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 March 9, 2000.

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

1. MSB Holding Company, Moorhead, Iowa; to engage *de novo* in leasing activities, pursuant to § 225.28(b)(3) of Regulation Y.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, February 18, 2000.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 00–4425 Filed 2–24–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210–01–P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

TIME AND DATE: 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, March 1, 2000.

PLACE: Marriner S. Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building, 20th and C Streets, NW, Washington, DC 20551

STATUS: Closed

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Personnel actions (appointments, promotions, assignments, reassignments, and salary actions) involving individual Federal Reserve System employees.

2. Any matters carried forward from a previously announced meeting.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Lynn S. Fox, Assistant to the Board; 202–452–3204.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: You may call 202–452–3206 beginning at approximately 5 p.m. two business days before the meeting for a record announcement of bank and bank holding company applications scheduled for the meeting; or you may contact the Board's Web site at http://www.federalreserve.gov for an electronic announcement that not only lists applications, but also indicates procedural and other information about the meeting.

Dated: February 23, 2000.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 00–4571 Filed 2–23–00; 11:39 am]

BILLING CODE 6210–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

Comment Period and Public Meeting: Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

AGENCY: Office of Public Health and Science, DHHS.

ACTION: Notice of comment period and public meeting.

SUMMARY: During the last two weeks in March, the Department of Health and Human Services is soliciting comments on the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), a proposed international legal instrument intended to address the global problem of tobacco use. Individuals and organizations are encouraged to comment on the FCTC in one or both of the following ways: (1) In writing, by submission through the mails, courier service, or email; (2) in person, at a public meeting that will be convened in Washington, DC.

Comments that are received will assist the U.S. government to understand the perspectives of various organizations and individuals on the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). The comment period and public meeting are intended to give interested persons, including public health and medical professionals, state and local officials, farmers, retailers, manufacturers and others an opportunity to comment on the FCTC.

The comment period and meeting are open to the public. The meeting is limited by the time available for comments. The day long meeting will allow approximately 130 comments to be heard. Seating capacity is 300.

Those who wish to attend are encouraged to register early with the contact person listed below. If you will require a sign language interpreter, or have other special needs, please notify the contact person by 4:30 E.S.T. on March 9, 2000.

DATES: The comment period will be held from March 15–30, 2000. Comments can be submitted by mail or electronically (electronic submissions are encouraged). To submit electronic comments, send via e-mail to FCTC@cdc.gov.

ADDRESSES: To submit comments by mail, send to: FCTC Comments (Attn: Ms. Monica Swann), Office on Smoking and Health, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 317–B, Washington, DC 20201.

The public meeting will be held on March 15, 2000, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC 20004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Monica Swann, Office on Smoking and Health, Centers for Disease Control, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 317–B, Washington, DC 20201, (202) 205–8500, or e-mail FCTC@cdc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In May 1999, the World Health Assembly, the governing body of the World Health Organization, unanimously adopted resolution WHA 52.18 calling for negotiation of a Framework Convention on Tobacco Control support (FCTC). The United States joined other countries in voicing support for negotiation of the convention, which is intended to address the global problem of tobacco use.

The first meeting of the FCTC working group was held in Geneva in October 1999. From May 2000 through 2003, it is anticipated that an Intergovernmental Negotiating Body will be established to negotiate the text of the FCTC and related protocols. May 2003 is the target date for completion of the FCTC by the World Health Assembly. (Background documents on the FCTC are available on the World Health Organization's web site at *http://www.who.int/toh/fctc/fctcintro.htm*.)

It is anticipated that additional comment periods and public meetings will be convened before the completion of the FCTC.

If you would like to attend the public meeting, you are encouraged to register early by providing your name, title, firm name, address, and telephone number to Monica Swann (contact information above). The U.S. government encourages individuals to submit written comments electronically or by mail. Comments also will be accepted during the meeting. If you would like to speak at the meeting, please notify Monica Swann (address above) when you register. There is no registration fee for the meeting.

The transcript of the public meeting and submitted comments will be posted on the Internet at http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco. In addition, you may request a transcript of the public meeting from the Freedom of Information Act Officer at:

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Attn: Lynn Armstrong, FOIA Officer, 1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS D54, Atlanta, GA 30333. The materials should be available approximately 15 working days after the meeting.

Dated: February 17, 2000.

David Satcher,

Assistant Secretary for Health and Surgeon General.

[FR Doc. 00–4388 Filed 2–24–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160–17–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: (AHRQ), formerly known as the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR), HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the intention of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to allow the proposed information collection project; ''Development and Implementation of National Guideline Clearinghouse Evaluation (NGC)''. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), AHRQ invites the public to comment on this proposed information collection.

DATE: Comments on this notice must be received by April 25, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted to: Cynthia McMichael, Reports Clearance Officer, AHRQ, 2101 East Jefferson Street, Suite 500, Rockville, MD 20852–4908.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval of the proposed information collection. All comments will become a matter of public record.

In accordance with the above cited legislation, comments on the AHRQ information collection proposal are requested with regard to any of the following: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and costs) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Copies of the proposed collection plans, data collection instruments, and specific details on the estimated burden can be obtained from the AHRQ Reports Clearance Officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cynthia D. McMichael, AHRQ Reports Clearance Officer, (301) 594–3132.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposed Project

Development and Implementation of National Guideline Clearinghouse Evaluation (NGC)

The NGC already reaches many individuals indicating its great potential to affect medical practice. In the nine months since it became available to the public, the NGC site has processed over 5 million requests for guideline information, with an average user visit lasting seven minutes. Over the last six months, the ''hit volume'' (*e.g.*, connection to the Internet site) has been fairly constant with approximately 36,000 per day. The majority of users are within the United States, but the site is also utilized globally, indicating the potential for far reaching effects. As the NGC audience continues to grow and the field of best practices develops, the Web site will only be effective if it keeps pace with the needs of it users. A small study conducted by the American Medical Association (AMA) to gauge NGC awareness and satisfaction with the site among their members provides the only data to date on how the NGC is currently perceived by uses. Although its conclusions were limited by a small sample size of physician respondents (*e.g.*, n=44), the AMA survey suggested that several functions of the NGC could be improved. These findings support the need for a further, more comprehensive evaluation of the site's quality and usefulness in order for AHRQ to meet users' needs and to promote implementation of guidelines by health care professionals. The results of this type of evaluation will assist AHRQ and others to understand what user's want and need to utilize clinical guidelines in the provision of care. The timeliness and need for this evaluation effort is further underscored by the concurrent development of a customer satisfaction survey by the NGC Web site developer pursuant to its original contract in accordance with widely accepted management practices. This electronic survey, is being designed to capture NGC audience satisfaction with the interface and format of the Web site, which will complement this proposed evaluation of the content, quality, and usefulness of information.

The NGC is intended to serve the needs of a diverse population of users. Not only are the user groups different, their expectations and uses of the NGC are unique. Moreover, no single sampling or data collection technique is efficient to capture the needed information from these groups. A survey that attempted to capture the perspectives of all groups would be long, complicated, and burdensome. Therefore, we propose using a three-tiered data collection scheme designed to get distinct types of information in a manner most useful to helping evaluate how well the Web site is serving its intended populations. The three proposed approaches are survey questionnaire, focus group discussions, and unstructured, informational discussions.

Each will be applied to a subset of all users, as appropriate, to capture their unique opinions and best complement the overall data collection effort.

Data Confidentiality Provisions

Although no information on race, income, sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, or other matters commonly considered private will be requested, the contractor responsible for conducting the study will perform in accordance with the requirements of the Agency's confidentiality statute, 42 USC 299c–3(c), to protect respondents' privacy and the confidentiality of data collected. All results will be reported without attributing responses to any individual source. Information gained for the purposes of this data collection will only be used for the purposes of this project.

Data Products

The evaluation goals will be achieved through three types of data collection: (1) Written survey questionnaires, (2) focus groups, and (3) discussions with individuals working in health care who contribute to guideline development and use. Assignments of data collection modes to target audience groups are designed to reach the maximum number of respondents and the broadest range of groups. Participation will be minimally burdensome and is voluntary. Both qualitative and quantitative data will be collected to characterize the experiences and needs of users in a manner most likely to facilitate improvement activities by AHRQ.