a reporting BHC engaged in a merger. The one–time reporting of this information would be event–driven and submitted only during the quarter in which the business combination(s) occur. The income statement items requested (26 items reported on Schedule HI) would refer to the financial performance of an acquired entity prior to a business combination, which otherwise would not be incorporated in the consolidated financial statements of the combined entity. Collection of predecessor information would be reported for acquired entities with total consolidated assets of \$150 million or more.

In January 2001, FASB Statement No. 141, “Business Combinations” took effect prescribing that all business combinations are to be accounted for by the purchase method which instructs that the operating results of the acquired entity are to be included in the income and expenses of the acquiring entity only from the date of acquisition.

The current lack of information in this area is a significant problem for analysts attempting to achieve consistent comparisons of BHC financial trends. Because predecessor company information is not currently captured in the FR Y–9C for BHCs involved in purchase transactions, analysts currently must extract data from SEC filings, when available, and through manual entry manipulate the pro forma data. In addition, all classifications (items) requested are not necessarily available in SEC filings. With the collection of new predecessor data the Federal Reserve analysis of BHC data and overall market transparency would be improved by incorporating more meaningful financial measures, especially those that relate to earnings performance.

Schedule HC – Balance Sheet

The Federal Reserve proposes to modify the instructions for the Notes to the Balance Sheet to accommodate the collection of selected quarterly average information of large predecessor institutions for a reporting BHC engaged in a merger. The one–time reporting of this information would be event driven and only submitted during the quarter in which the business combination(s) occur. The balance sheet items requested (4 items reported on Schedule HC–K) would refer to the financial

¹ See FASB Financial Accounting Series Exposure Draft, “Accounting for Stock–Based Compensation–Transition and Disclosure: an amendment of FASB Statement No. 123,” Section 3.j.(2) and Section 3.j.(3).

performance of an acquired entity prior to a business combination, which otherwise would not be incorporated in the consolidated financial statements of the combined entity. Collection of predecessor information would be reported for acquired entities with total consolidated assets of \$150 million or more.

Schedule HC-F – Other Assets

The Federal Reserve proposes to add a new item 5, “Cash surrender value of life insurance” to collect the amount of cash surrender value of life insurance that exceeds 25 percent of current item 5, “Other” assets. Items 5 and 6 would be renumbered as items 6 and 7. Many banking organizations have substantial holdings of life insurance that may expose the companies to credit, liquidity and market risks. In addition, the utility of these products could be adversely affected by tax law changes. Collection of this item is proposed to allow the Federal Reserve to identify companies with concentrations in these assets and to assess, where warranted, company management of these risks. This item is presently collected on the bank Call Report and on the FR Y-9SP when it represents more than 25 percent of “other assets.” It will also be collected on the FR Y-9ES (ESOP) as of year-end 2002.

Schedule HC-M – Memoranda

The Federal Reserve proposes to revise item 20, “Net assets of broker-dealer subsidiaries engaged in underwriting or dealing securities pursuant to Section 4(k)(4)(E) of the Bank Holding Company Act as amended by the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act” to collect additional items for balances due from related institutions and balances due to related institutions. This item is completed only by top-tier BHCs who have made an effective election to become a financial holding company. Item 20 would be recaptioned with the heading “Balances of broker-dealer subsidiaries engaged in underwriting or dealing in securities pursuant to Section 4(k)(4)(E) of the Bank Holding Company Act as amended by the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act”, and “net assets” would be renumbered as item 20.a. The following new items would be added: under the heading 20.b, “Balances due from related institutions, gross” item 20.b.(1), “Due from the bank holding company (parent company only), gross,” item 20.b.(2), “Due from subsidiary banks of the bank holding company, gross,” and item 20.b.(3), “Due from nonbank subsidiaries of the bank holding company, gross;” under the heading 20.c, “Balances due to related institutions, gross” item 20.c.(1), “Due to bank holding company (parent

company only), gross,” item 20.c.(2), “Due to subsidiary banks of the bank holding company, gross,” and item 20.c.(3), “Due to nonblank subsidiaries of the bank holding company, gross;” and item 20.d, “Intercompany liabilities reported in items 20.c.(1), 20.c.(2) and 20.c.(3) above that qualify as liabilities subordinated to claims of general creditors.”

The Federal Reserve proposes to collect these additional items to restore the Federal Reserve’s ability to monitor the potential impact of intercompany transactions as a source of funds to affiliate banks and BHCs, and the ability to monitor the degree to which financial transactions at the broker-dealer subsidiary are funded internally within the banking organization. In addition to eliminating the provisions of former section 20 of the Glass-Steagall Act, the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act mandated a number of changes in the Federal Reserve’s supervision of broker-dealers, including Section 20 subsidiaries, affiliated with BHCs. The Federal Reserve was advised to rely, to the fullest extent possible, on the supervisory activities and regulatory reports required by functional regulators (in this instance the SEC and the self-regulatory organizations under its auspices).

The Federal Reserve has also ceased collection of the Financial Statements for a Bank Holding Company Subsidiary Engaged in Bank-Ineligible Securities Underwriting and Dealing (FR Y-20) collected from broker-dealers that operate under new authority granted to financial holding companies to engage in unlimited underwriting, dealing and market making in securities pursuant to section 4(k)(4)(E) of the BHC Act as amended by GLBA. Federal Reserve supervisors now rely upon the SEC Financial and Operational Combined Uniform Single report (FOCUS) report, internal management reports and publicly available financial reports for off-site monitoring the activities of these broker-dealers. However, none of these reports contain information formerly collected on the FR Y-20 for intercompany assets and liabilities.

By recapturing this vital intercompany financial data, supervisors would have an enhanced ability to monitor and understand changes in affiliated broker-dealer funding and capital structures and their effect on the banking organization. Also intercompany liabilities that are derived from subordinated debt agreements are considered capital under SEC net capital rules (Rule 15c3-1), and collection of proposed item 20.d (also formerly collected on the FR Y-20)

would allow Federal Reserve to track this source of capital.

Schedule HC-N – Past Due and Nonaccrual Loans, Leases, and Other Assets

The Federal Reserve proposes to add the following two items to the memoranda section: item 7, “Additions to nonaccrual assets,” and item 8, “Nonaccrual assets sold during the quarter.” Although the overall quarter-to-quarter change in nonaccrual assets could be easily calculated based on end-of-values, collection of information relating to inflows and outflows of nonaccrual loans would enhance the Federal Reserve System’s ability to track shifts in credit quality within a portfolio and their impact on an institution’s credit costs and earnings. In aggregate, the information provided would facilitate the evaluation of fundamental trends underlying a credit cycle. Data on the outflow of nonaccrual loans would further reveal alternative management approaches to the resolution of problem assets.

Information on new additions to the level of nonaccrual assets during the period would indicate the extent of erosion or improvement in a BHC’s portfolio. Aggregated data on the trend in new inflows of problem assets would aid in analyzing underlying credit cycle trends. For example, a slowdown in new inflows of problem assets may indicate an approaching peak level of nonperforming assets after the end of a recession.

Information on the volume of nonaccrual asset sales would enable the Federal Reserve System to track the growth of problem asset sales within an institution’s portfolio. The new data collection would provide further insight into a banking organization’s ability to manage credit risks and approaches in dealing with credit problems. In addition, the new data would lead to the identification of significant sales of nonaccrual or problem assets that have been a subject of supervisory and analytical interest. This interest is primarily oriented to the liquidity of the secondary markets in problem loans. Moreover, the information on problem loan sales would increase the Federal Reserve System’s understanding of the evolution of financial markets. In particular, the secondary market for distressed loan sales, an avenue that was not available to BHCs in the past, has become prevalent only in recent years.

Instructions

Instructional revisions and clarifications would be done in accordance with changes made to the Call Report instructions or will

correspond to existing Call Report instructions. In addition, instructional revisions and clarifications would be made as necessary with respect to proposed revisions not directly related to the proposed Call Report changes for March 2003.

FR Y-9LP

The Federal Reserve proposes to make the following changes to the FR Y-9LP regarding the accelerated filing deadline and information on nonbank subsidiaries.

Accelerated Filing Deadline

The Federal Reserve proposes to require the filing of FR Y-9LP reports within 35 days after the quarter-end reporting date. This proposed change is consistent with the proposed change to the FR Y-9C described above, with the Call Report proposal to require all banks to file no later than 30 days after the quarter-end report date, and with the SEC's final rule to accelerate the filing of quarterly reports from 45 days to 35 days after the quarter-end. In recognition of respondents' time and resource needs to modify reporting systems and review procedures, the proposed implementation date would be delayed until June 30, 2004.

Schedule PC-B - Memoranda

The Federal Reserve proposes to add two new subitems to item 15 to collect additional information on nonbank subsidiaries of top-tier BHCs, item 15.b, "Total combined loans and leases of nonbank subsidiaries," and 15.c, "Total aggregate operating revenue of nonbank subsidiaries." Current items 15.b through 15.f would be renumbered accordingly. Operating revenue would be defined as the sum of total interest income and total noninterest income (before deduction of expenses and extraordinary items.)

Under Federal Reserve supervision procedures, complex BHCs with assets of \$1 billion or less are subject to more extensive reviews than noncomplex BHCs with assets of \$1 billion or less. In particular, they are assigned complete BOPEC (Banks, Other nonbank subsidiaries, Parent Company, Earnings, Capital) ratings, while their noncomplex peers are assigned only composite ratings based on the condition of their lead depository institutions. The Federal Reserve identifies complex companies based on a number of factors, including the nature and scale of any nonbank activities. In order to assist to ensure that complexity designations are up to date and accurate, the Federal Reserve has monitored aggregate nonbank revenue and nonbank loans using data reported by nonbank subsidiaries on the Financial Statements of Nonbank Subsidiaries of Bank

Holding Companies (FR Y-11). Recent revisions made to these reporting forms will significantly reduce the panel of companies filing detailed (or any) Y-11s on an annual basis, eliminating a key source of data for identifying complex BHCs.

Instructions

The FR Y-9LP instructions would be revised and clarified in accordance with changes made to the FR Y-9C instructions.

FR Y-9SP

The Federal Reserve proposes to make the following changes to the FR Y-9SP in a manner consistent with the previously described changes to the FR Y-9C or FR Y-9LP.

Accelerated Filing Deadline

The Federal Reserve proposes to require the filing of FR Y-9SP reports within 35 days after the June 30 and December 31 reporting dates. This proposed change is consistent with the proposed change to the FR Y-9C described above, with the Call Report proposal to require all banks to file no later than 30 days after the quarter-end report date, and with the SEC's final rule to accelerate the filing of quarterly reports from 45 days to 35 days after the quarter-end. In recognition of respondents' time and resource needs to modify reporting systems and review procedures, the proposed implementation date would be delayed until June 30, 2004.

Balance Sheet

The Federal Reserve proposes to add two new subitems to Memorandum item 17 to collect additional information on top-tier BHC nonbank subsidiaries, item 17.b, "Total combined loans and leases of nonbank subsidiaries," and 17.c, "Total aggregate operating revenue of nonbank subsidiaries." Current items 17.b through 17.d would be renumbered accordingly. Operating revenue would be defined as the sum of total interest income and total noninterest income (before deduction of expenses and extraordinary items.) As described above for the proposed addition of similar items to the FR Y-9LP, the Federal Reserve proposes to add these items to the FR Y-9SP to retain information formerly available on the Annual Financial Statements of Nonbank Subsidiaries of Bank Holding Companies (FR Y-11) needed to identify small complex BHCs.

Instructions

The FR Y-9SP instructions would be revised and clarified in accordance with changes made to the FR Y-9C instructions.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, December 18, 2002.

Jennifer J. Johnson,
Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 02-32275 Filed 12-23-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-S

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Change in Bank Control Notices; Acquisition of Shares of Bank or Bank Holding Companies

The notificants listed below have applied under the Change in Bank Control Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(j)) and § 225.41 of the Board's Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.41) to acquire a bank or bank holding company. The factors that are considered in acting on the notices are set forth in paragraph 7 of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(j)(7)).

The notices are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The notices also will be available for inspection at the office of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing to the Reserve Bank indicated for that notice or to the offices of the Board of Governors. Comments must be received not later than January 9, 2003.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta (Sue Costello, Vice President) 1000 Peachtree Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30303:

1. *L. Michael Ashbrook*, Monroe, Louisiana, and Charles Bruce, Cut Off, Louisiana; to acquire up to 40 percent of the voting shares of FBT Bancorp, Inc., Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and thereby indirectly acquire voting shares of Fidelity Bank and Trust Company, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

B. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (Richard M. Todd, Vice President and Community Affairs Officer) 90 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55480-0291:

1. *Richard M. Wall*, Burnsville, Minnesota; *John K. Wall*, Excelsior, Minnesota; and *Elizabeth Wall Lee*, Mendota Heights, Minnesota, as a group acting in concert, to gain control of Highland Bancshares, Inc., Bloomington, Minnesota, and thereby indirectly gain control of Highland Bank, St., Michael, Minnesota.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, December 19, 2002.

Robert deV. Frierson,
Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 02-32436 Filed 12-23-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-S