

standing high bids from previous rounds using the withdraw bid function. A high bidder that withdraws its standing high bid from a previous round is subject to the bid withdrawal payment provisions. We seek comment on these bid removal and bid withdrawal procedures.

27. In the *Part 1 Third Report and Order*, 63 FR 770 (January 7, 1998), the Commission explained that allowing bid withdrawals facilitates efficient aggregation of licenses and the pursuit of efficient backup strategies as information becomes available during the course of an auction. The Commission noted, however, that in some instances bidders may seek to withdraw bids for improper reasons, including to delay the close of the auction for strategic purposes. The Bureau, therefore, has discretion, in managing the auction, to limit the number of withdrawals to prevent strategic delay of the close of the auction or other abuses. The Commission stated that the Bureau should assertively exercise its discretion, consider limiting the number of rounds in which bidders may withdraw bids, and prevent bidders from bidding on a particular market it finds that a bidder is abusing the Commission's bid withdrawal procedures.

28. Applying this reasoning, we propose to limit each bidder in Auction No. 37 to withdraw standing high bids in no more than two rounds during the course of the auction. To permit a bidder to withdraw bids in more than two rounds would likely encourage insincere bidding or the use of withdrawals for anti-competitive strategic purposes. The two rounds 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 There is no limit on the number of standing high bids that may be withdrawn in either of the rounds in which withdrawals are utilized. Withdrawals will remain subject to the bid withdrawal payment provisions specified in the Commission's rules. We seek comment on these proposals.

#### *E. Stopping Rule*

29. For Auction No. 37, the Bureau proposes to employ a simultaneous stopping rule approach. The Bureau has 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 remain 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 on all construction permits until bidding stops on every permit.

30. The Bureau seeks comment on 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, a 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. The Bureau further seeks comment on whether this modified stopping rule should be utilized.

31. We propose that the Bureau retains the discretion to keep an 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.

32. Finally, we propose that the Bureau reserve the right to declare that the auction will end after a specified number of additional rounds ("special stopping rule"). If the Bureau invokes this special stopping rule, they will accept bids in the final round(s) only for construction permits on which the high bid increased in at least one of the preceding specified number of rounds. The Bureau proposes to exercise this option 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 Bureau is 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. We seek comment on these proposals.

Federal Communications Commission.

**Margaret Wiener,**

*Deputy Chief, Auctions and Industry Analysis Division.*

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## FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

### **Change in Bank Control Notices; Acquisitions of Shares of Banks or Bank Holding Companies**

The notificants listed below have applied under the Change in Bank Control Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(j)) and § 225.41 of the Board's Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.41) to acquire a bank or bank holding company. The factors that are considered in acting on the notices are set forth in paragraph 7 of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(j)(7)).

The notices are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The notices also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing to the Reserve Bank indicated for that notice or to the offices of the Board of Governors. Comments must be received not later than October 20, 2000.

**A. Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago** (Phillip Jackson, Applications Officer)  
230 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60690-1414:

1. *John Mark DeCook*, Pella, Iowa, and Martin "Bruce" Heerema, Pella, Iowa; each to retain voting shares of Vermeer Investment Company, Pella, Iowa, and thereby indirectly retain voting shares of Marion County State Bank, Pella, Iowa.

2. *Raymond James Schirmer*, and Robert Lawrence Foust, both of Strawberry Point, Iowa; to acquire additional voting shares of Munter Agency, Inc., Strawberry Point, Iowa, and thereby indirectly acquire additional voting shares of Union Bank and Trust Company, Strawberry Point, Iowa.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, October 2, 2000.

**Robert deV. Frierson,**

*Associate Secretary of the Board.*

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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