

verification of digital certificates issued by Participants, and post collateral to secure claims under any warranty issued by the Participant.

Company would develop, maintain, and enforce the rules governing the operation of, and participation in, the Network, and provide other services designed to facilitate the certification activities of Participants and operation of the Network. These activities would include issuing digital certificates to Participants and maintaining a current database of digital certificates that have been issued. Company and Participants would engage in a wide range of data processing and data transmission activities in connection with their proposed activities. A more complete description of the proposed activities of Company, Notificants, and other Participants is contained in the notices.

Section 4(c)(8) of the BHC Act provides that a bank holding company may, with Board approval, engage in any activity that the Board has determined (by order or regulation) to be so closely related to banking or managing or controlling banks as to be a proper incident thereto. The Board previously has determined that certain data processing and data transmission services are closely related to banking for purposes of section 4(c)(8) of the BHC Act, pursuant to § 225.28(b)(14) of Regulation Y. Notificants contend that all of the proposed activities are so closely related to banking as to be a proper incident thereto, or are activities that are incidental to permissible activities, pursuant to § 225.21(a)(2) of Regulation Y.

In determining whether the proposal satisfies the proper incident to banking standard of section 4(c)(8) of the BHC Act, the Board must consider whether consummation of the proposal can "reasonably be expected to produce benefits to the public, such as greater convenience, increased competition, or gains in efficiency, that outweigh possible adverse effects, such as undue concentration of resources, decreased or unfair competition, conflicts of interests, or unsound banking practices." 12 U.S.C. 1843(c)(8). Notificants contend that consummation of the proposal will facilitate the development of electronic commerce and will have a beneficial effect on competition for identity certification and related services.

In publishing the proposal for comment, the Board does not take a position on the issues raised by the proposal. Notice of the proposal is published solely to seek the views of interested persons on the issues presented by the proposal and does not

represent a determination by the Board that the proposal meets, or is likely to meet, the standards of the BHC Act. The notices are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Banks indicated above and at the offices of the Board of Governors. Any request for a hearing on the notices must be accompanied by a statement of reasons explaining why a written presentation would not suffice in lieu of a hearing, identifying specifically any questions of fact that are in dispute, summarizing the evidence that would be presented at a hearing, and indicating how the party commenting would be aggrieved by approval of the proposal.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, April 23, 1999.

**Robert deV. Frierson,**

*Associate Secretary of the Board.*

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## GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

### Appointments to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission

**AGENCY:** General Accounting Office.

**ACTION:** Notice of appointments.

**SUMMARY:** The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 establishes the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, with members to be appointed by the Comptroller General. A recent amendment to the Act expanded the membership of the Commission from 15 to 17. This notice announces five appointments to fill the vacancies occurring this year, and two appointments to carry out the expansion.

**DATES:** Appointments effective May 1, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** The General Accounting Office is at 441 G St. NW, Washington, DC 20548. The Office of the Chairman of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission is at Suite 800, 1730 K St., NW, Washington DC 20006.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** General Accounting Office: Paul T. Wagner, 202-512-7257; Medicare Payment Advisory Commission: Murray N. Ross, 202-653-7220.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This announces the appointment of seven members of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, effective May 1, 1999.

The Commission originally comprised 15 members, appointed by the Comptroller General. A recent amendment expanded the membership of the Commission to 17. Members are generally appointed to 3-year terms,

except that some terms of members are staggered in order to spread term expiration dates.

All terms now end on April 30 of the year in which they expire. This year, the terms of five of the original members will expire.

To fill the five impending vacancies, expand the Commission's membership to 17, and to comply with the requirement for staggered terms, we announce the following seven appointments, effective May 1, 1999:

Beatrice S. Braun, M.D.; Floyd D. Loop, M.D.; Janet Newport; Carol Raphael; and Mary K. Wakefield, Ph.D.; to 3-year terms, which expire April 30, 2002; Spencer Johnson, to a 2-year term, which expires April 30, 2001; and Donald T. "Ted" Lewers, M.D., to a 1-year term, which expires April 30, 2000.

**David M. Walker,**

*Comptroller General of the United States.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Office of the Secretary

#### Emergency Clearance: Public Information Collection Requirements Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

In compliance with the requirements of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) the following request for emergency review. We are requesting an emergency review because the collection of this information is needed prior to the expiration of the normal time limits under OMB's regulations at 5 CFR Part 1320 and is essential to the mission of the Department. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 authorized the Department of Labor (DoL) to implement a new grant program to fund state and local efforts to get the hardest-to-serve welfare recipients into employment. The statute directs the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, to develop a plan to evaluate how Welfare-to-Work (WtW) grants to states and tribes have been used. An interim evaluation report is due to Congress by January 1, 1999, and a final report is due by January 1, 2001.

Implementation of the WtW programs among grantees has proven slower than