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 website at *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 6, 2008.

**A. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis** (Glenda Wilson, Community Affairs Officer) 411 Locust Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63166–2034:

*1. Evolve Financial Group, Inc.*, Cordova, Tennessee;, to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of AFS Investment Advisors, Inc., Austin, Texas, and thereby engage in investment advisory activities, pursuant to section 225.28(b)(6)(i) of Regulation Y.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, January 17, 2008.

**Robert deV. Frierson,**

*Deputy Secretary of the Board.*

[FR Doc. E8–1080 Filed 1–22–08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6210–01–S**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Office of the Secretary

### Annual Update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines

**AGENCY:** Department of Health and Human Services.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice provides an update of the HHS poverty guidelines to account for last calendar year's increase in prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index.

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* Date of publication, unless an office administering a program using the guidelines specifies a different effective date for that particular program.

**ADDRESSES:** Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Room 404E, Humphrey Building, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Washington, DC 20201.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information about how the guidelines are used or how income is defined in a particular program, contact the Federal, State, or local office that is responsible for that program. Contact information for two frequently requested programs is given below:

For information about the Hill-Burton Uncompensated Services Program (free or reduced-fee health care services at certain hospitals and other facilities for persons meeting eligibility criteria involving the poverty guidelines), contact the Office of the Director, Division of Facilities Compliance and Recovery, Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS, Room 10–105, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857. To speak to a person, call (301) 443–5656. To receive a Hill-Burton information package, call 1–800–638–0742 (for callers outside Maryland) or 1–800–492–0359 (for callers in Maryland). You also may visit *http://www.hrsa.gov/hillburton/default.htm.* The Division of Facilities Compliance and Recovery notes that as set by 42 CFR 124.505(b), the effective date of this update of the poverty guidelines for facilities obligated under the Hill-Burton Uncompensated Services Program is sixty days from the date of this publication.

For information about the percentage multiple of the poverty guidelines to be used on immigration forms such as USCIS Form I–864, Affidavit of Support, contact U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services at 1–800–375–5283 or visit *http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/I-864p.pdf.*

For information about the number of people in poverty or about the Census Bureau poverty thresholds, visit the Poverty section of the Census Bureau's Web site at *http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty.html* or contact the Census Bureau's Demographic Call Center Staff at (301) 763–2422 or 1–866–758–1060 (toll-free).

For general questions about the poverty guidelines themselves, contact Gordon Fisher, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Room 404E, Humphrey Building, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC 20201—telephone: (202) 690–7507—or visit *http://www.aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/.*

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### Background

Section 673(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)) requires the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to update, at least annually, the poverty guidelines, which shall be used as an eligibility criterion for the Community Services Block Grant program. The poverty guidelines also are used as an eligibility criterion by a number of other Federal programs. The poverty guidelines issued here are a simplified version of the poverty thresholds that the Census Bureau uses to prepare its estimates of the number of individuals and families in poverty.

As required by law, this update is accomplished by increasing the latest published Census Bureau poverty thresholds by the relevant percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI–U). The guidelines in this 2008 notice reflect the 2.8 percent price increase between calendar years 2006 and 2007. After this inflation adjustment, the guidelines are rounded and adjusted to standardize the differences between family sizes. The same calculation procedure was used this year as in previous years. (Note that these 2008 guidelines are roughly equal to the poverty thresholds for calendar year 2007 which the Census Bureau expects to publish in final form in August 2008.) The guideline figures shown represent annual income.

2008 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

| Persons in family | Poverty guideline |
|---|---|
| 1 | $10,400 |
| 2 | 14,000 |
| 3 | 17,600 |
| 4 | 21,200 |
| 5 | 24,800 |
| 6 | 28,400 |
| 7 | 32,000 |
| 8 | 35,600 |

For families with more than 8 persons, add $3,600 for each additional person.

2008 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR ALASKA

| Persons in family | Poverty guideline |
|---|---|
| 1 | $13,000 |
| 2 | 17,500 |
| 3 | 22,000 |
| 4 | 26,500 |
| 5 | 31,000 |
| 6 | 35,500 |
| 7 | 40,000 |
| 8 | 44,500 |

For families with more than 8 persons, add $4,500 for each additional person.

2008 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR HAWAII

| Persons in family | Poverty guideline |
|---|---|
| 1 | $11,960 |
| 2 | 16,100 |
| 3 | 20,240 |
| 4 | 24,380 |
| 5 | 28,520 |
| 6 | 32,660 |
| 7 | 36,800 |
| 8 | 40,940 |

For families with more than 8 persons, add $4,140 for each additional person.

Separate poverty guideline figures for Alaska and Hawaii reflect Office of Economic Opportunity administrative practice beginning in the 1966–1970 period. (Note that the Census Bureau poverty thresholds—the version of the poverty measure used for statistical purposes—have never had separate figures for Alaska and Hawaii.) The poverty guidelines are not defined for Puerto Rico or other outlying jurisdictions. In cases in which a Federal program using the poverty guidelines serves any of those jurisdictions, the Federal office that administers the program is generally responsible for deciding whether to use the contiguous-states-and-DC guidelines for those jurisdictions or to follow some other procedure.

Due to confusing legislative language dating back to 1972, the poverty guidelines have sometimes been mistakenly referred to as the ''OMB'' (Office of Management and Budget) poverty guidelines or poverty line. In fact, OMB has never issued the guidelines; the guidelines are issued each year by the Department of Health and Human Services. The poverty guidelines may be formally referenced as ''the poverty guidelines updated periodically in the **Federal Register** by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2).''

Some programs use a percentage multiple of the guidelines (for example, 125 percent or 185 percent of the guidelines), as noted in relevant authorizing legislation or program regulations. Non-Federal organizations that use the poverty guidelines under their own authority in non-federally-funded activities can choose to use a percentage multiple of the guidelines such as 125 percent or 185 percent.

The poverty guidelines do not make a distinction between farm and non-farm families, or between aged and non-aged units. (Only the Census Bureau poverty thresholds have separate figures for aged and non-aged one-person and two-person units.)

Note that this notice does not provide definitions of such terms as ''income'' or ''family.'' This is because there is considerable variation in how different programs that use the guidelines define these terms, traceable to the different laws and regulations that govern the various programs.

Therefore, questions about how a particular program applies the poverty guidelines (for example, Is income before or after taxes? Should a particular type of income be counted? Should a particular person be counted in the family or household unit?) should be directed to the organization that administers the program.

Dated: January 17, 2008.

**Michael O. Leavitt,**

*Secretary of Health and Human Services.*

[FR Doc. 08–256 Filed 1–18–08; 9:13 am]

**BILLING CODE 4151–05–M**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; Decision To Evaluate a Petition To Designate a Class of Employees at Spencer Chemical Co., Jayhawks Works, Pittsburg, KS, To Be Included in the Special Exposure Cohort

**AGENCY:** National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) gives notice as required by 42 CFR 83.12(e) of a decision to evaluate a petition to designate a class of employees at Spencer Chemical Co., Jayhawks Works, Pittsburg, Kansas, to be included in the Special Exposure Cohort under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000. The initial proposed definition for the class being evaluated, subject to revision as warranted by the evaluation, is as follows:

*Facility:* Spencer Chemical Co., Jayhawks Works.

*Location:* Pittsburg, Kansas.

*Job Titles and/or Job Duties:* All employees.

*Period of Employment:* January 1, 1958 through December 31, 1963.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Larry Elliott, Director, Office of Compensation Analysis and Support, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), 4676 Columbia Parkway, MS C–46, Cincinnati, OH 45226, Telephone 513–533–6800 (this is not a toll-free number). Information requests can also be submitted by e-mail to *OCAS@CDC.GOV.*

Dated: January 15, 2008.

**John Howard,**

*Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.*

[FR Doc. E8–1031 Filed 1–22–08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4163–19–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; Determination Concerning a Petition To Add a Class of Employees to the Special Exposure Cohort

**AGENCY:** National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) gives notice of a determination concerning a petition to add a class of employees at the Y–12 Plant, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA), 42 U.S.C. 7384q. On December 14, 2007, the Secretary of HHS determined that the following employees do not meet the statutory criteria for addition to the SEC as authorized under EEOICPA:

Statisticians who performed statistical analysis of biological experiments (working within the Oak Ridge National Laboratory Biological Sciences Division) in all locations at the Y–12 Plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, who were employed by the Department of Energy or its contractors between January 1, 1958, and June 30, 1958.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Larry Elliott, Director, Office of Compensation Analysis and Support, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), 4676 Columbia Parkway, MS C–46, Cincinnati, OH 45226, Telephone 513–533–6800 (this is not a toll-free number). Information requests can also be submitted by e-mail to *OCAS@CDC.GOV.*

Dated: January 15, 2008.

**John Howard,**

*Director, National Institute for Occupational, Safety and Health.*

[FR Doc. E8–1033 Filed 1–22–08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4160–17–P**