

subject to the APA requirement to publish a notice of proposed rulemaking. NPDES general permits are also not subject to such a requirement under the CWA. While EPA publishes a notice to solicit public comment on draft general permits, it does so pursuant to the CWA section 402(a) requirement to provide "an opportunity for a hearing." Thus, NPDES general permits are not "rules" for RFA or UMRA purposes.

EPA has determined that the proposed permit reissuance would not contain a Federal requirement that may result in expenditures of \$100 million or more for State, local and tribal governments, in the aggregate, or the private sector in any one year.

The Agency also believes that the permit would not significantly nor uniquely affect small governments. For UMRA purposes, "small governments" is defined by reference to the definition of "small governmental jurisdiction" under the RFA. (See UMRA section 102(1), referencing 2 U.S.C. 658, which references section 601(5) of the RFA.) "Small governmental jurisdiction" means governments of cities, counties, towns, etc., with a population of less than 50,000, unless the agency establishes an alternative definition.

The permit, as proposed, also would not uniquely affect small governments because compliance with the proposed permit conditions affects small governments in the same manner as any other entities seeking coverage under the permit. Additionally, EPA does not expect small governments to operate facilities authorized to discharge by this permit.

National Environmental Policy Act. The Minerals Management Service (MMS) examined the environmental consequences of oil and gas exploration activities in a 2002 EIS on Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales: 2003–2007, Central Planning Area Sales 185, 190, 194, 198, and 201 and Western Planning Area Sales 187, 192, 196, and 200. When the current permit was issued, EPA has adopted that EIS and prepared a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) to allow for additional consideration and evaluation of potential impacts on the hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico. EPA also determined that the 2004 reissuance of the NPDES general permit for New and Existing Sources in the Western Portion of the Outer Continental Shelf of the Gulf of Mexico would result in no significant impacts other than those considered in the MMS EIS. MMS is currently developing the 2007–2012 Multisale EIS for the Central and Western Planning Areas of the Gulf

of Mexico. EPA Region 6 is a cooperating agency on that EIS and has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MMS. EPA intends to use that EIS to fulfill the National Environmental Policy Act obligations for this permit issuance.

Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act. The Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act requires federal agencies proposing to authorize actions that may adversely affect essential fish habitat to consult with NMFS. The entire Gulf of Mexico has been designated Essential Fish Habitat. EPA has adopted the essential fish habitat analysis in the 2002 MMS EIS referenced above and finds that issuance of the proposed permit will not adversely affect essential fish habitat.

Dated: December 12, 2006.

Miguel I. Flores,

Director, Water Quality Protection Division, Region 6.

[FR Doc. E6–21890 Filed 12–20–06; 8:45 am]

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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 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 January 16, 2007.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (Jacqueline G. King, Community Affairs Officer) 90 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55480-0291:

1. *First Sleepy Eye Bancorporation, Inc.*, Sioux Falls, South Dakota; to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of Lake Benton Bancorporation, Inc., Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and thereby indirectly acquire voting shares of First Security Bank–Lake Benton, Lake Benton, Minnesota.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, December 18, 2006.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

[Document Identifier: OS–0990–0000, 60-day notice]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, HHS.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of the Secretary (OS), Department of Health and Human Services, is publishing the following summary of a proposed collection for public comment. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

Type of Information Collection Request: Existing collection in use without an OMB control number.