

will respond to these exceptions immediately rather than after the fact as it is under the Federal Reserve's current method. Although BHCs will still have to provide explanations to support data that trigger quality edit exceptions, this change should reduce subsequent questions from the Federal Reserve about these edits. The Federal Reserve will continue to treat BHCs explanatory comments that address any quality exceptions as confidential. Overall the proposed requirements are expected to improve the timeliness and quality of BHC data, enhance market discipline through faster access by the public, and utilize technological advances in an efficient manner.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, December 9, 2003.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. E3-00561 Filed 12-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-S

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—11/03/2003 | | | |
| 20040009 | Barry Diller | Hotwire, Inc | Barry Diller. Hotwire, Inc. |
| Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/04/2003 | | | |
| 20040050 | Triad Hospitals, Inc | Tenet Healthcare Corporation | Central Arkansas Hospital, Inc. Central Care, Inc. Dedicated Health PHO, Inc. Garland Managed Care Organization, Inc. Jonesboro Health Services, L.L.C. National Park Medical Center, Inc. NPMC Healthcenter—Physician Services, Inc. StarCare of Jonesboro, Inc. St. Mary's Medical Group, Inc. St. Mary's Regional Medical Center, Inc. Tenet Healthcare Corporation. Tenet HealthSystem medical, Inc. Triad Hospitals, Inc. |
| 20040054 | American Industrial Partners Capital Fund III, L.P. | Alcoa, Inc | Advanced Technology and Equipment, Inc. |
| 20040055 | Littlejohn Fund III, LP | General Electric Company | Alcoa, Inc. American Industrial Partners Capital Fund III, L.P. Stolle Machiner, Inc. General Electric Canada, Inc. General Electric Company. General Electric Plastics France (SNC). General Electric South Africa (Proprietary) Ltd. GEP Italia SRL. GE Plastics Hong Kong Ltd. GE Plastics Ltd. GE Polymerland Korea Ltd. GEP South America LTDA. GE Superabrasives Europe GmbH. GE Superabrasives, Inc. GE Surperabrasives US, Inc. Littlejohn Fund II, LP. |
| 20040060 | U.S. Commercial Corp., S.A. de C.V. | Good Guys, Inc | Good Guys, Inc. |
| 20040064 | Peter M. Brant | Enron Corp. (Debtor-in-Possession). | U.S. Commercial Corp., S.A. de C.V. Enron Corp. (Debtor-in-Possession). |
| 20040066 | Gryphon Partners II, L.P | The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company, Inc. | Papiers Stadacona Ltee. Peter M. Brant. St. Aurelie Timberlands, Co., Ltd. Gryphon Partners II, L.P. |
| 20040069 | CCG Investments (BVI), L.P | Concertro Software, Inc. | The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company, Inc. CCG Investments (BVI), L.P. |

| Trans # | Acquiring | Acquired | Entities |
|---------|-----------|----------|--------------------------|
| | | | Concertro Software, Inc. |

Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/07/2003

| | | | |
|----------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 20040023 | Schlumberger Limited | Atos Origin SA | Atos Origin SA. Schlumberger Limited. |
| 20040041 | Allergan, Inc | Oculex Pharmaceuticals, Inc | Allergan, Inc. Oculex Pharmaceuticals, Inc. |
| 20040059 | The BISYS Group, Inc | Richard P. Love, Jr | Richard P. Love, Jr. The BISYS Group, Inc. USA Insuracne Group, Inc. |
| 20040067 | ValueClick, Inc | Commission Junction, Inc | Commission Junction, Inc. Value Click, Inc. |
| 20040079 | The TJX Companies, Inc | Bob's Stores, Inc | Bob's H.C., Inc Bob's Inc. Bob's Non-Connecticut Operating Co. Bob's Stores Center, Inc. Bob's Stores, Inc. The TJX Companies, Inc. |
| 20040082 | Apollo Investment Fund V, L.P | ConAgra Foods, Inc | 2326396 Canada, Inc. Apollo Investment Fund V. ConAgra Foods, Inc. United Agri Products Canada Inc. United Agri Products, Inc. |
| 20040084 | Apollo Investment Fund V, L.P | UAP Holding Corp | Apollo Investment Fund V, L.P. UAP Holding Corp. |
| 20040085 | Macromedia, Inc | eHelp Corporation | eHelp Corporation. Macromedia, Inc. |
| 20040090 | Lions Gate Entertainment Corp | Audax Entertainment, L.P | Audax Entertainment, L.P. Film Holdings Co. Lions Gate Entertainment Corp. |

Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/10/2003

| | | | |
|----------|------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 20040068 | Sabre Holdings Corporation | My Travel Group plc | My Travel Group plc. Sabre Holdings Corporation. Travel Services International, Inc. TTC Holdings, Inc. World Choice Travel, Inc. |
| 20040071 | The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc | Cogentrix Energy, Inc | Cogentrix Energy, Inc. The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. |
| 20040091 | Avaya Inc | NorthWestern Corporation | Avaya Inc. Expanets, Inc. NorthWestern Corporation. |

Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/13/2003

| | | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 20040058 | Merit Partners, L.P | Royal Dutch Petroleum Company | Merit Partners, L.P. Midstream Capital Corp. Royal Dutch Petroleum Company. Shell Michigan Pipeline Company. Shell Onshore Ventures Inc. SWEPI LP. |
| 20040061 | National Leisure Group, Inc | MyTravel Group plc | Blue Sea Partners, Inc. MyTravel Group plc. National Leisure Group, Inc. |
| 20040074 | Digital Insight Corporation | Magnet Communications, Inc | Digital Insight Corporation. Magnet Communications, Inc. |
| 20040075 | Manulife Financial Corporation | John Hancock Financial Services, Inc. | John Hancock Financial Services, Inc. |
| 20040089 | Clipper Group Trust | Lasco Shipping Co | Manulife Financial Corporation. Clipper Group Trust. Lasco Shipping Co. |
| 20040095 | Jeld-Wen Holdings, Inc | Windowmaster Products | Jeld-Wen Holdings, Inc. Windowmaster Products. |

Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/17/2003

| | | | |
|----------|---------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| 20040015 | Vestar Capital Partners IV, L.P | Terrance Johnson | Mayer-Johnson, Inc. Terrance Johnson. Vestar Capital Partners IV, L.P. |
| 20040053 | dj Orthopedics, Inc | OrthoLogic Corp | dj Orthopedics, Inc. OrthoLogic Corp. |
| 20040062 | aaiPharma Inc | Elan Corporation plc | aaiPharma Inc. |

| Trans # | Acquiring | Acquired | Entities |
|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 20040100 | O. Bruton Smith | Michele F. Salta | Elan Corporation plc. Elan Pharmaceuticals, Inc. CL Motors, LLC. CTM, LLC. Michele F. Salta O. Bruton Smith. |
| 20040102 | MetLife, Inc | Allianz Aktiengesellschaft | Allianz Aktiengesellschaft. Allianz Life Insurance company of North America. MetLife, Inc. |
| 20040106 | Veeco Instruments Inc | Lauren D. Lackey and Barbara Lackey. | Advanced Imaging, Inc. Lauren D. Lackey and Barbara Lackey. Veeco Instruments Inc. |

Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/18/2003

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 20040110 | Scottish Re Group Limited | General Electric Company | ERC Life Reinsurance Corporation. General Electric Company. Scottish Re Group Limited. |
|----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|

Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/20/2003

| | | | |
|----------------|--|--------------------------------|--|
| 20040087 | Apollo Investment Fund V, L.P | Royal Numico, N.V | Apollo Investment Fund V, L.P. General Nutrition Companies, Inc. GNC Franchising Canada, Ltd. GNC Franchising Nutrition Companies, Inc. Royal Numico, N.V. |
| 20040108 | Estate of Burk Zanft, c/o Deutsche Bank. | Heritage Fund I, L.P | Estate of Burk Zanft, c/o Deutsche Bank. Heritage Fund I, L.P. |
| 20040109 | Wellspring Capital Partners III, L.P | Walter Industries, Inc | New England Pottery Co., Inc. JW Aluminum Company. Walter Industries, Inc. Wellspring Capital Partners III, L.P. |
| 20040115 | Quovadx, Inc | Rogue Wave Software, Inc | Quovadx, Inc. Rogue Wave Software, Inc. |
| 20040118 | Dycom Industries, Inc | William T. Stover | Dycom Industries, Inc. First South Utility Construction, Inc. William T. Stover. |

Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/24/2003

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 200440072 | Marquette Financial Companies | KBK Capital Corporation | KBK Capital Corporation. Marquette Financial Companies. |
| 20040093 | Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc | Hunter Fan Holdings, Inc | Hunter Fan Holdings, Inc. Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. |
| 20040135 | Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation | Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation | Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation. Mitsubishi Pharma Corporation. |

Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/25/2003

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 20031016 | Symantec Corporation | PowerQuest Corporation | PowerQuest Corporation. Symantec Corporation. |
| 20040107 | drugstore.com, Inc | Ian and Louise Mummery | drugstore.com, Inc. Ian and Louise Mummery. International Vision Direct Corp. |
| 20040121 | TA IX L.P | Logistics Health, Inc | Logistics Health, Inc. TA IX L.P. |
| 20040123 | Ephesos Vermögensverwaltung GmbH. | Sirona Dental Systems S.a.r.l | Ephesos Vermögensverwaltung GmbH. SIRONA Beteiligungs—und Verwaltungsgesellschaft. Sirona Dental Systems S.a.r.l. |
| 20040125 | J.W. Childs Equity Partners III, L.P | John T. Walton | John T. Walton. J.W. Childs Equity Partners III, L.P. Xyron, Inc. |
| 20040127 | Liz Claiborne, Inc | Cerberus SBI Investor L.P | Cerberus SBI Investor L.P. Enyce Holding LLC Liz Claiborne, Inc. |
| 20040129 | Maple Leaf Foods Inc | Smithfield Foods, Inc | Maple Leaf Foods Inc. Smithfield Canada Limited. Smithfield Foods, Inc. |
| 20040134 | Heritage Propane Partners, L.P | LaGrange Energy, L.P | ETC Oasis GP, LLC. Five Dawaco, Inc. |

| Trans # | Acquiring | Acquired | Entities |
|----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 20040138 | Siegwerk GmbH & Co. KG | Color Converting Industries Co | Heritage Propane Partners, L.P. LA GP, LLC. La Grange Acquisition, L.P. La Grange Energy, L.P. LGM, LLC. LG PL, LLC. Color Converting Industries Co. Color Converting, LLC. Siegwerk GmbH & Co. KG. |
| 20040145 | Orbitz, Inc | Orbitz, LLC | Orbitz, Inc. Orbitz, LLC. |
| 20040147 | Sun Microsystems, Inc | Waveset Technologies, Inc | Sun Microsystems, Inc. Waveset Technologies, Inc. |
| 20040150 | Lawrence F. Flick, IV | Fox & Roach/Trident, G.P | Fox & Roach/Trident, G.P. Lawrence F. Flick, IV. |
| 20040154 | Littlejohn Fund II, L.P | LTS Holdings, Inc | Littlejohn Fund II, L.P. LTS Holdings, Inc. |

Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/28/2003

| | | | |
|----------------|--|---|---|
| 2004076 | L-3 Communications Holdings, Inc | The Veritas Capital Fund L.P | L-3 Communications Holdings, Inc. The Veritas Capital Fund L.P. Vertex Aerospace LLC. Computershare Limited. |
| 2004081 | Computershare Limited | Geogeson Shareholder Communications, Inc. | Geogeson Shareholder Communications Inc. |
| 20040101 | KAT Holdings, L.P | General Electric Company | Atrium Corporation. General Electric Company. KAT Holdings, L.P. |
| 20040119 | Reliant Pharmaceuticals, LLC | Abbott Laboratories | Abbott Laboratories. Reliant Pharmaceuticals, LLC. |
| 20040130 | The Home Depot, Inc | RMA Home Services, Inc | RMA Home Services, Inc. The Home Depot, Inc. |
| 20040131 | Bain Capital Fund VII, L.P | Bombardier Inc | Bain Capital Fund VII, L.P. Bombardier Inc. Bombardier Motor Corporation of America. |
| 20040132 | Ralcorp Holdings, Inc | Wind Point Partners III, L.P | Ralcorp Holdings, Inc. Value Added Bakery Holding Company. Wind Point Partners III, L.P. |
| 20040133 | Unilin Holding N.V | Fritz Homann | Fritz Homann. Homanit USA, Inc. Unilin Holding N.V. |
| 20040136 | Rural Cellular Corporation | AT&T Wireless Services, Inc | ABC Wireless, LLC AirCom PCS, Inc. AMT Cellular, LLC AT&T Wireless PCS, LLC. AT&T Wireless Services, Inc. Comet Wireless, Inc. QuinCom, Inc. Rural Cellular Corporation. Tritel A/B Holding Corp. Tritel C/F Holding Corp. |
| 20040137 | AT&T Wireless Services, Inc | Rural Cellular Corporation | AT&T Wireless Services, Inc. RCC Holdings, Inc. RCC Minnesota, Inc. Rural Cellular Corporation. |
| 20040142 | BB&T Corporation | McGriff, Seibels & Williams, Inc | BB&T Corporation. McGriff, Seibels & Williams, Inc. |
| 20040151 | Aetna Inc | Frederick H. Chicos | Aetna Inc. Chickering Benefit Planning Insurance Agency, Inc. Chickering Claims Administrators, Inc. Frederick H. Chicos. |
| 20040155 | Copperweld Acquisition Corpora- tion. | The LTV Corporation (Debtor-in- Possession). | Copperweld Acquisition Corporation. Copperweld Canada, Inc. Copperweld Corporation. LTV Copperweld Bimetals UK (Holdings) Ltd. The LTV Corporation (Debtor-in-Possession). |
| 20040161 | Aetna Inc | Kenneth Chicos | Aetna Inc. Chickering Benefit Planning Insurance Agency, Inc. Kenneth Chicos. |

For Further Information Contact:
Sandra M. Peay, Contact Representative,
or Renee Hallman, Legal Technician,
Federal Trade Commission, Premerger
Notification Office, Bureau of
Competition, Room H-303, Washington,
DC 20580. (202) 326-3100.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-30861 Filed 12-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750-01-M

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Office of Governmentwide Policy

Cancellation of an Optional Form by the Department of State

AGENCY: Office of Governmentwide
Policy, GSA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of State
cancelled the following Optional Form:
OF 137, Designation of Beneficiary (12/
77).

This form is now a State Department
form. You can request copies from:
Department of State, A/RPS/DIR, SA-
22, 18th and G Streets, NW.; Suite 2400,
Washington, DC 20520-2201, 202-312-
9605.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr.
Charles Cunningham, Department of
State, 202-312-9605.

DATES: Effective December 15, 2003.

Dated: December 5, 2003.

Barbara M. Williams,

*Deputy Standard and Optional Forms
Management Officer, General Services
Administration.*

[FR Doc. 03-30891 Filed 12-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820-34-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-1370-N]

Medicare Program; The Practicing Physicians Advisory Council's Request for Nominations

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare &
Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice invites all
organizations representing physicians to
submit nominees for membership on the
Council. There will be several vacancies
on the Council as of February 28, 2004.

DATES: Nominations will be considered
if received at the appropriate address,
no later than 5 p.m. (EST) December 26,
2003.

ADDRESSES: Mail or deliver nominations
to the following address: Centers for
Medicare & Medicaid Services, Center
for Medicare Management, Division of
Provider Relations and Evaluations,
Attention: Cheryl L. Slay, Designated
Federal Official, Practicing Physicians
Advisory Council, 7500 Security
Boulevard, Mail Stop C4-11-27,
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Kenneth Simon, M.D., Executive
Director, Practicing Physicians Advisory
Council, 7500 Security Boulevard, Mail
Stop C4-10-07, Baltimore, MD 21244-
1850, (410) 786-3377. Please refer to the
CMS Advisory Committees Information
Line: (1-877-449-5659 toll free)/(410-
786-9379 local) or the Internet at [http://
www.cms.hhs.gov/faca/ppac/
default.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/faca/ppac/default.asp) for additional information
and updates on committee activities.
News media representatives must
contact the CMS Press Office, (202) 690-
6145.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The
Secretary of the Department of Health
and Human Services (the Secretary) is
mandated by section 1868 of the Social
Security Act (the Act) to appoint a
Practicing Physicians Advisory Council
(the Council) based on nominations
submitted by medical organizations
representing physicians. The Council
meets quarterly to discuss certain
proposed changes in regulations and
carrier manual instructions related to
physicians' services, as identified by the
Secretary. To the extent feasible and
consistent with statutory deadlines, the
consultation must occur before
publication of the proposed changes.
The Council submits an annual report
on its recommendations to the Secretary
and the Administrator of the Centers for
Medicare & Medicaid Services not later
than December 31 of each year.

The Council consists of 15 physicians,
each of whom has submitted at least 250
claims for physicians' services under
Medicare in the previous year. Members
of the Council include both
participating and nonparticipating
physicians, and physicians practicing in
rural and underserved urban areas. At
least 11 members of the Council must be
physicians described in section
1861(r)(1) of the Act; that is, State-
licensed doctors of medicine or
osteopathy. The remaining 4 members
may include dentists, podiatrists,
optometrists, and chiropractors.
Members serve for overlapping 4-year
terms; terms of more than 2 years are

contingent upon the renewal of the
Council by appropriate action before its
termination. Section 1868(a) of the Act
provides that nominations to the
Secretary for Council membership must
be made by medical organizations
representing physicians.

The Council held its first meeting on
May 11, 1992. The current members are:
James Bergeron, M.D.; Ronald
Castallanos, M.D.; Rebecca Gaughan,
M.D.; Carlos R. Hamilton, M.D.; Joseph
Heyman, M.D.; Dennis K. Iglar, M.D.;
Christopher Leggett, M.D.; Joe Johnson,
D.O.; Barbara McAneny, M.D.; Angelyn
L. Moultrie-Lizana, D.O.; Laura B.
Powers, M.D.; Michael T. Rapp, M.D.;
Amilu Rothhammer, M.D.; Robert L.
Urata, M.D.; and Douglas L. Wood, M.D.

This notice serves as an invitation to
all organizations representing
physicians to submit nominees for
membership on the Council. Each
nomination must state that the nominee
has expressed a willingness to serve as
a Council member and must be
accompanied by a short résumé or
description of the nominee's experience.
To permit an evaluation of possible
sources of conflicts of interest, potential
candidates will be asked to provide
detailed information concerning
financial holdings, consultant positions,
research grants, and contracts. Section
1868(b) of the Act provides that the
Council meet quarterly to discuss
certain proposed changes in regulations
and manual issuances that relate to
physicians' services, as identified by the
Secretary. Council members are
expected to participate in all meetings.
Section 1868(c) of the Act provides for
payment of expenses and a per diem
allowance for Council members at a rate
equal to payment provided members of
other advisory committees. In addition
to making these payments, the
Department of Health and Human
Services/Centers for Medicare &
Medicaid Services provides
management and support services to the
Council. The Secretary will appoint new
members to the Council from among
those candidates determined to have the
expertise required to meet specific
agency needs and in a manner to ensure
appropriate balance of the Council's
membership.

Authority: (Section 1868 of the Social
Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ee) and section
10(a) of Public Law 92-463 (5 U.S.C. App. 2,
sections 10(a) and 14)

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance
Program No. 93.773, Medicare—Hospital
Insurance; and Program No. 93.774,
Medicare—Supplementary Medical
Insurance Program)