

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7106-9]

**Office of Research and Development;
Board of Scientific Counselors
Subcommittee Review of the National
Exposure Research Laboratory****AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Notice of review.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, as amended (5 U.S.C., App. 2) notification is hereby given that the Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development (ORD), Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC), Subcommittee will meet to review the National Exposure Research Laboratory.

DATES: The review will be held on December 18-20, 2001. On Tuesday, December 18, 2001, the review will begin at 8 a.m., and will recess at 5 p.m. On Wednesday, December 19, 2001, the review will begin at 8:30 a.m. and recess at 5 p.m. On the final day, Thursday, December 20, 2001, the meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. and adjourn 2:30 p.m., and will include a writing session from 8:45 a.m. to 12 noon. All times noted are Eastern Time.

ADDRESSES: The review will be held at the Catawba Building, 3210 Highway 54, Room 327, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shirley R. Hamilton, Designated Federal Officer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development, (8701R), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460, (202) 564-6853.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Anyone desiring a draft agenda may fax their request to Shirley R. Hamilton, (202) 565-2444. The meeting is open to the public. Any member of the public wishing to make comments at the meeting should contact Shirley Hamilton, Designated Federal Officer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Board of Scientific Counselors, Office of Research and Development (8701R), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20460 by telephone at (202) 564-6853. In general, each individual making an oral presentation will be limited to a total of three minutes.

Dated: November 15, 2001.

Peter W. Preuss,
Director, National Center for Environmental Research.
[FR Doc. 01-29271 Filed 11-21-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**[Report No. AUC-01-82-B (Auction No. 82); DA 01-2605]****Auction of Construction Permits for New Analog Television Stations Scheduled for February 5, 2002; Comment Sought on Reserve Prices or Minimum Opening Bids and Other Auction Procedural Issues****AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: This document announces the auction of four construction permits for new analog television stations to commence on February 5, 2002.

DATES: Comments are due on or before November 26, 2001, and reply comments are due on or before December 3, 2001.

ADDRESSES: An original and four copies of all pleadings must be filed with the Commission's Secretary, Magalie Roman Salas, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Room TW-A325, 445 Twelfth Street, SW., Washington, DC 20054, in accordance with § 1.51(c) of the Commission's rules. In addition, commenters are requested to fax a courtesy copy of their comments and reply comments to the attention of Kathy Garland at (717) 338-2850.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Video Services Division: Shaun Maher at (202) 418-1600. Auctions and Industry Analysis Division: Kenneth Burnley, Legal Branch at (202) 418-0660 and Linda Sanderson, Operations Branch at (717) 338-2888. Requests for information can also be e-mailed to auctionsinquiry@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the *Auction No. 82 Comment Public Notice* released November 9, 2001. The complete text of the *Auction No. 82 Comment Public Notice*, including attachments, is available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours at the FCC Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY-A257, Washington, DC 20554. The *Auction No. 82 Comment Public Notice* may also be purchased from the Commission's duplicating contractor,

Qualex International, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY-B402, Washington, DC 20554, telephone 202-863-2893, facsimile 202-863-2898, or via e-mail qualexint@aol.com.

1. By the *Auction No. 82 Comment Public Notice*, the Mass Media Bureau ("MMB") and the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau ("WTB") (collectively, "Bureaus") announce the auction of four construction permits for new analog television stations to commence on February 5, 2002 ("Auction No. 82"). A list of the channels and communities of these stations is included as Attachment A of the *Auction No. 82 Comment Public Notice*. These new television stations are the subject of pending, mutually exclusive short-form applications (FCC Form 175) filed on or before June 29, 2001. Pursuant to the *Broadcast First Report and Order*, 63 FR 48615 (September 11, 1998), participation in the auction will be limited to those applicants. A list of those applicants is also identified in Attachment A of the *Auction No. 82 Comment Public Notice*.

2. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 requires the Commission to "ensure that, in the scheduling of any competitive bidding under this subsection, an adequate period is allowed * * * before issuance of bidding rules, to permit notice and comment on proposed auction procedures. * * *" Consistent with the provisions of the Balanced Budget Act and to ensure that potential bidders have adequate time to familiarize themselves with the specific rules that will govern the day-to-day conduct of an auction, the Commission directed the Bureaus, under their existing delegated authority, to seek comment on a variety of auction-specific procedures prior to the start of each auction. The Bureaus therefore seek comment on the following issues relating to Auction No. 82.

I. Auction Structure**A. Multiple Round Auction Design**

3. The Bureaus propose to award these construction permits in a simultaneous multiple-round auction. As described further, this methodology offers every construction permit for bid at the same time with successive bidding rounds in which bidders may place bids. The Bureaus seek comment on this proposal.

B. Upfront Payments and Initial Maximum Eligibility

4. The upfront payment is a refundable deposit made by each bidder to determine and establish eligibility to

bid on the construction permits being auctioned. For Auction No. 82, the Bureaus propose to make the upfront payments equal to the minimum opening bids, which are established based on similar facts as described in section II.B. The specific upfront payments for each construction permit are set forth in Attachment A of the *Auction No. 82 Comment Public Notice*. The Bureaus seek comment on this proposal.

5. The upfront payment submitted by a bidder will determine the number of bidding units on which a bidder may place bids. This limit is a bidder's "maximum initial eligibility." Each construction permit is assigned a specific number of bidding units equal to the upfront payment listed in Attachment A, on a bidding unit per dollar basis. This number does not change as prices rise during the auction. A bidder may place bids on multiple construction permits, if selected on the FCC Form 175, as long as the total number of bidding units associated with those construction permits does not exceed its maximum initial eligibility. Eligibility cannot be increased during the auction. Thus, in calculating its upfront payment amount, an applicant must determine the *maximum* number of bidding units it may wish to bid on (or hold high bids on) in any single round, and submit an upfront payment covering that number of bidding units. The Bureaus seek comment on this proposal.

C. Activity Rules

6. An activity rule requires bidders to bid actively on a percentage of their current bidding eligibility and/or be the standing high bidder during each round of the auction rather than waiting until the end to participate. The Bureaus propose a single stage auction with the following activity requirement: In each round of the auction, a bidder desiring to maintain its eligibility to participate in the auction is required to be active on one hundred (100) percent of its bidding eligibility. Failure to maintain the requisite activity level will result in the use of an activity rule waiver, if any remain, or a reduction in the bidder's bidding eligibility. The Bureaus seek comment on this proposal.

D. Activity Rule Waivers and Reducing Eligibility

7. Use of an activity rule waiver preserves the bidder's current bidding eligibility despite the bidder's activity in the current round being below the required activity level. An activity rule waiver applies to an entire round of bidding and not to a particular

construction permit. Activity waivers are principally a mechanism for auction participants to avoid the loss of auction rather eligibility in the event that exigent circumstances prevent them from placing a bid in a particular round.

8. The FCC auction system assumes that bidders with insufficient activity would prefer to use an activity rule waiver (if available) rather than lose bidding eligibility. Therefore, the system will automatically apply a waiver (known as an "automatic waiver") at the end of any bidding period where a bidder's activity is below the required activity level unless: (i) There are no activity rule waivers available; or (ii) the bidder overrides the automatic application of a waiver by reducing eligibility, thereby meeting the minimum requirements. If a bidder has no waivers remaining and does not satisfy the required activity level, the system will permanently reduce their current eligibility to bring them into compliance with the activity rule.

9. A bidder with insufficient activity may wish to reduce its bidding eligibility rather than use an activity rule waiver. If so, the bidder must affirmatively override the automatic waiver mechanism during the bidding period by using the reduce eligibility function in the bidding system. In this case, the bidder's eligibility is permanently reduced to bring the bidder into compliance with the activity rules as described. Once eligibility has been reduced, a bidder will not be permitted to regain its lost bidding eligibility.

10. A bidder may proactively use an activity rule waiver as a means to keep the auction open without placing a bid. If a bidder submits a proactive waiver (using the Proactive Waiver function in the bidding system) during a bidding period in which no bids or withdrawals are submitted, the auction will remain open and the bidder's eligibility will be preserved. An automatic waiver invoked in a round in which there are no new valid bids will not keep the auction open.

11. The Bureaus propose that each bidder in Auction No. 82 be provided with three activity rule waivers that may be used at the bidder's discretion during the course of the auction as set forth. The Bureaus seek comment on this proposal.

E. Information Relating to Auction Delay, Suspension or Cancellation

12. For Auction No. 82, the Bureaus propose that, by public notice or by announcement during the auction, they may delay, suspend or cancel the auction in the event of natural disaster or national emergency, technical

obstacle, evidence of an auction security breach, unlawful bidding activity, administrative or weather necessity, or for any other reason that affects the fair and competitive conduct of competitive bidding. In such cases, the Bureaus, in their sole discretion, may elect to resume the auction starting from the beginning of the current round, resume the auction starting from some previous round, or cancel the auction in its entirety. Network interruption may cause the Bureaus to delay or suspend the auction. The Bureaus emphasize that exercise of this authority is solely within its discretion and its use is not intended to be a substitute for situations in which bidders may wish to apply their activity rule waivers. The Bureaus seek comment on this proposal.

II. Bidding Procedures

A. Round Structure

13. The Commission will use its Automated Auction System to conduct the electronic simultaneous multiple round auction format for Auction No. 82. Auction No. 82 will be conducted over the Internet. However, as in prior auctions, the FCC Wide Area Network will be available at the standard charge, and telephonic bidding will also be available. Prospective bidders concerned about their access to the Internet may want to establish a connection to the FCC Wide Area Network as a backup. Full information regarding how to establish such a connection, and related charges, will be provided in the public notice announcing details of auction procedures.

14. In past auctions, the Bureaus have used the timing of bids to select a high bidder when multiple bidders submit identical high bids on a construction permit in a given round. Given that bidders will access the Internet at differing speeds, the Bureaus will not use this procedure in Auction No. 82. For Auction No. 82, the Bureaus propose to use a random number generator to select a high bidder from among such bidders. As with prior auctions, remaining bidders will be able to submit higher bids in subsequent rounds. The initial bidding schedule will be announced in a public notice to be released at least one week before the start of the auction, and will be included in the registration mailings. The simultaneous multiple round format will consist of sequential bidding rounds, each followed by the release of round results. Details regarding the location and format of round results will be included in the same public notice.

15. The Bureaus have discretion to change the bidding schedule in order to foster an auction pace that reasonably balances speed with the bidders' need to study round results and adjust their bidding strategies. The Bureaus may increase or decrease the amount of time for the bidding rounds and review periods, or the number of rounds per day, depending upon the bidding activity level and other factors. The Bureaus seek comment on this proposal.

B. Reserve Price or Minimum Opening Bid

16. The Balanced Budget Act calls upon the Commission to prescribe methods by which a reasonable reserve price will be required or a minimum opening bid established when FCC licenses or construction permits are subject to auction (*i.e.*, when the Commission has accepted mutually exclusive applications for licenses or construction permits), unless the Commission determines that a reserve price or minimum bid is not in the public interest. Consistent with this mandate, the Commission has directed the Bureaus to seek comment on the use of minimum opening bids and/or reserve price prior to the start of each auction.

17. Normally, a reserve price is an absolute minimum price below which an item will not be sold in a given auction. Reserve prices can be either published or unpublished. A minimum opening bid, on the other hand, is the minimum bid price set at the beginning of the auction below which *no* bids are accepted. It is generally used to accelerate the competitive bidding process. Also, in a minimum opening bid scenario, the auctioneer generally has the discretion to lower the amount later in the auction. It is also possible for the minimum opening bid and the reserve price to be the same amount.

18. In light of the Balanced Budget Act's requirements, the Bureaus propose to establish a minimum opening bid for Auction No. 82. The Bureaus believe a minimum opening bid, which has been utilized in other auctions, is an effective bidding tool. A minimum opening bid, rather than a reserve price, will help to regulate the pace of the auction and provides flexibility.

19. For Auction No. 82, the proposed minimum opening bid prices were determined by taking into account various factors related to the efficiency of the auction and the potential value of the spectrum, including the type of service, market size, industry cash flow data and recent broadcast transactions. The specific minimum opening bid for each construction permit is set forth in

Attachment A of the *Auction No. 82 Comment Public Notice*. The Bureaus seek comment on this proposal.

20. If commenters believe that these minimum opening bids will result in unsold construction permits, or are not reasonable amounts, or should instead operate as reserve prices, they should explain why this is so, and comment on the desirability of an alternative approach. Commenters are advised to support their claims with valuation analyses and suggested reserve prices or minimum opening bid levels or formulas. Alternatively, comment is sought on whether, consistent with the Balanced Budget Act, the public interest would be served by having no minimum opening bid or reserve price.

C. Minimum Accepted Bids and Bid Increments

21. In each round, eligible bidders will be able to place bids on a given construction permit in any of nine different amounts. The Automated Auction System interface will list the nine acceptable bid amounts for each construction permit. Once there is a standing high bid on the construction permit, the Automated Auction System will calculate a minimum acceptable bid for that construction permit for the following round, as described. The difference between the minimum acceptable bid and the standing high bid for each construction permit will define the *bid increment*. The nine acceptable bid amounts for each construction permit consist of the minimum acceptable bid (the standing high bid plus one bid increment) and additional amounts calculated using multiple bid increments (*i.e.*, the second bid amount equals the standing high bid plus two times the bid increment, the third bid amount equals the standing high bid plus three times the bid increment, etc.).

22. Until a bid has been placed on a construction permit, the minimum acceptable bid for that construction permit will be equal to its minimum opening bid. The additional bid amounts for construction permits that have not yet received a bid will be calculated differently, as explained.

23. For Auction No. 82, the Bureaus propose to calculate minimum acceptable bids by using a smoothing methodology, as they have done in several other auctions. The smoothing formula calculates minimum acceptable bids by first calculating a *percentage increment*, not to be confused with the *bid increment*, for each construction permit based on a weighted average of the activity received on each construction permit in all previous rounds. This methodology tailors the

percentage increment for each construction permit based on activity, rather than setting a global increment for all construction permits.

24. In a given round, the calculation of the percentage increment for each construction permit is made at the end of the previous round. The computation is based on an activity index, which is calculated as the weighted average of the activity in that round and the activity index from the prior round. The activity index at the start of the auction (round 0) will be set at 0. The current activity index is equal to a weighting factor times the number of new bids received on the construction permit in the most recent bidding round plus one minus the weighting factor times the activity index from the prior round. The activity index is then used to calculate a percentage increment by multiplying a minimum percentage increment by one plus the activity index with that result being subject to a maximum percentage increment. The Commission will initially set the weighting factor at 0.5, the minimum percentage increment at 0.1 (10%), and the maximum percentage increment at 0.2 (20%).

Equations

$$A_i = (C * B_i) + ((1-C) * A_{i-1})$$

$$I_{i+1} = \text{smaller of } ((1 + A_i) * N) \text{ and } M$$

$$X_{i+1} = I_{i+1} * Y_i$$

where,

A_i = activity index for the current round (round i)

C = activity weight factor

B_i = number of bids in the current round (round i)

A_{i-1} = activity index from previous round (round $i-1$), A_0 is 0

I_{i+1} = percentage increment for the next round (round $i+1$)

N = minimum percentage increment or percentage increment floor

M = maximum percentage increment or percentage increment ceiling

X_{i+1} = dollar amount associated with the percentage increment

Y_i = high bid from the current round

25. Under the smoothing methodology, once a bid has been received on a construction permit, the minimum acceptable bid for that construction permit in the following round will be the high bid from the current round plus the dollar amount associated with the percentage increment, with the result rounded to the nearest thousand if it is over \$10,000, to the nearest hundred if it is under \$10,000 but over \$1,000, or to the nearest ten if it is below \$1,000.

Examples

Construction Permit 1

$C = 0.5, N = 0.1, M = 0.2$

Round 1 (2 new bids, high bid = \$1,000,000)

- i. Calculation of percentage increment for round 2 using the smoothing formula:

$$A_1 = (0.5 * 2) + (0.5 * 0) = 1$$

$$I_2 = \text{The smaller of } ((1 + 1) * 0.1) = 0.2 \text{ or } 0.2 \text{ (the maximum percentage increment)}$$

- ii. Calculation of dollar amount associated with the percentage increment for round 2 (using I_2):

$$X_2 = 0.2 * \$1,000,000 = \$200,000$$

- iii. Minimum acceptable bid for round 2 = \$1,200,000

Round 2 (3 new bids, high bid = \$2,000,000)

- i. Calculation of percentage increment for round 3 using the smoothing formula:

$$A_2 = (0.5 * 3) + (0.5 * 1) = 2$$

$$I_3 = \text{The smaller of } ((1 + 2) * 0.1) = 0.3 \text{ or } 0.2 \text{ (the maximum percentage increment)}$$

- ii. Calculation of dollar amount associated with the percentage increment for round 3 (using I_3):

$$X_3 = 0.2 * \$2,000,000 = \$400,000$$

- iii. Minimum acceptable bid for round 3 = \$2,400,000

Round 3 (1 new bid, high bid = \$2,400,000)

- i. Calculation of percentage increment for round 4 using the smoothing formula:

$$A_3 = (0.5 * 1) + (0.5 * 2) = 1.5$$

$$I_4 = \text{The smaller of } ((1 + 1.5) * 0.1) = 0.25 \text{ or } 0.2 \text{ (the maximum percentage increment)}$$

- ii. Calculation of dollar amount associated with the percentage increment for round 4 (using I_4):

$$X_4 = 0.2 * \$2,400,000 = \$480,000$$

- iii. Minimum acceptable bid for round 4 = \$2,880,000

26. As stated, until a bid has been placed on a construction permit, the minimum acceptable bid for that construction permit will be equal to its minimum opening bid. The additional bid amounts are calculated using the difference between the minimum opening bid times one plus the minimum percentage increment, rounded as described, and the minimum opening bid. That is, $I = (\text{minimum opening bid})(1 + N)\{\text{rounded}\} - (\text{minimum opening bid})$. Therefore, when N equals 0.1, the first additional bid amount will be approximately ten percent higher than the minimum opening bid; the second, twenty percent; the third, thirty percent; etc.

27. In the case of a construction permit for which the standing high bid has been withdrawn, the minimum

acceptable bid will equal the second highest bid received for the construction permit. The additional bid amounts are calculated using the difference between the second highest bid times one plus the minimum percentage increment, rounded, and the second highest bid.

28. The Bureaus retain the discretion to change the minimum acceptable bids and bid increments if it determines that circumstances so dictate. The Bureaus will do so by announcement in the Automated Auction System. The Bureaus seek comment on these proposals.

D. Information Regarding Bid Withdrawal and Bid Removal

29. For Auction No. 82, the Bureaus propose the following bid removal and bid withdrawal procedures. Before the close of a bidding period, a bidder has the option of removing any bid placed in that round. By using the Remove Selected Bids function in the bidding system, a bidder may effectively "unsubmit" any bid placed within that round. A bidder removing a bid placed in the same round is not subject to a withdrawal payment.

30. Once a round closes, a bidder may no longer remove a bid. However, in any subsequent round, a high bidder may withdraw its standing high bids from previous rounds using the Withdraw function in the bidding system. A high bidder that withdraws its standing high bid from a previous round is subject to the bid withdrawal payment provisions of the Commission rules. The Bureaus seek comment on these bid removal and bid withdrawal procedures.

31. The Bureaus propose to limit each bidder in Auction No. 82 to withdrawing standing high bids in no more than one round during the course of the auction. To permit a bidder to withdraw bids in more than one round would likely encourage insincere bidding or the use of withdrawals for anti-competitive purposes. The round in which withdrawals are utilized will be at the bidder's discretion; withdrawals otherwise must be in accordance with the Commission's rules. There is no limit on the number of standing high bids that may be withdrawn in the round in which withdrawals are utilized. Withdrawals will remain subject to the bid withdrawal payment provisions specified in the Commission's rules. The Bureaus seek comment on this proposal.

E. Stopping Rule

32. For Auction No. 82, the Bureaus propose to employ a simultaneous stopping rule approach. The Bureaus have discretion "to establish stopping

rules before or during multiple round auctions in order to terminate the auction within a reasonable time." A simultaneous stopping rule means that all construction permits remains open until the first round in which no new acceptable bids, proactive waivers, or withdrawals are received. After the first such round, bidding closes simultaneously on all construction permits. Thus, unless circumstances dictate otherwise, bidding would remain open until bidding stops on all construction permits.

33. However, the Bureaus propose to retain the discretion to exercise any of the following options during Auction No. 82:

i. Utilize a modified version of the simultaneous stopping rule. The modified stopping rule would close the auction for all construction permits after the first round in which no bidder submits a proactive waiver, withdrawal, or a new bid on any construction permit on which it is not the standing high bidder. Thus, absent any other bidding activity, a bidder placing a new bid on a construction permit for which it is the standing high bidder would not keep the auction open under this modified stopping rule.

ii. Keep the auction open even if no new acceptable bids or proactive waivers are submitted and no previous high bids are withdrawn. In this event, the effect will be the same as if a bidder had submitted a proactive waiver. The activity rule, therefore, will apply as usual, and a bidder with insufficient activity will either lose bidding eligibility or use a remaining activity rule waiver.

iii. Declare that the auction will end after a specified number of additional rounds ("special stopping rule"). If the Bureaus invoke this special stopping rule, it will accept bids in the specified final round(s) only for construction permits on which the high bid increased in at least one of the preceding specified number of rounds.

34. The Bureaus propose to exercise these options only in certain circumstances, such as, for example, where the auction is proceeding very slowly, there is minimal overall bidding activity, or it appears likely that the auction will not close within a reasonable period of time. Before exercising this option, the Bureaus are likely to attempt to increase the pace of the auction by, for example, increasing the number of bidding rounds per day, and/or increasing the amount of the minimum bid increments for the limited number of construction permits where there is still a high level of bidding

activity. The Bureaus seek comment on these proposals.

III. Due Diligence

35. Potential bidders are solely responsible for investigating and evaluating all technical and market place factors that may have a bearing on the value of the television facilities in this auction. The FCC makes no representations or warranties about the use of this spectrum for particular services. Applicants should be aware that a FCC auction represents an opportunity to become a FCC permittee in the broadcast service, subject to certain conditions and regulations. A FCC auction does not constitute an endorsement by the FCC of any particular service, technology, or product, nor does a FCC construction permit or license constitute a guarantee of business success. Applicants should perform their individual due diligence before proceeding as they would with any new business venture.

36. Potential bidders are strongly encouraged to conduct their own research prior to Auction No. 82 in order to determine the existence of pending proceedings that might affect their decisions regarding participation in the auction. Participants in Auction No. 82 are strongly encouraged to continue such research during the auction.

37. Potential bidders should note that, in November 1999, Congress enacted the Community Broadcasters Protection Act of 1999 (CBPA) which established a new Class A television service. In response to the enactment of the CBPA, the Commission adopted rules to establish the new Class A television service. In the *Class A Report and Order*, the Commission adopted rules to provide interference protection for eligible Class A television stations from new full power television stations. Given the Commission's ruling in the *Class A Report and Order*, the winning bidders in Auction No. 82, upon submission of their long-form applications (FCC Form 301), will have to provide interference protection to qualified Class A television stations. Therefore, potential bidders are encouraged to perform engineering studies to determine the existence of Class A television stations and their effect on the ability to operate the full power television stations proposed in this auction. Information about the identity and location of Class A television stations is available from the Mass Media Bureau's Consolidated Database System (CDBS) (public access available at: <http://www.fcc.gov/mmb>) and on the Mass Media Bureau's Class

A television web page: <http://www.fcc.gov/mmb/vsd/files/classa.html>.

38. Potential bidders are also reminded that full service television stations are in the process of converting from analog to digital operation and that stations may have pending applications to construct and operate digital television facilities, construction permits and/or licenses for such digital facilities. Bidders should investigate the impact such applications, permits and licenses may have on their ability to operate the facilities proposed in this auction.

IV. Prohibition of Collusion

39. Bidders are reminded that § 1.2105(c) of the Commission's rules prohibits applicants for the same geographic license area from communicating with each other during the auction about bids, bidding strategies, or settlements unless they have identified each other as parties with whom they have entered into agreements under § 1.2105(a)(2)(viii). For Auction No. 82, this prohibition became effective at the short-form application filing deadline on Friday, June 29, 2001, and will end on the post-auction down payment deadline, which will be announced in a future public notice. If parties had agreed in principle on all material terms, those parties must have been identified on the short-form application under § 1.2105(c), even if the agreement had not been reduced to writing. If parties had not agreed in principle by the filing deadline, an applicant should not have included the names of those parties on its application, and must not have continued negotiations with other applicants for licenses in the same geographic area.

40. In addition, § 1.65 of the Commission's rules requires an applicant to *maintain* the accuracy and completeness of information furnished in its pending application and to notify the Commission within 30 days of any substantial change that may be of decisional importance to that application. Thus, § 1.65 requires an auction applicant to notify the Commission of any violation of the anti-collusion rules upon learning of such violation. Bidders therefore are required to make such notification to the Commission immediately upon discovery. In the *Competitive Bidding Seventh Report & Order*, 66 FR 54447 (October 29, 2001), the Commission amended § 1.2105 to require auction applicants to report prohibited communications in writing to the Commission immediately, but in no

case later than five business days after the communication occurs.

V. Maintaining the Accuracy of FCC Form 175 Information

41. As noted in the *Auction No. 82 Filing Window Public Notice*, 66 FR 33699 (June 25, 2001), after the short-form filing deadline, applicants may make only minor changes to their FCC Form 175 applications. For example, permissible minor changes include deletion and addition of authorized bidders (to a maximum of three) and certain revision of exhibits. At this time, filers must submit a letter summarizing the changes to: Margaret Wiener, Chief, Auctions and Industry Analysis Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW, Room 4-A760, Washington, DC 20554.

42. A separate copy of the letter should be mailed to Shaun Maher, Video Services Division, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW, Room 2-A820, Washington, DC 20554 and faxed to the attention of Kathryn Garland at (717) 338-2850. Questions about other changes should be directed to Shaun Maher at (202) 418-1600.

VI. Conclusion

43. Comments are due on or before November 26, 2001, and reply comments are due on or before December 3, 2001. An original and four copies of all pleadings must be filed with the Commission's Secretary, Magalie Roman Salas, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Room TW-A325, 445 Twelfth Street, SW., Washington, DC 20054, in accordance with § 1.51(c) of the Commission's rules. See 47 CFR 1.51(c). In addition, one copy of each pleading must be delivered to each of the following locations: (i) The Commission's duplicating contractor, Qualex International, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW, Room CY-B402, Washington, DC 20554; (ii) Office of Media Relations, Public Reference Center, 445 Twelfth Street, SW., Suite CY-A257, Washington, DC 20554; (iii) Rana Shuler, Auctions and Industry Analysis Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, 445 Twelfth Street, SW., Suite 4-A628, Washington, DC 20554; (iv) Shaun Maher, Video Services Division, Mass Media Bureau, 445 Twelfth Street, SW., Suite 2-A820, Washington, DC 20554. Applicants that send their comments via Federal Express or any other express mail service should use the zip code "20024." Hand-delivered or messenger-delivered comments will be accepted at

9300 East Hampton Drive, Capital Heights, Maryland, 20743. Comments and reply comments will be available for public inspection during regular business hours in the FCC Public Reference Room, Room CY-A257, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554. In addition, the Bureaus request that commenters fax a courtesy copy of their comments and reply comments to the attention of Kathryn Garland at (717) 338-2850.

44. This proceeding has been designated as a "permit-but-disclose" proceeding in accordance with the Commission's *ex parte* rules. Persons making oral *ex parte* presentations are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentations must contain summaries of the substance of the presentations and not merely a listing of the subjects discussed. More than a one or two sentence description of the views and arguments presented is generally required. Other rules pertaining to oral and written *ex parte* presentations in permit-but-disclose proceedings are set forth in § 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules.

Federal Communications Commission.

Margaret Wiener,

Chief, Auctions and Industry Analysis Division, WTB.

[FR Doc. 01-29366 Filed 11-21-01; 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 December 17, 2001.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta (Cynthia C. Goodwin, Vice President) 1000 Peachtree Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30309-4470:

1. *First Columbia Bancorp, Inc.*, Lake City, Florida; to become a bank holding company by acquiring 100 percent of the voting shares of Columbia County Bank, Lake City, Florida.

B. Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City (Susan Zubradt, Assistant Vice President) 925 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri 64198-0001:

1. *Central Financial Corporation*, Hutchinson, Kansas; to acquire additional shares, for a total of 8.9 percent of the voting shares of NorthStar Bancshares, Inc., Kansas City, Missouri, and thereby indirectly acquire voting shares of NorthStar Bank, Kansas City, Missouri.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, November 16, 2001.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Program Support Center; Statement of Organization, Functions, and Delegations of Authority

Part P, Program Support Center (PSC), Statement of Organization, Functions and Delegations of authority for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) (66 FR 31240-41, October 2, 1995, and as last amended at 66 FR 35981-82, July 10, 2001) is being amended to reflect a change in the reporting relationship of the PSC Director, within HHS. The PSC Director will receive directions from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management and Operations, Office of Management and Operations (AJC), Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management (AJ). The changes are as follows:

I. Under Chapter P, paragraph P.10 Organization, replace with the following:

P.10 Organization. The Program Support Center is a component within HHS to provide a wide range of support and administrative services to HHS components and other Federal agencies. The Program Support Center shall be under the direction of a Director, who receives day-to-day guidance from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management and Operations, Office of Management and Operations (AJC), who reports to the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management (AJ).

II. Under Paragraph P.20 Functions, paragraph A. "Office of the Director," replace with the following:

A. Office of the Director (PA). The PSC Director is responsible to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management and Operations, Office of Management and Operations, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, in managing and directing the PSC. The Office functions include (1) providing leadership for the implementation of the PSC responsibilities in accomplishing its mission, (2) providing staff support to the Director of the PSC; (3) developing customer service strategic and marketing plans; and (4) coordinating publication of reports to HHS management, customers and employees.

III. Continuations of Regulations

Except as inconsistent with this reorganization, all regulations, rules, orders, statements of policy and interpretations with respect to the Program Support Center heretofore issued and in effect prior to the date of this Reorganization, or to become effective subsequent to said date are continued in full force and effect.

IV. Prior Statements of Organizations, Functions, and Delegations of Authority

A. All delegations of authorities made to the PSC components, and all further redelegations of such authorities in effect immediately prior to the effective date of this Reorganization shall continue in effect pending further redelegation.

B. To the extent inconsistent with this Reorganization, all previous statements of organizations, functions, delegations of authority, as well as applicable present Chapters of Part P, of the Department's Organizational Manual shall remain unchanged, pending further changes by the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management.