

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]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–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 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.

[FR Doc. E6–21844 Filed 12–20–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210–01–S

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.

Title of Information Collection:
National Blood Collection and
Utilization Survey.

Form/OMB No.: 0990-0000.

Use: The Advisory Committee on Blood Safety and Availability, HHS, was established to provide policy advice to the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary for Health. The advice of the committee is partly dependent on the analysis of relevant blood collection and utilization data which is also widely distributed to and used by the transfusion medicine community. To that end, the Office of Public Health and Science (OPHS) is responsible for conducting a bi-annual cross-sectional national blood products survey. OPHS performed the 2005 National Blood Collection and Utilization Survey (NBCUS) using a nationally representative sample of hospitals and blood collection centers. Previously private and government financed versions of the NBCUS have successfully surveyed greater than 90% of the U.S. blood collection and processing facilities and more than 2900 hospital based transfusion blood banks in the United States. The objective of the 2007 NBCUS is to produce reliable and accurate estimates of national and regional collections, utilization, and safety of all blood products—red blood cells, fresh frozen plasma, and platelets. Additionally, data regarding billing and payment for blood and blood products will be collected. New to the 2007 NBCUS is the identification and collection of baseline data for biovigilance blood safety monitoring. An important purpose of the survey is to help the federal government implement a blood safety public health monitoring system. The survey will be mailed to approximately 3000 institutions that include hospitals, blood collection facilities, and cord blood banks selected from the American Hospital Association annual survey database and AABB member list of blood collection facilities, respectively. The maximum length of the instrument will be 13 to 18 pages and the estimated number of data elements will be 200 to 300. The survey will include questions about the institution, blood collection and processing, blood transfusion, cellular therapy products, and product modification and final disposition. The 2007 NBCUS will also include additional questions on issues of biovigilance patient safety monitoring. Facilities will be surveyed regarding their 2006 calendar year activities. A toll-free hotline service for survey inquiries will be made available. Follow-up procedures will be in place to address survey non-responders.

Following data collection, statistical tabulations of results for each question will be performed. The survey data will be analyzed by institution type, services provided, USPHS region, etc. A final comprehensive report on blood collection and transfusion-related activities in the United States will be issued by HHS.

Frequency: Once.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Annual Number of Respondents:
3,000.

Total Annual Responses: 3,000.

Average Burden per Response: 3 hrs.

Total Annual Hours: 9,000.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, e-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and OS document identifier, to Sherette.funncoleman@hhs.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (202) 690-6162. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be received within 60-days, and directed to the OS Paperwork Clearance Officer at the following address: Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary, Assistant Secretary for Resources and Technology, Office of Resources Management, Attention: Sherette Funn-Coleman (0990-0000), Room 537-H, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington DC 20201.

Dated: December 13, 2006.

Alice Bettencourt,

Office of the Secretary, Paperwork Reduction Act Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E6-21783 Filed 12-20-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4150-41-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology; American Health Information Community Personalized Healthcare Workgroup

ACTION: Announcement of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the first meeting of the American Health Information Community Personalized Healthcare Workgroup in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C., App.)

DATES: January 4, 2007 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., EST.

ADDRESSES: Mary C. Switzer Building (330 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20201), Conference Room 4090. (You

will need a photo ID to enter a Federal building.)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
<http://www.hhs.gov/healthit/ahic/workgroups.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: At this inaugural meeting, the Workgroup members will be introduced and will begin discussion of the charges to the group on making recommendations to the American Health Information Community.

The meeting will be available via internet access. Go to <http://www.hhs.gov/healthit/ahic/workgroups.html> for additional information on the meeting.

Dated: December 14, 2006.

Judith Sparrow,

Director, American Health Information Community, Office of Programs and Coordination, Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.

[FR Doc. 06-9803 Filed 12-20-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4150-24-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology; American Health Information Community Biosurveillance Workgroup Meeting

ACTION: Announcement of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the 13th meeting of the American Health Information Community Biosurveillance Workgroup in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C., App.).

DATES: January 5, 2007 from 12 to 3 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Mary C. Switzer Building (330 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20201), Conference Room 4090 (please bring photo ID for entry to a Federal building).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
http://www.hhs.gov/healthit/ahic/bio_main.html.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Workgroup will continue discussing the Biosurveillance Priority Area matrix.

The meeting will be available via internet access. For additional information, go to http://www.hhs.gov/healthit/ahic/bio_instruct.html.