

resource conservation, energy efficiency, and other sustainable practices. EMSs can also facilitate the integration of the full scope of environmental considerations into the mission of the organization and improve environmental performance by establishing a continual process of checking to ensure environmental goals are set and met. A well-designed EMS includes procedures for taking corrective action if problems occur and encourages preventive action to avoid problems.

Over the last several years, EPA has been involved in a wide range of voluntary activities to facilitate EMS adoption (see <http://www.epa.gov/ems>). EPA has learned through our work with other organizations that EMSs can improve organizational efficiency and competitiveness, provide an infrastructure for public communication and engagement, and provide a platform to address other important issues such as security. EMSs do not replace the need for regulatory and enforcement programs, but they can complement them. Although EMSs cannot guarantee any specific level of environmental performance, EPA has learned that, when properly implemented, EMSs can help facilities achieve significantly improved environmental results and other benefits.

Using EMS as a Tool for Stewardship

EPA has developed EMSs at 34 of its own facilities in advance of the December 31, 2005 deadline set forth in Executive Order 13148—Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management. EPA will continue to utilize its EMSs to reduce its environmental footprint and to help lead the Agency's environmental stewardship efforts.

EPA will continue to encourage organizations to design and implement EMSs that improve compliance, prevent pollution, and integrate other means of improving environmental performance. EPA is also leading research designed to evaluate the effectiveness of EMSs in various settings and integrating EMSs into more of its own programs. We are evaluating which EMS elements and applications are most effective and how these management systems might be used to strengthen environmental programs and policies. This includes the ongoing efforts to assess the potential financial benefits of EMS adoption and to assess whether EMSs should play any role in the design of regulatory and permitting programs.

Statement of Principles

EPA's overall policy on EMSs, as with the EMS approach itself, will continue to be guided by the principles of continual improvement and learning, flexibility, and collaboration.

- EPA will encourage widespread use of EMSs across a range of organizations and settings, with particular emphasis on adoption of EMSs to achieve improved environmental performance and compliance, pollution prevention through source reduction, and continual improvement. The Agency will support EMSs that are appropriate to the needs and characteristics of specific sectors and facilities and encourage the use of EMSs as a means of integrating other facility management programs.

- EPA will promote the voluntary adoption of EMSs. To encourage voluntary adoption of EMSs, EPA will rely on public education and voluntary programs.

- EPA will encourage organizations that use EMSs to obtain stakeholder input on matters relevant to the development and implementation of an EMS and to demonstrate accountability for the performance outcomes of their EMSs through measurable objectives and targets. Additionally, the Agency will encourage organizations to share information on the performance of their EMSs with public and government agencies and facilitate this process where practicable.

- EPA will encourage the use of recognized environmental management frameworks, such as the ISO 14001 Standard, as a basis for designing and implementing EMSs that aim to achieve outcomes aligned with the nation's environmental policy goals and the principles of this Position Statement.

- EPA will collaborate with other key partners—including states, other Federal agencies, tribes, local governments, industry, and non-governmental organizations—as it implements this policy. EPA will support international EMS initiatives that facilitate the increased use of EMSs in the United States. The Agency will ensure that as it implements this policy, its decisions and work are transparent to all interested parties.

- EPA will lead by example, by developing, implementing, and maintaining EMSs at appropriate EPA facilities.

- EPA will foster continual learning by supporting research and public dialogue on EMSs that help improve the Agency's understanding of circumstances where EMSs can advance the nation's environmental policy goals. EPA will continue to collect improved

data on the application of EMSs as it becomes available, including the efficacy of EMSs in improving environmental performance and the costs and benefits of an EMS to an organization and the environment.

Dated: December 13, 2005.

Stephen L. Johnson,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. E6-1423 Filed 2-1-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Notice

AGENCY: Federal Election Commission.

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, February 7, 2006 at 10 a.m.

PLACE: 999 E Street, NW., Washington, DC.

STATUS: This meeting will be closed to the public.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

Compliance matters pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 437g.

Audits conducted pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 437g, 438(b), and Title 26, U.S.C.

Matters concerning participating in civil actions or proceedings or arbitration. Internal personnel rules and procedures or matters affecting a particular employee.

PERSON TO CONTACT FOR INFORMATION:

Mr. Robert Biersack, Press Officer,
Telephone: (202) 694-1220.

Mary W. Dove,

Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 06-1006 Filed 1-31-06; 11:23 am]

BILLING CODE 6715-01-M

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

[Docket No. 06-02]

The Lake Charles Harbor and Terminal District v. West Cameron Port, Harbor and Terminal District; Notice of Filing of Complaint and Assignment

Notice is given that a complaint has been filed with the Federal Maritime Commission ("Commission") by The Lake Charles Harbor and Terminal District ("Complainant"), against West Camden Port, Harbor, and Terminal District, ("Respondent"). Complainant asserts that it is a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana, a deep-water port authority which collects revenue from charges assessed against cargo and vessels using its facilities. Complainant alleges that Respondent is also a subdivision of the State of Louisiana and a port authority. Complainant

contends that Respondent has demanded wharfage charges from Cheniere LNG, Inc. ("Cheniere") which do not bear a reasonable relationship to the services and facilities provided to those against whom the charges are assessed. Complainant further contends that these charges violate Section 10(d)(1) of the Shipping Act of 1984 ("The Act") in that the Respondent failed to establish, observe, and enforce just and reasonable practices relating to the receiving, handling, storing, or delivering of property and is imposing undue or unreasonable prejudice or disadvantage with respect to Complainant. In addition, Complainant contends that Respondent violated Section 5(a) of the Act by not filing an agreement between Cheniere and Respondent with the FMC. Respondent prays for reparations in the amount of actual injury suffered by Complainant plus costs and reasonable attorney fees, an order directing Respondent to pay these reparations, an order directing Respondent to "cease and desist" from violating 10(d)(1) of the Act by collecting wharfage and other fees not related to any services provided, an order directing Respondent to file with the FMC all agreements, and any such other relief as the Commission deems just and proper.

This proceeding has been assigned to the Office of Administrative Law Judges. Hearing in this matter, if any is held, shall commence within the time limitations prescribed in 46 CFR 502.61, and only after consideration has been given by the parties and the presiding officer to the use of alternative forms of dispute resolution. The hearing shall include oral testimony and cross-examination in the discretion of the presiding officer only upon proper showing that there are genuine issues of material fact that cannot be resolved on the basis of sworn statements, affidavits, depositions, or other documents or that the nature of the matter in issue is such that an oral hearing and cross-examination are necessary for the development of an adequate record. Pursuant to the further terms of 46 CFR 502.61, the initial decision of the presiding officer in this proceeding shall be issued by January 29, 2007, and the final decision of the Commission shall be issued by May 29, 2007.

Bryant L. VanBrakle,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. E6-1369 Filed 2-1-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6730-01-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. Additional information on all bank holding companies may be obtained from the National Information Center Web site at <http://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 February 27, 2006.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Boston (Richard Walker, Community Affairs Officer) P.O. Box 55882, Boston, Massachusetts 02106-2204:

1. *Wessagussett Mutual Holding Company, and Wessagussett Bancorp, Inc.*, both of Weymouth, Massachusetts; to become bank holding companies by acquiring 100 percent of the voting shares of Weymouth Bank, East Weymouth, Massachusetts.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, January 30, 2006.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. E6-1385 Filed 2-1-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-S

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Notice of Proposals to Engage in Permissible Nonbanking Activities or to Acquire Companies that are Engaged in Permissible Nonbanking Activities

The companies listed in this notice have given notice under section 4 of the Bank Holding Company Act (12 U.S.C. 1843) (BHC Act) and Regulation Y (12 CFR part 225) to engage *de novo*, or to acquire or control voting securities or assets of a company, including the companies listed below, that engages either directly or through a subsidiary or other company, in a nonbanking activity that is listed in § 225.28 of Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.28) or that the Board has determined by Order to be closely related to banking and permissible for bank holding companies. Unless otherwise noted, these activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Each notice is available for inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The notice also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the question whether the proposal complies with the standards of section 4 of the BHC Act. Additional information on all bank holding companies may be obtained from the National Information Center Web site at <http://www.ffiec.gov/nic/>.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding the applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than February 17, 2006.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco (Tracy Basinger, Director, Regional and Community Bank Group) 101 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94105-1579:

1. *Cathay General Bancorp*, Los Angeles, California; to acquire voting shares of Broadway Financial Corporation, Los Angeles, California, and thereby indirectly acquire voting shares of Broadway Financial Funding LLC, Los Angeles, California, and thereby engage in extending credit and servicing loans, pursuant to section 225.28(b)(1) of Regulation Y.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, January 30, 2006.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. E6-1384 Filed 2-1-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-S