

### A. Reserve Bank ACH Customers

1. Given the limitations on the types of entities that are eligible to receive Reserve Bank payment services, how should the ACH service be structured to address the differences in the way that the Reserve Banks' and PSOs' customer bases are defined?

2. Should the Reserve Banks continue to consider the ODFI and RDFI for ACH transactions they process to be their customers, and charge them accordingly, even though the institution sent the transactions through or received the transactions from a PSO? If not, why not?

### B. Price Structure

1. Should the Reserve Banks charge lower fees for ACH transactions that are also processed by a PSO than they do for ACH transactions in which the Reserve Banks are the only ACH operator? If so, on what basis should the different fees be set? For example, should the Reserve Banks offer different ACH service levels for transactions also involving a PSO?

2. Should the Reserve Banks pay transaction fees to PSOs that send files to the Federal Reserve and transaction and file fees to PSOs that receive files from the Federal Reserve? What services do the PSOs provide to Reserve Banks that would justify the payment of fees to PSOs? Would market discipline constrain the fees charged by PSOs to Reserve Banks? If so, how?

3. Should the Reserve Banks continue to assess the ACH account servicing fee to customers that exclusively use PSOs to send transactions to and receive transactions from the Reserve Banks? If not, what would be the rationale for eliminating the fee for the PSOs' customers?

### C. Deposit Deadlines and Processing Schedule

1. What are the benefits and drawbacks of the Reserve Banks establishing different deposit and delivery deadlines for PSOs and depository institutions?

### D. Correspondent Banks and Third-party Processors

1. If the Reserve Banks were to modify their price structure or deadlines to treat transactions also processed by PSOs differently, should this treatment be limited to transactions processed by PSOs or expanded to other ACH transactions, such as those sent or received by correspondent banks or third-party processors? Why or why not? Do the arguments to modify Reserve Bank practices regarding PSOs also apply to other entities that act as

sending and receiving points for multiple institutions? Why or why not?

2. How should the Reserve Banks determine the entities that qualify for treatment as PSOs if the Reserve Banks were to modify the terms of their ACH services to treat transactions involving PSOs (but not correspondent banks and third-party processors) differently?

### E. Other Implications

1. What are the implications on competition, the efficiency of the ACH system, and overall ACH volume growth if the Reserve Banks were to modify their price structure or deadlines to treat transactions processed by PSOs differently than those received from or sent to other parties?

2. To the extent that you are suggesting modifications to the Reserve Banks' ACH service, please indicate whether and how those modifications are likely to affect competition in the provision of ACH services, the efficiency of the ACH system, and the growth of the ACH system.

By order of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, May 17, 1999.

**Jennifer J. Johnson,**

*Secretary of the Board.*

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## FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

### Sunshine Act Meeting

**TIME AND DATE:** 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 26, 1999.

**PLACE:** Marriner S. Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building, 20th and C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20551.

**STATUS:** Closed.

#### MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Personnel actions (appointments, promotions, assignments, reassignments, and salary actions) involving individual Federal Reserve System employees.

2. Any matters carried forward from a previously announced meeting.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Lynn S. Fox, Assistant to the Board; 202-452-3204.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** You may call 202-452-3206 beginning at approximately 5 p.m. two business days before the meeting for a recorded announcement of bank and bank holding company applications scheduled for the meeting; or you may contact the Board's Web site at <http://www.federalreserve.gov> for an electronic announcement that not only lists applications, but also indicates

procedural and other information about the meeting.

Dated: May 19, 1999.

**Robert deV. Frierson,**

*Associate Secretary of the Board.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Office of the Secretary

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collections; Comment Request

The Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary will periodically publish summaries of proposed information collections projects and solicit public comments in compliance with the requirements of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. To request more information on the project or to obtain a copy of the information collection plans and instruments, call the OS Reports Clearance Officer on (202) 690-6207.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Proposed Projects 1. Evaluation of the Proposed Cash and Counseling Demonstration—New—Cash and Counseling is a consumer directed care model for individuals with physical or development disabilities. A demonstration project implementing this model is being evaluated by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. This portion of the evaluation consists of four information collection instruments. *Respondents:* Individuals or households, for-profit, non-profit institutions; *Burden Information for Informal Caregiver Survey—Number of Respondents:* 8,000; *Burden per Response:* .38 hours; *Total Burden for Informal Caregiver Survey:* 3,040 hours—*Burden Information for Paid Worker Survey—Number of Respondents:* 800; *Burden per*