

ACTION: Notice of availability of draft reference dose document for methylmercury.

SUMMARY: Section 304(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act requires the Environmental Protection Agency to develop and publish, and from time to time revise, criteria for water to accurately reflect the latest scientific knowledge. EPA is revising its reference dose in support of a revised ambient water quality criterion for methylmercury. Today, EPA is notifying the public of the availability of the draft reference dose document and is also announcing that the draft document is ready for external scientific peer review.

EPA is notifying the public about the availability of this draft document and its peer review in accordance with the Agency's new process for developing or revising criteria (63 FR 68354, December 10, 1998). As indicated in the December 10, 1998 **Federal Register** document, the Agency believes it is important to provide the public with an opportunity to submit scientific information on draft criteria. EPA is soliciting views from the public on issues of science pertaining to the information used in deriving the draft reference dose.

DATES: All significant scientific information must be submitted to the Agency under docket number W-00-29. All submissions of significant scientific information are requested to be submitted on or before December 14, 2000. Information submitted after this date may not receive the degree of consideration of information submitted earlier. The Administrative Record supporting this draft reference dose document is available at the Water Docket, Room EB-57, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street SW., Washington, DC 20460 on Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. For access to docket materials call (202) 260-3027 for an appointment. A reasonable fee will be charged for photocopies.

ADDRESSES: Send an original and three copies of any written significant scientific information to W-00-15 Comment Clerk, Water Docket, Ariel Rios 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460. Comments may be hand-delivered to the Water Docket, Room EB57, 401 M Street, SW., Washington, DC 20460. Issues may also be submitted electronically to *OW-Docket@epa.gov*. Information should be submitted as a WP5.1, 6.1 and/or 8.0 or an ASCII file with no form of encryption.

Copies of the draft reference dose document entitled, Reference Dose for Methylmercury, may be obtained from EPA's Water Resource Center by phone at (202) 260-7786, or by e-mail to *center.water-resource@epa.gov* or by conventional mail to EPA Water Resource Center, RC-4100, 401 M Street SW., Washington, DC 20460. Alternatively, consult *www.epa.gov/ost/criteria/methylmercury/* for download availability.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Mary Manibusan, Health and Ecological Criteria Division (4304), US EPA, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20460; (202) 260-3688; *manibusan.mary@epa.gov*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

What Is a Reference Dose?

The reference dose is defined as an estimate, with uncertainty spanning perhaps one order of magnitude, of a daily exposure to the human population (including sensitive subgroups) that is likely to be without an appreciable level of risk of deleterious effects during a lifetime. The RfD is useful as a reference point from which to gauge the potential effects of the chemical at other doses. Usually, doses less than the RfD are not likely to be associated with adverse health risks and are, therefore, less likely to be of regulatory concern. As the frequency and/or magnitude of the exposures exceeding the RfD increase, the probability of adverse effects in a human population increases. However, it should not be categorically concluded that all doses below the RfD are "acceptable" or risk-free and that all doses in excess of the RfD are "unacceptable" or will result in adverse effects.

Why Is EPA Notifying the Public About the Draft Reference Dose Document and Peer Review?

Today, in order to expand the public's involvement in the criteria development process, EPA is notifying the public about the availability of the draft reference dose document for methylmercury and its peer review.

In following the Agency's new process, EPA notified the public of its intentions to revise the ambient water quality criteria in the **Federal Register** on October 12, 2000 (65 FR 60664). At that time EPA made available to the public a list of all references identified by a recent literature review and solicited any additional pertinent data or scientific views that would be useful in revising the ambient water quality criteria. EPA is revising the ambient

water quality criteria for methylmercury based on new data and new analyses. The draft reference dose document to support the ambient water quality criterion is ready for external scientific peer review.

As indicated in the December 10, 1998 **Federal Register** document, the Agency believes it is important to provide the public with an opportunity to submit scientific information on draft criteria. EPA is soliciting views from the public on issues of science pertaining to the information used in deriving the draft reference dose. EPA will review and consider significant scientific information submitted by the public that might not have otherwise been identified during development of this criterion.

Geoffrey H. Grubbs,

Director, Office of Science and Technology.

[FR Doc. 00-29061 Filed 11-13-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-U

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. Additional information on all bank holding companies may be obtained from the National Information Center website at *www.ffiec.gov/nic/*.

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 December 7, 2000.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (JoAnne F. Lewellen, Assistant Vice President) 90 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55480-0291:

1. *Firstar Corporation*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; to merge with U.S. Bancorp, Minneapolis, Minnesota; and thereby indirectly acquire U.S. Bank National Association, Minneapolis, Minnesota; U.S. Bank National Association ND, Fargo, North Dakota; U.S. Bank National Association MT, Billings, Montana; and U.S. Bank National Association OR, Canby, Oregon.

In connection with this transaction, Applicant and U.S. Bancorp also have granted cross-options to purchase up to 19.9 percent of the outstanding shares of each other's common stock. These options would expire on consummation of the merger. Firstar Corporation's subsidiary banks are Firstar Bank, National Association, Cincinnati, Ohio; Firstar Bank, National Association, Overland Park, Overland Park, Kansas; and Firstar Bank U.S.A., National Association, Waukegan, Illinois.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, November 7, 2000.

Robert deV. Frierson

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 00-29014 Filed 11-13-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-S

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Sunshine Act Meeting Notice

TIME AND DATE: 10:00 a.m., Friday, November 17, 2000.

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: November 9, 2000.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 00-29229 Filed 11-9-00; 12:47 pm]

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FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Granting of Request for Early Termination of the Waiting Period Under the Premerger Notification Rules

Section 7A of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. 18a, as added by Title II of the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, requires persons contemplating certain mergers or acquisitions to give the Federal Trade Commission and the Assistant Attorney General advance notice and to wait designated periods before consummation of such plans. Section 7A(b)(2) of the Act permits the agencies, in individual cases, to terminate this waiting period prior to its expiration and requires that notice of this action be published in the **Federal Register**.

The following transactions were granted early termination of the waiting period provided by law and the premerger notification rules. The grants were made by the Federal Trade Commission and the Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice. Neither agency intends to take any action with respect to these proposed acquisitions during the applicable waiting period.

Trans #	Acquiring	Acquired	Entities
Transactions Granted Early Termination—09/18/2000			
20004705	August Capital III, L.P.	Seagate Technology, Inc	Seagate Technology, Inc.
20004778	Genlyte Group Inc. (The)	Chloride Group PLC	Chloride Power Electronics, Inc.
20004843	Pegasus Partners II, L.P	Paperloop.com, Inc	Paperloop.com, Inc
20004844	United News & Media plc	Paperloop.com, Inc	Paperloop.com, Inc.
20004871	TNT Post Group N.V	CSX Corporation	CTI Logistix, Inc.
20004896	Steven M. Scott, M.C	HIP Foundation, Inc	HIP Health Plan of Florida, Inc., HIP Insurance Company of Florida, Inc.
20004900	The Cirrus Trust	Robert L. Brown	Employee Management Services II, Inc., Employee Management Services III, Inc., Robert Lee Brown, Inc.
20004905	Gerald W. Schwartz	LBI Holdings, Inc	LBI Holdings, Inc.
Transactions Granted Early Termination—09/19/2000			
20004847	Whitehall Street Real Estate Fund XIII, L.P.	ixPeditte Communications, Inc	ixPeditte Communications, Inc.
20004851	Apollo Investment Fund IV, L.P	Horizon Telecom, Inc	Horizon PCS, Inc.
20004858	Adobe Systems Incorporated	Hewlett-Packard Company	Glassbook, Inc.
20004862	Caraustar Industries, Inc	Crane Carton Company LLC	Crane Carton Company LLC
20004865	Paxton Media Group, Inc	John W. Troutt, Jr	Troutt Brothers, Inc.
20004866	Ford Motor Company	Alfa, S.V. de C.V	Tenedora Nemark S.A. de C.V.
20004872	Dover Corporation	Sangyup Steve Lee	National Cooler Corporation.
20004878	Sara Lee Corporation	Host Apparel, Inc	Host Apparel, Inc
20004887	Copart, Inc	Charles H. Powers	Charles H. Powers