FEDERAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS ADVISORY BOARD

Release of Exposure Draft Technical Bulletins; Accounting for Oil and Gas Resources and Federal Natural Resources Other Than Oil and Gas

AGENCY: Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board.

ACTION: Notice.

Board Action: Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3511(d), the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463), as amended, and the FASAB Rules of Procedure, as amended in October, 2010, notice is hereby given that the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB) has released Exposure Draft Technical Bulletin 2011–1, Accounting for Federal Natural Resources Other Than Oil and Gas, and an Exposure Draft that Proposes to Defer the Effective Date of SFFAS 38, Accounting for Federal Oil and Gas Resources.

The Exposure Drafts are available on the FASAB home page http://www.fasab.gov/exposure.html. Copies can be obtained by contacting FASAB at (202) 512–7350.

Respondents are encouraged to comment on any part of the exposure drafts. Written comments on the Exposure Draft Technical Bulletin 2011–1 are requested by January 31, 2011. Written comments on the Exposure Draft to Defer the Effective Date of SFFAS 38 are requested by February 11, 2011. Comments on the Exposure Drafts should be sent to: Wendy M. Payne, Executive Director, Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board, 441 G Street, NW., Suite 6814, Mail Stop 6K17V, Washington, DC 20548.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wendy Payne, Executive Director, at (202) 512–7350.

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

Notice of Annual Adjustment of the Cap on Average Total Assets That Defines Community Financial Institutions

AGENCY: Federal Housing Finance Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) has adjusted the cap on average total assets that defines a “Community Financial Institution” based on the annual percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (CPI–U) as published by the Department of Labor (DOL). These changes took effect on January 1, 2011.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Statutory and Regulatory Background

The Federal Home Loan Bank Act (Bank Act) confers upon insured depository institutions that meet the statutory definition of a “Community Financial Institution” (CFI) certain advantages over non-CFI insured depository institutions in qualifying for Federal Home Loan Bank (Bank) membership, and in the purposes for which they may receive long-term advances and the collateral they may pledge to secure advances. See 12 U.S.C. 1424(a), 1430(a). Section 2(10)(A) of the Bank Act and §1263.1 of FHFA’s regulations define a CFI as any Bank member the deposits of which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and that has average total assets below a statutory cap. See 12 U.S.C. 1422(10); 12 CFR 1263.1. The Bank Act was amended in 2008 to set the statutory cap at $1 billion and to require the Director of FHFA to adjust the cap annually to reflect the percentage increase in the CPI–U, as published by the DOL, for the prior year. See 12 U.S.C. 1422(10); 12 CFR 1263.1 (defining the term CFI asset cap). For 2010, FHFA set the CFI asset cap at $1,029,000,000, which reflected a 1.8 percent increase over 2009, based upon the increase in the CPI–U between 2008 and 2009. See 75 FR 9601 (Mar. 3, 2010).

II. The CFI Asset Cap for 2011

As of January 1, 2011, FHFA has increased the CFI asset cap from $1,029,000,000 to $1,040,000,000, which reflects a 1.1 percent increase in the unadjusted CPI–U from November 2009 to November 2010. The new amount was obtained by rounding to the nearest million, as has been the practice for all prior adjustments. Consistent with the practice of other Federal agencies, FHFA bases the annual adjustment to the CFI asset cap on the percentage increase in the CPI–U from November of the year prior to the preceding calendar year to November of the preceding calendar year, because the November figures represent the most recent available data as of January 1st of the current calendar year.

In calculating the CFI asset cap, FHFA uses CPI–U data that have not been seasonally adjusted (i.e., the data have not been adjusted to remove the estimated effect of price changes that normally occur at the same time and in about the same magnitude every year). The DOL encourages use of unadjusted CPI–U data in applying “escalation” provisions such as that governing the CFI asset cap, because the factors that are used to seasonally adjust the data are amended annually, and seasonally adjusted data that are published earlier are subject to revision for up to five years following their original release. Unadjusted data are not routinely subject to revision, and previously published unadjusted data are only corrected when significant calculation errors are discovered.

Dated: January 11, 2011.

Edward J. DeMarco,

Acting Director, Federal Housing Finance Agency.