

from depository institutions that obtain funds from foreign (non-U.S.) sources or that have foreign branches. This report is filed with the same frequency as the FR 2900. These mandatory reports are used by the Federal Reserve for administering Regulation D (Reserve Requirements of Depository Institutions) and for constructing, analyzing, and controlling the monetary and reserve aggregates.

Current actions: The Federal Reserve proposes discontinuing the FR 2950/2951 in May 2004, contingent upon some report items being added to the bank credit family of reports. (The Weekly Report of Assets and Liabilities for Large Banks: FR 2416; OMB No. 7100-0075; the Weekly Report of Selected Assets: FR 2644; OMB No. 7100-0075; and the Weekly Report of Assets and Liabilities for Large U.S. Branches and Agencies of Foreign Banks: FR 2069; OMB No. 7100-0030)

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, April 10, 2003.

Jennifer J. Johnson,
Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 03-9262 Filed 4-15-03; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

SUMMARY: *Background.* On June 15, 1984, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) delegated to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Board) its approval authority under the Paperwork Reduction Act, as per 5 CFR 1320.16, to approve of and assign OMB control numbers to collection of information requests and requirements conducted or sponsored by the Board under conditions set forth in 5 CFR 1320 Appendix A.1. Board-approved collections of information are incorporated into the official OMB inventory of currently approved collections of information. Copies of the OMB 83-I's and supporting statements and approved collection of information instruments are placed into OMB's public docket files. The Federal Reserve may not conduct or sponsor, and the respondent is not required to respond to, an information collection that has been extended, revised, or implemented on or after October 1, 1995, unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Request for comment on information collection proposal.

The following information collection, which is being handled under this delegated authority, has received initial Board approval and is hereby published for comment. At the end of the comment period, the proposed information collection, along with an analysis of comments and recommendations received, will be submitted to the Board for final approval under OMB delegated authority. Comments are invited on the following:

- whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the Federal Reserve's functions; including whether the information has practical utility;
- the accuracy of the Federal Reserve's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- ways to minimize the burden of information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before [insert date 60 days from publication in the Federal Register].

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to Ms. Jennifer J. Johnson, Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20551. However, because paper mail in the Washington area and at the Board of Governors is subject to delay, please consider submitting your comments by e-mail to

regs.comments@federalreserve.gov, or faxing them to the Office of the Secretary at 202-452-3819 or 202-452-3102. Comments addressed to Ms. Johnson may also be delivered to the Board's mail facility in the West Courtyard between 8:45 a.m. and 5:15 p.m., located on 21st Street between Constitution Avenue and C Street, N.W. Members of the public may inspect comments in Room MP-500 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on weekdays pursuant to 261.12, except as provided in 261.14, of the Board's Rules Regarding Availability of Information, 12 CFR 261.12 and 261.14.

A copy of the comments may also be submitted to the OMB desk officer for the Board: Joseph Lackey, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A copy of the proposed form and instructions, the Paperwork Reduction Act Submission (OMB 83-I), supporting statement, and other documents that will be placed into OMB's public docket files once approved may be requested from the agency clearance officer, whose name appears below.

Cindy Ayouch, Federal Reserve Board Clearance Officer (202-452-3829), Division of Research and Statistics, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC 20551. Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) users may contact (202-263-4869), Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC 20551.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposal for approval under OMB delegated authority to conduct the following survey:

Report title: Survey of Small Business Finances

Agency form number: FR 3044

OMB control number: 7100-0262

Frequency: One-time

Reporters: Small businesses

Annual reporting hours: 5,100 hours

Estimated average hours per response: 1 hour

Number of respondents: 5,100

Small businesses are affected.

General description of report: This information collection would be voluntary and authorized by law (12 U.S.C. §§ 252(a)(1), 1817(j), and 1841 et seq.). Individual respondent data would be provided in a public-use file. However, any information that could identify respondent firms, or the financial institutions that they use, would be excluded from the public dataset pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4)).

Abstract: This voluntary survey would be similar to the 1987, 1993, and 1998 Surveys of Small Business Finances (SSBF). In part, this survey would be conducted to collect information needed to satisfy the requirements of Section 2227 of the Economic Growth and Regulatory Paperwork Reduction Act of 1996. This law requires the Board to conduct a study and submit a report to the Congress every five years "...detailing the extent of small business lending by all creditors...."

The 2003 SSBF would gather data from small businesses on their financial relationships, credit experiences, lending terms and conditions, income and balance sheet information, the location and types of financial institutions used, and other firm characteristics. The survey would be conducted by a private survey firm,

which would be chosen in a competitive bidding process. In conjunction with the Federal Reserve, the survey firm would update and finalize the questionnaire for the new survey. The survey firm would then conduct two pre-tests with a minimum of fifty small business firms in each pre-test. Following pre-test revisions to the questionnaire, the survey would be conducted by means of computer-assisted telephone interviews. Interviewing would likely commence in early 2004.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, April 10, 2003.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 03-9264 Filed 4-15-03; 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 May 9, 2003.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (Phillip Jackson, Applications Officer)

230 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60690-1414:

1. *MainSource Financial Group*, Greensburg, Indiana; to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of First Community Bancshares, Inc., Bargersville, Indiana, and thereby indirectly acquire voting shares of First Community Bank & Trust, Bargersville, Indiana.

B. Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas (W. Arthur Tribble, Vice President) 2200 North Pearl Street, Dallas, Texas 75201-2272:

1. *The Jere J. Ruff Family Limited Partnership, II*, Longview, Texas; to acquire 44.26 percent of the voting shares of The First State Bank, Hallsville, Texas.

2. *Ruff Management, L.L.C.*, Longview, Texas; to acquire 52.32 percent of the voting shares of The First State Bank, Hallsville, Texas.

3. *Ruff Partners, Ltd.*, Longview, Texas; to acquire 52.32 percent of the voting shares of The First State Bank, Hallsville, Texas.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, April 10, 2003.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 03-9263 Filed 4-15-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-1256-N]

RIN 0938-AM60

Medicare Program; Notice of Ambulance Fee Schedule in Accordance With Federal District Court Order

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the steps CMS is taking to comply with the Order in *Lifestar Ambulance Service, Inc. v. United States*, No. 4:02-CV-127-1 (M.D. Ga. Jan. 16, 2003) Medicare Covered Ambulance Services.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This notice is effective on April 16, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Anne Tayloe, (410) 786-4546.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 4531 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA) required the

Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a national fee schedule (FS) for payment of ambulance services through a negotiated rulemaking process. The statute provided that the Secretary phase in the application of payment rates under the FS in an efficient and fair manner and that the aggregate amount of payment for such services under the new FS not exceed the amount that would have been paid under the old system (42 U.S.C. § 1395m(l)(1), (2), (3)). The BBA provided that the FS would apply to services furnished on or after January 1, 2000.

The September 12, 2000 proposed rule (65 FR 55078) and the February 27, 2002 final rule (67 FR 9100) both provide for payment for ambulance services to be made in two parts: a base rate and a payment for mileage. Section 423 of the Medicare, Medicaid and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000 (BIPA), which was passed after the publication of the proposed rule and prior to the promulgation of the final rule, provided that during the phase-in of the FS there would be full payment of any national mileage rate for ambulance services furnished by suppliers in States where the Medicare carrier did not previously pay separately for all mileage within the county from which the beneficiary is transported. Two States have been identified as qualifying under this provision: North Carolina and Tennessee. The BIPA states that this provision shall apply to services furnished on or after July 1, 2001. The FS was implemented on April 1, 2002 by the February 27, 2002 final rule. The final rule announced the 5-year phase-in that is based on a blend of a percentage of the payment based on the old payment system with a percentage of the payment based on the FS according to the following schedule:

Calendar year	Percentage of old payment system	Percentage of fee schedule
2002*	80	20
2003	60	40
2004	40	60
2005	20	80
2006	0	100

*April 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002 only.

The full national FS mileage rate in those States that qualify for section 423 of the BIPA (North Carolina and Tennessee) has been paid as of April 1, 2002.

In *Lifestar Ambulance Service, Inc. v. United States*, No. 4:02-CV-127-1