

Office of the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street, SW., room 840, Washington DC 20472, (facsimile) 202-646-4536, or (e-mail) rules@fema.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gil Jamieson, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Office of National Preparedness, 500 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-4090 or e-mail gil.jamieson@fema.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In preliminary exploration of the issues surrounding design of the President's proposed First Responder Initiative grant program, FEMA is soliciting responses to the following questions:

1. Does your jurisdiction have a plan in place that outlines the planning, training, equipment, and exercise needs of first responders? If not, would your jurisdiction be willing to develop such a plan? Do you have a recommendation as to how State and local governments and first response organizations may develop such plans jointly?

2. Does your jurisdiction have legislative, regulatory or budgetary restrictions that would prevent it from applying for, matching, or expending first responder grants?

3. Does your jurisdiction participate in mutual aid agreements? If local, what kinds of assistance are covered by the agreements and what is the extent of coverage: statewide, metropolitan area, or other? If a State, to which interstate mutual aid arrangements is your State a party? Does your State have a statewide mutual aid system? Should the Federal Government require States to participate in an interstate agreement and maintain an internal statewide mutual aid system as a condition of receiving these first responder grants?

4. Should meeting certain standards be a requirement for grantees? In what areas should standards be developed (e.g., training, interoperable communications and equipment, etc.) as part of this program? Do you have recommendations on the content of such standards? Should meeting any of these standards be a precondition of assistance rather than an outcome of the assistance?

5. What factors should be considered in deciding how much each State grantee and local subgrantee should receive (e.g., population, critical infrastructure)?

6. Does your jurisdiction have organizations in place to prepare grant applications, distribute funds, and report on progress? Please briefly describe this process.

7. Has your jurisdiction established a Citizen Corps Council to organize local

volunteer efforts to assist first responders, or does it already have another organization performing that function? 8. What other factors should be considered in developing the First Responder grant program (e.g., participation in Citizen Corps or Citizen Corps related activities)?

Dated: April 9, 2002.

Bruce P. Baughman,
Director, Office of National Preparedness.

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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.ffcic.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 May 10, 2002.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (Julie Stackhouse, Vice President) 90 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55480-0291:

1. Empire Federal Bancorp, Inc., Livingston, Montana; to become a bank holding company by acquiring 100 percent of Montana First National Bancorporation, Kalispell, Montana, and thereby indirectly acquire voting shares of Montana First National Bank, Kalispell, Montana.

In connection with this application, Applicant also has applied to retain ownership of Empire Bank, Livingston Montana, and thereby engage in owning and operating a federal savings bank, pursuant to § 225.28(b)(4)(ii) of Regulation Y.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, April 10, 2002.

Robert deV. Frierson,
Deputy Secretary of the Board.

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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

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, April 10, 2002.

Robert deV. Frierson,
Deputy Secretary of the Board.

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