

resulting from severe storms, straight-line winds, and flooding beginning on July 4, 1999 and continuing through July 31, 1999, is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Pub. L. 93-288, as amended ("the Stafford Act"). I, therefore, declare that such a major disaster exists in the State of Wisconsin.

In order to provide Federal assistance, you are hereby authorized to allocate from funds available for these purposes, such amounts as you find necessary for Federal disaster assistance and administrative expenses.

You are authorized to provide Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation in the designated areas and any other forms of assistance under the Stafford Act you may deem appropriate. Consistent with the requirement that Federal assistance be supplemental, any Federal funds provided under the Stafford Act for Public Assistance or Hazard Mitigation will be limited to 75 percent of the total eligible costs.

Further, you are authorized to make changes to this declaration to the extent allowable under the Stafford Act.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority vested in the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency under Executive Order 12148, I hereby appoint Thomas Davies of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to act as the Federal Coordinating Officer for this declared disaster.

I do hereby determine the following areas of the State of Wisconsin to have been affected adversely by this declared major disaster:

Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Florence, Iron, Oneida, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, and Vilas Counties for Public Assistance.

All counties within the State of Wisconsin are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

(The following Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers (CFDA) are to be used for reporting and drawing funds: 83.537, Community Disaster Loans; 83.538, Cora Brown Fund Program; 83.539, Crisis Counseling; 83.540, Disaster Legal Services Program; 83.541, Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); 83.542, Fire Suppression Assistance; 83.543, Individual and Family Grant (IFG) Program; 83.544, Public Assistance Grants; 83.545, Disaster Housing Program; 83.548, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program)

James L. Witt,

Director.

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FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Federal Open Market Committee; Domestic Policy Directive of June 29-30, 1999.

In accordance with § 271.5 of its rules regarding availability of information (12 CFR part 271), there is set forth below the domestic policy directive issued by the Federal Open Market Committee at its meeting held on June 29-30, 1999.¹ The directive was issued to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York as follows:

The information reviewed at this meeting suggests continued vigorous expansion in economic activity. Nonfarm payroll employment has increased at a relatively rapid pace in recent months and the civilian unemployment rate, at 4.2 percent in May, matched its low for the year. Manufacturing output rose substantially further in May. Total retail sales increased briskly last month after recording large gains on average earlier in the year. Housing activity has remained robust in recent months. Available indicators suggest that business capital spending, especially for information technology, has accelerated this spring. The nominal deficit on U.S. trade in goods and services widened somewhat in April from its first-quarter average. Consumer price inflation was up somewhat on balance in April and May, boosted by a sharp increase in energy prices; improving productivity has held down increases in unit labor costs despite very tight labor markets.

Interest rates have risen somewhat since the meeting on May 18, 1999. Key measures of share prices in equity markets are unchanged to somewhat lower on balance over the intermeeting period. In foreign exchange markets, the trade-weighted value of the dollar has changed little over the period in relation to the currencies of a broad group of important U.S. trading partners.

After recording sizable increases in April, apparently owing to a tax-related buildup in liquid accounts, growth of M2 and M3 slowed in May as tax payments cleared and appears to have remained moderate in June. For the year through June, M2 is estimated to have increased at a rate somewhat above the Committee's annual range and M3 at a rate near the upper end of its range. Total domestic nonfinancial debt has

¹ Copies of the Minutes of the Federal Open Market Committee meeting of June 29-30, 1999, which include the domestic policy directive issued at that meeting, are available upon request to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, D.C. 20551. The minutes are published in the Federal Reserve Bulletin and in the Board's annual report.

continued to expand at a pace somewhat above the middle of its range.

The Federal Open Market Committee seeks monetary and financial conditions that will foster price stability and promote sustainable growth in output. In furtherance of these objectives, the Committee reaffirmed at this meeting the ranges it had established in February for growth of M2 and M3 of 1 to 5 percent and 2 to 6 percent respectively, measured from the fourth quarter of 1998 to the fourth quarter of 1999. The range for growth of total domestic nonfinancial debt was maintained at 3 to 7 percent for the year. For 2000, the Committee agreed on a tentative basis to set the same ranges for growth of the monetary aggregates and debt, measured from the fourth quarter of 1999 to the fourth quarter of 2000. The behavior of the monetary aggregates will continue to be evaluated in the light of progress toward price level stability, movements in their velocities, and developments in the economy and financial markets.

To promote the Committee's long-run objectives of price stability and sustainable economic growth, the Committee in the immediate future seeks conditions in reserve markets consistent with increasing the federal funds rate to an average of around 5 percent. In view of the evidence currently available, the Committee believes that prospective developments are equally likely to warrant an increase or a decrease in the federal funds rate operating objective during the intermeeting period.

By order of the Federal Open Market Committee, September 3, 1999.

Donald L. Kohn,

Secretary, Federal Open Market Committee.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 99F-3087]

American Ingredients Co.; Filing of Food Additive Petition

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing that American Ingredients Co. has filed a petition proposing that the food additive regulations be amended to provide for the safe use of sodium stearoyl lactylate as an emulsifier,