

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[PR Docket No. 92-257; DA 98-522]

Applications for VHF Public Coast Spectrum

1. By this *Order*, we impose a suspension of acceptance and processing of applications for very high frequency (VHF) public coast spectrum (156-162 MHz), effective March 17, 1998. As an initial matter, we note that the Commission imposed a suspension regarding VHF public coast spectrum applications in the *Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Second Further Notice)* in PR Docket No. 92-257, 62 FR 37533 (July 14, 1997). The Commission-imposed suspension took effect on June 17, 1997, and was to be effective until March 17, 1998. For the reasons stated herein, we take action to continue suspension of acceptance and processing of VHF public coast applications during the pendency of the PR Docket No. 92-257 proceeding.

2. In the *Second Further Notice*, the Commission proposed service rules for the Maritime Services, including the introduction of geographic area licensing for VHF public correspondence channels. In order to permit the effective resolution of the issues raised in the *Second Further Notice*, the Commission suspended the acceptance of (1) public coast station applications to use VHF spectrum and private land mobile radio applications proposing to share that spectrum for new licenses, (2) amendments to such new license applications, and (3) applications to modify existing licenses, and amendments thereto, except for applications involving renewals, transfers, assignments, and modifications proposing neither to expand a station's service area nor obtain additional public coast VHF spectrum. The Commission also suspended the processing of pending applications for VHF public coast spectrum that either were mutually exclusive with other applications or as to which the period for filing competing applications had not expired. The Commission further expressly reserved the right to extend the suspension if it did not adopt final rules by the end of the suspension period.

3. To date, the Commission has not adopted final rules in PR Docket No. 92-257. As a result, the same reasons which prompted the Commission to impose the initial suspension remain today. We believe that a continued suspension of acceptance and processing of public coast VHF spectrum applications is warranted in

order to facilitate the orderly and effective resolution of the matters pending in this proceeding. We are concerned that, absent such action, the goals underlying initiation of the PR Docket No. 92-257 proceeding might be compromised by the influx of applications for new licenses, as well as modifications to existing licenses, that are inconsistent with the decisions ultimately made by the Commission. Thus, we believe that there is good cause to continue suspension of the acceptance and processing of public coast VHF spectrum applications. This suspension shall remain in effect until sixty days after the final rules enacted in the *Third Report and Order* in Docket No. 92-257 are published in the **Federal Register**.

4. This decision is procedural in nature and therefore not subject to notice and comment and effective date requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act. Moreover, there is good cause for proceeding in this manner, for to do otherwise would be impractical, unnecessary, and contrary to the public interest because compliance would undercut the purposes of this action.

5. Accordingly, *It is ordered*, pursuant to sections 4(i), 4(j), and 303(r) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 154(i), 154(j), and 303(r), that there be a continued suspension of the acceptance and processing of applications to use VHF public coast spectrum, effective March 17, 1998. The suspension will continue until sixty days after the final rules enacted in the *Third Report and Order* in Docket No. 92-257 are published in the **Federal Register**. This action is taken under delegated authority pursuant to § 0.331 of the Commission's Rules, 47 CFR 0.331.

6. For further information concerning this *Order*, contact Scot Stone, Policy and Rules Branch, Public Safety and Private Wireless Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, at (202) 418-0680.

Federal Communications Commission.

Daniel B. Phythyon,
Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

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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. Unless otherwise noted, nonbanking activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

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 April 27, 1998.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta
(Lois Berthaume, Vice President) 104 Marietta Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2713:

1. *Premier Bancshares, Inc.*, Atlanta, Georgia; to merge with Button Gwinnett Financial Corporation, Snellville, Georgia, and thereby indirectly acquire The Bank of Gwinnett County, Lawrenceville, Georgia.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, March 27, 1998.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

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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