

human research that would be relevant to pending reregistration, tolerance reassessment and new registration decisions, and in accordance with the provisions of the final rule. The first step toward establishing a HSRB is to solicit nominations for qualified individuals to serve on the HSRB for a review of intentional dosing human studies.

Process and Deadline for Submitting Nominations

Any interested person or organization may nominate qualified individuals to be considered as prospective candidates for the HSRB. Additional avenues and resources may be utilized in the solicitation of nominees to encourage a broad pool of expertise. Nominees should be experts who have sufficient professional qualifications, including training and experience, to be capable of providing expert comments on the ethical and/or scientific issues that may be considered by the HSRB. Nominees are requested who are nationally recognized experts in one or more of the following areas:

Biostatistics: expertise in statistical design and analysis of human subjects research studies.

Human toxicology: Expertise in pharmacokinetic and toxicokinetic studies, clinical trials, toxicology of cholinesterase inhibitors, and other classes of environmental substances.

Bioethics: Expertise in the ethics of research on human subjects; research ethics.

Human health risk assessment

To be considered, all nominations should include: a current curriculum vitae (C.V.) which provides the nominee's background, qualifications, relevant research experience and publications; and a brief biographical sketch ("biosketch"). The biosketch should be no longer than one page and should contain the following information for the nominee:

(a) Current professional affiliations and positions held;

(b) Area(s) of expertise, and research activities and publications relevant to the HSRB;

(c) Leadership positions in national associations or professional publications or other significant distinctions;

(d) Educational background, especially advanced degrees, including when and from which institutions these were granted.

The credentials of nominees received in reply to this notice will be compared to the specific expertise sought for the HSRB. Qualified nominees who agree to be further considered will be included in a smaller subset (known as the "Short

List"). This subset will be posted on the OSA Web site <http://www.epa.gov/osa/index.htm> and will include, for each candidate, the nominee's name and their biosketch. Public comments will be accepted for 14 calendar days on the Short List. During this comment period, the public will be requested to provide relevant information or other documentation on nominees that OSA should consider in evaluating the candidates. Board members will be selected from the Short List.

The selection of experts to serve on the HSRB will be based on the function of the Board and the expertise needed. No interested candidates shall be ineligible to serve by reason of their membership on any other advisory committee to a Federal department or agency or their employment by a Federal department or agency (except the EPA). Other factors that will be considered during the selection process include availability of the potential Board member to fully participate in the Board's reviews, absence of any conflicts of interest, impartiality, independence with respect to the matters under review, and public comments to the Short List. Though financial conflicts of interest, the appearance of lack of impartiality, lack of independence, and bias may result in disqualification, the absence of such concerns does not assure that a candidate will be selected to serve on the HSRB. Numerous qualified candidates may be identified. Therefore, selection decisions involve carefully weighing a number of factors including, but not limited to, the candidates' areas of expertise and professional qualifications, and responses to the Short List in achieving an overall balance of different perspectives on the Board.

If a prospective candidate for service on the HSRB is considered, the candidate is subject to the provisions of 5 CFR part 2634, Executive Branch Financial Disclosure, as supplemented by the EPA in 5 CFR part 6401. As such, the HSRB candidate is required to submit a Confidential Financial Disclosure Form for Special Government Employees Serving on Federal Advisory Committees at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA Form 3110-48 [5-02]) which shall fully disclose, among other financial interests, the candidate's employment, stocks, and bonds, and where applicable, sources of research support. The EPA will evaluate the candidate's financial disclosure form to assess that there are no financial conflicts of interest, no appearance of lack of impartiality, and no prior involvement

with the development of the documents under consideration (including previous scientific peer review) before the candidate is considered further for service on the HSRB.

Those who are selected from the pool of prospective candidates will be asked to attend public meetings and to participate in the discussion of key issues and assumptions at these meetings. In addition, they will be asked to review and to help finalize the meeting minutes. The Agency will consider all nominations of prospective candidates for this meeting that are received on or before February 2, 2006. However, final selection of members is a discretionary function of the Agency. Nominations should be submitted by one of the methods listed under

ADDRESSES.

Dated: December 22, 2005.

William H. Farland,
Chief Scientist, Office of the Science Advisor.

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BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-8014-1]

Tribal Solid Waste Management Assistance Project: Request for Proposals

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of withdrawal of Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: This action withdraws the Tribal Solid Waste Interagency Workgroup announcement of the FY 06 Solicitation request for proposals of the Tribal Solid Waste Management Assistance Project (previously called the Open Dump Cleanup Project), published in the **Federal Register** Notice on Wednesday, November 23, 2005 (70 FR 70828). EPA is withdrawing the November 23, 2005 Notice of Availability because it has determined that it is necessary to make certain changes and clarifications to the funding solicitation contained therein. EPA will issue a revised solicitation in the near future. The revised solicitation will be published on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/tribalmsw> (click on the "Grants/Funding" link) and will also be available through <http://www.grants.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information contact, Christopher Dege, at (703) 308-2392 or Tonya Hawkins at (703) 308-8278.

Dated: December 9, 2005.

Matt Hale,

Director, Office of Solid Waste.

• Accordingly, the notice of funding availability published in the **Federal Register** on November 23, 2005 (70FR 70828) is withdrawn.

[FR Doc. 05-24425 Filed 12-30-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841 *et seq.*) (BHC Act), Regulation Y (12 CFR Part 225), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The application also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)). If the proposal also involves the acquisition of a nonbanking company, the review also includes whether the acquisition of the nonbanking company complies with the standards in section 4 of the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1843). Unless otherwise noted, nonbanking activities will be conducted throughout the United States. Additional information on all bank holding companies may be obtained from the National Information Center website at www.ffiec.gov/nic/.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than January 27, 2006.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Boston (Richard Walker, Community Affairs Officer) P.O. Box 55882, Boston, Massachusetts 02106-2204:

1. *First Connecticut Bancorp, Inc.*, Farmington, Connecticut; to become a bank holding company by acquiring 100 percent of the voting shares of

Farmington Savings Bank, Farmington, Connecticut.

B. Federal Reserve Bank of New York (Jay Bernstein, Bank Supervision Officer) 33 Liberty Street, New York, New York 10045-0001:

1. *New York Community Bancorp, Inc.*, and *New York Community Newco, Inc.*, both of Westbury, New York; to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of Atlantic Bank of New York, New York, New York.

C. Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas (W. Arthur Tribble, Vice President) 2200 North Pearl Street, Dallas, Texas 75201-2272:

1. *Cullen/Frost Bankers, Inc.*, San Antonio, Texas, and *The New Galveston Company*, Wilmington, Delaware; to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of Alamo Corporation of Texas, Alamo, Texas, and thereby indirectly acquire Alamo Corporation of Delaware, Wilmington, Delaware, and Alamo Bank of Texas, Alamo, Texas.

2. *Mesquite Financial Services, Inc.*, Alice, Texas; to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of Nichols Bancshares, Inc., Kenedy, Texas, and thereby indirectly acquire J M Nichols, Inc., Wilmington, Delaware, and First-Nichols National Bank, Kenedy, Texas.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, December 28, 2005.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. E5-8194 Filed 12-30-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-S

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Notice of Proposals to Engage in Permissible Nonbanking Activities or to Acquire Companies that are Engaged in Permissible Nonbanking Activities

The companies listed in this notice have given notice under section 4 of the Bank Holding Company Act (12 U.S.C. 1843) (BHC Act) and Regulation Y (12 CFR Part 225) to engage *de novo*, or to acquire or control voting securities or assets of a company, including the companies listed below, that engages either directly or through a subsidiary or other company, in a nonbanking activity that is listed in § 225.28 of Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.28) or that the Board has determined by Order to be closely related to banking and permissible for bank holding companies. Unless otherwise noted, these activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Each notice is available for inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The notice also will be available for

inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the question whether the proposal complies with the standards of section 4 of the BHC Act. Additional information on all bank holding companies may be obtained from the National Information Center website at www.ffiec.gov/nic/.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding the applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than January 17, 2006.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of New York (Jay Bernstein, Bank Supervision Officer) 33 Liberty Street, New York, New York 10045-0001:

1. *HSH Nordbank AG*, Hamburg, Germany; to engage *de novo* through its subsidiary, HSH N Financial Securities LLC, New York, New York, in providing agency transactional services for customer investments, including securities brokerage, riskless principal transactions, private placement, and other transactional services, pursuant to sections 225.28(b)(7)(i),(ii),(iii), and (v) of Regulation Y.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, December 28, 2005.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

Secretary of the Board.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

Findings of Scientific Misconduct

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Office of Research Integrity (ORI) and the Acting Assistant Secretary for Health have taken final action in the following case: *Hans E. Geisler, M.D., Saint Vincent Hospital and Health Care Center*: Based on the report of an inquiry and investigation conducted by Saint Vincent Hospital (SVH) in Indianapolis, Indiana, and additional analysis conducted by ORI in its oversight review, the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) found that Hans E. Geisler, M.D., former Staff Physician and Principal Investigator for SVH's studies under the Gynecologic Oncology Group (GOG), engaged in scientific misconduct by soliciting a pathologist to falsify the originally correct tissue-type on the pathology report (omentum) as being another type (ovary) and submitting the falsified report to the