

as the basis for distributing Federal funds for research projects and refrain from seeking Federal funds through non-merit-based means. Federal investments in research are made with the expectation that the research community will select promising research paths more productively and wisely by relying on merit review than can a process that bypasses merit review to directly fund a specific individual or institution. Success in obtaining funds outside the merit review system can be discouraging to researchers who participate in the process. Most significantly, bypassing merit review threatens to undermine research excellence. Merit review may be used in conjunction with other selection criteria to support agency or program goals.

- **Agencies and Universities Should Manage Research in a Cost-Efficient Manner.**

The goal of all those involved in sponsoring, performing, administering, regulating, and auditing university-based research and associated educational activities of the research enterprise should be to make maximum resources available for the performance of research and education. This goal can be accomplished by keeping agencies' and universities' costs of compliance with Federal requirements to the minimum required for good stewardship of Federal funds. For example, administrative requirements should rely on the least burdensome and least costly methods that can effectively provide needed stewardship. Universities should likewise manage their Federal grants as efficiently as possible.

- **Accountability and Accounting Are Not the Same.**

The principal measure of accountability must be research outcomes: have the researchers carried out a program of research consistent with their commitment to the government? Financial accountability is also important and should assure research sponsors that Federal funds have been used properly to achieve the goals of the research in a cost effective manner. Federal agencies must ensure that financial accountability requirements are limited to those that are reasonably required for good stewardship and that each measure adds sufficient value in terms of increased stewardship to justify the burdens and costs it imposes on universities and agencies.

- **The Benefits of Simplicity in Policies and Practices Should Be Weighed Against the Costs.**

The costs and benefits of simplicity in regulatory, administrative, cost accounting, and auditing practices

should be assessed against the costs and benefits of accommodating diverse Federal programs and the multiplicity of university organizational structures in determining best policies and practices. "One size fits all," or uniformity for uniformity's sake can unintentionally increase requirements and burdens, but a multiplicity of practices can also be costly. These tradeoffs should be carefully assessed whenever changes in government-wide or agency-specific policies and practices are proposed.

- **Change Should be Justified by Need and the Process Made Transparent.**

The process of change in the government-university partnership should be made as transparent as possible. Modifications in administrative, regulatory, or auditing requirements, or in cost sharing expectations, should be kept as infrequent as possible, consistent with the need to respond to changing circumstances. The impact of change in one part of the system should be understood relative to the whole. Reasonable time should be allowed for both agencies and universities to adapt to change.

Dated: December 15, 1999.

**Barbara Ann Ferguson,**

*Administrative Officer, Office of Science and Technology Policy.*

[FR Doc. 99-32962 Filed 12-20-99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3170-01-P**

## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[WT Docket No. 99-332; FCC 99-348]

### **Making the Frequency 156.250 MHz Available for Port Operations Purposes in Los Angeles and Long Beach, CA Ports**

**AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Order portion of this document states that the Commission generally holds in abeyance and will not process pending applications for public safety pool frequencies of 156.240 and 156.2475 MHz within 100 miles of the geographic center of Los Angeles. The Commission takes this action to stop processing applications while it considers a proposal to utilize the frequency 156.250 MHz for port operations in the Los Angeles and Long Beach area.

**DATES:** Effective November 15, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** James Shaffer of the Commission's

Wireless Telecommunications Bureau at (202) 418-0680.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

1. This is a summary of the Commission's *Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order* FCC 99-348, adopted on November 15, 1999, and released on November 19, 1999. The full text of this *Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order* is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center, Room CY A257, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. The complete text may be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, Inc., 1231 20th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

2. Effective upon the adoption date of this *Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order*, no applications for public safety pool frequencies of 156.240 and 156.2475 MHz within 100 miles of the geographic center of Los Angeles will be accepted for filing during the pendency of the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order*. Any applications received on or after this date will be returned as unacceptable for filing.

3. Our decision to impose the freeze on Public Safety Pool frequencies of 156.240 and 156.2475 MHz within 100 miles of the geographic center of Los Angeles is procedural in nature and therefore the freeze is not subject to the notice and comment and effective date requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act. *See* 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(A), (d); *Kessler v. FCC*, 326 F.2d 673 (D.C. Cir. 1963). Moreover, there is good cause for the Commission's not using notice and comment procedures in this case, or making the freeze effective 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**, because to do so would be impractical, unnecessary, and contrary to the public interest because compliance would undercut the purpose of the freeze. *See* 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(A), (d)(3).

**Ordering Clauses**

4. Authority for issuance of this *Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order* is contained in Sections 4(i), 4(j), 303(r), and 403 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 154(i), 303(r), and 403.

5. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN and COMMENT IS SOUGHT on the proposed regulatory changes described in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order*, as set forth in Proposed rules.

6. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Commission's Office of Public Affairs, Reference Operations Division, SHALL SEND a copy of this *Notice of Proposed*

*Rule Making and Order*, including the Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analyses, to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration.

7. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that effective upon the release date of this *Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order*, no applications will be accepted for filing for the public safety frequencies of 156.240 and 156.2475 MHz within 100 miles of the geographic center of Los Angeles, defined as 34° 03' 15" north latitude and 118° 14' 28" west longitude. This freeze will continue until the Commission makes an announcement that such applications acceptance will resume.

Federal Communications Commission.

**Magalie Roman Salas,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-32930 Filed 12-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

## FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

[FEMA-3153-EM]

### Massachusetts; Amendment No. 3 to Notice of an Emergency Declaration

**AGENCY:** Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice amends the notice of an emergency for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (FEMA-3153-EM), dated December 6, 1999, and related determinations.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** December 13, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Madge Dale, Response and Recovery Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-3772.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given that the incident period for this disaster is closed effective December 13, 1999.

(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)

**Lacy E. Suiter,**

*Executive Associate Director, Response and Recovery Directorate.*

[FR Doc. 99-33010 Filed 12-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6718-02-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.

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 14, 2000.

**A. Federal Reserve Bank of New York** (Betsy Buttrill White, Senior Vice President) 33 Liberty Street, New York, New York 10045-0001:

1. *U.S. Trust Corporation*, New York, New York, and NCT Holdings, Inc. Greensboro, North Carolina; to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of U.S. Trust Company of North Carolina, Greensboro, North Carolina. NCT Holdings, Inc., also has applied to become a bank holding company.

**B. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta** (Cynthia Goodwin, Vice President) 104 Marietta Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2713:

1. *Wewahitchka State Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan*, Wewahitchka, Florida; to acquire 43 percent of the voting shares of Gulf Coast Community Bancshares, Inc., Wewahitchka, Florida, and thereby indirectly acquire Wewahitchka State Bank, Wewahitchka, Florida.

**C. Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City** (D. Michael Manies, Assistant Vice

President) 925 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri 64198-0001:

1. *Valley View Bancshares, Inc.*, Overland Park, Kansas; to acquire 90 percent of the voting shares of Bank of Lee's Summit, Lee's Summit, Missouri.

**D. Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco** (Maria Villanueva, Manager of Analytical Support, Consumer Regulation Group) 101 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94105-1579:

1. *Bank of Whitman ESOP*, Colfax, Washington; to acquire 44 percent of the voting shares of Whitman Bancorporation, Colfax, Washington, and thereby indirectly acquire Bank of Whitman, Colfax, Washington.

In connection with this application, Applicant also has applied to acquire B.O.W.F.I., Inc., Colfax, Washington, and thereby engage in making and servicing loans, pursuant to § 225.28(b)(1) of Regulation Y.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, December 15, 1999.

**Robert deV. Frierson,**

*Associate Secretary of the Board.*

[FR Doc. 99-32932 Filed 12-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-F

## FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

### Establishment of the Federal Trade Commission Advisory Committee on Online Access and Security and Request for Nominations

**AGENCY:** Federal Trade Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for nominations.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Trade Commission ("Commission" or "FTC") has established an Advisory Committee on Online Access and Security ("Advisory Committee"). The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to provide advice and recommendations to the Commission regarding implementation of certain fair information practices by domestic commercial Web sites—specifically, providing online consumers reasonable access to personal information collected from and about them and maintaining adequate security for that information. The Commission also seeks nominations of individuals for appointment to the Advisory Committee.

**DATES:** The Advisory Committee will meet on February 4, 2000; February 25, 2000; March 31, 2000; and April 28, 2000. Nominations for Advisory Committee membership must be submitted on or before January 5, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** The Advisory Committee will meet in Room 432, Federal Trade