

use by public safety, (4) cost of user devices and network equipment of emergency communications networks (e.g., unit cost, maintenance/upgrade cost, etc.), and the cost of operations and operations systems (including feature upgrades) for emergency communications networks and services, (5) deployment of user devices, network equipment, and operations processes and equipment of emergency communications systems (e.g., type of systems deployed or to be deployed), number of units deployed/sold, etc.), (6) standardization of user devices, network equipment, and operations interfaces of emergency communications systems (e.g., standard/proprietary, standard activities, etc.), (7) interoperability (i.e., the ability of communications among different systems, devices and groups) of user groups, user devices, network equipment, and operations processes and equipment of emergency communications systems (e.g., interoperability among first responders within a jurisdiction, among jurisdictions using the same and different network technologies), (8) spectrum usage of user devices and network equipment of emergency communications systems (e.g., frequencies of operation, shared/dedicated spectrum, etc.), (9) applications and application requirements for end users and the technical requirements for such applications including bandwidth needs, (10) operations systems features and operations processes supporting emergency network operation during an emergency, (11) service capabilities (e.g., voice, data, video, mobile to mobile communications, etc.), (12) evolutionary trend of user devices, network equipment, and operations of emergency communications systems (e.g., next generation, migration path, etc.), (13) backhaul connectivity of network equipment and facilities (e.g., commercial/private, wired/wireless, capacity, etc.), (14) description of network technology and architecture (e.g., whether the network design accommodates access to emergency responders from other jurisdictions, capability of architecture to support resiliency in disaster situations, etc.), (15) operations budget for the network, (16) responsibilities of the organizations operating the networks, including service provisioning, traffic management and network maintenance, especially during an emergency, (17) plans, if any, for restoring emergency communication services or reverting to backup networks in the event that a primary emergency communications

network is damaged or destroyed, (18) ability of existing emergency communications networks to back up or complement the communication resources of other emergency communications networks, (19) ability to rapidly increase emergency communication network capacity in the event that the capacity limits of the network are exceeded in a major disaster, (20) a description of the role of "core services" such as authentication and agency locator services, whether and how they are implemented in existing and planned networks, and their costs, (21) a description of the processes and systems used or planned to connect emergency responders to a back-up network in an emergency, and (22) plans to restore emergency communications services if the network over which they are provided is damaged, destroyed, or sufficiently congested to be impaired or unusable (e.g., changes in operations staffing in emergency conditions, dynamic bandwidth allocation to users or networks, back-up communications for other emergency communications services or networks), other administrative or planning issues associated with the deployment and maintenance of such backup national emergency communications capabilities.

Federal Communications Commission.

William F. Caton,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. E7-17507 Filed 9-4-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-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 September 28, 2007.

1. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta (David Tatum, Vice President) 1000 Peachtree Street, NE., Atlanta, Georgia 30309:

1. Community First, Inc., Columbia, Tennessee; to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of First National Bank of Centerville, Centerville, Tennessee.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, August 30, 2007.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. E7-17489 Filed 9-4-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-S

FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD

Sunshine Act; Notice of Meeting

TIME AND DATE: 9 a.m. (Eastern Time), September 17, 2007.

PLACE: 4th Floor Conference Room, 1250 H Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005.

STATUS: Parts will be open to the public and parts closed to the public.

Matters To Be Considered

Parts Open to the Public

1. Approval of the minutes of the August 20, 2007 Board member meeting.
2. Thrift Savings Plan activity report by the Executive Director.
 - a. Monthly Participant Activity Report.
 - b. Monthly Investment Performance Report.
 - c. Legislative Report.
3. Increasing Decimal Places in Fund Prices.
4. Business Assurance and IT Infrastructure.
5. Annual Budget Report.

- a. Fiscal Year 2007 Results.
- b. Fiscal Year 2008 Budget.
- c. Fiscal Year 2009 Estimate.

Parts Closed to the Public

6. Personnel.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Thomas J. Trabucco, Director, Office of External Affairs, (202) 942-1640.

Dated: August 31, 2007.

Thomas K. Emswiler,

Secretary to the Board, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board.

[FR Doc. 07-4350 Filed 8-31-07; 11:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6760-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Request for Information and Comments on Research That Involves Adult Individuals With Impaired Decision-making Capacity

AGENCY: Office for Human Research Protections, Office of Public Health and Science, Office of the Secretary, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP), Office of Public Health and Science is seeking information and comments about whether guidance or additional regulations are needed to adequately protect adult individuals with impaired decision-making capacity who are potential subjects in research. This request for information and comments stems from the recommendation of an HHS working group, generated in response to the report published by the National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC) entitled "Research Involving Persons With Mental Disorders That May Affect Decision-making Capacity" (December 1998), and from subsequent recommendations by the National Human Research Protections Advisory Committee (NHRPAC).^a

In addition, as part of its charge to provide expert advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) and the Assistant Secretary for Health on issues and topics pertaining to or associated with the protection of human subjects, the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections (SACHRP) has formed a Subcommittee on Inclusion of Individuals with Impaired

Decision-Making in Research. This SACHRP subcommittee is currently considering whether guidance or additional regulations are needed for research involving individuals with impaired decision-making capacity. The information and comments submitted in response to this notice will be shared with SACHRP to inform the Committee's recommendations to the Secretary and Assistant Secretary for Health.

DATES: Submit written or electronic information and comments by December 4, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON RESEARCH THAT INVOLVES ADULT INDIVIDUALS WITH IMPAIRED DECISION-MAKING CAPACITY, Office for Human Research Protections, The Tower Building, 1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 200, Rockville, MD 20852. Comments also may be sent via e-mail to impairedcapacityohrp@hhs.gov, or via facsimile at 301-402-2071. Comments received within the comment period, including any personal information provided, will be made available to the public upon request.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julie Kaneshiro, Office for Human Research Protections, Department of Health and Human Services, The Tower Building, 1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 200, Rockville, MD 20852; 240-453-6900; e-mail julie.kaneshiro@hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regulates research involving human subjects conducted or supported by HHS through regulations codified at 45 CFR part 46 which are administered by OHRP. The HHS regulations stipulate that in order to approve research covered by the regulations, an institutional review board (IRB) shall determine that when some or all of the subjects are likely to be vulnerable to coercion or undue influence, such as children, prisoners, pregnant women, mentally disabled persons, or economically or educationally disadvantaged persons, additional safeguards have been included in the study to protect the rights and welfare of these subjects. 45 CFR 46.111(b). Apart from this broad requirement regarding vulnerable populations, the HHS regulations do not contain specific additional standards for the participation of adults with impaired decision-making capacity in research, nor do they define who should be considered as part of this population.

In response to the recommendations by the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research (National Commission) that pertained to research involving individuals who are institutionalized as mentally infirm, in 1978, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (now HHS), issued proposed regulations on research involving those institutionalized as mentally disabled. However, these proposed regulations were never finalized or adopted due to a lack of consensus on the proposed regulatory provisions, and a judgment that the general HHS regulations governing human subjects' participation in research were sufficient to address the National Commission's recommendations.

The impetus for this request for information and comments stems from a number of different sources. HHS is aware that some research currently conducted or supported by HHS involves adults with impaired decision-making capacity. HHS believes that research involving adults with impaired decision-making capacity is important and necessary in order to improve the health and well-being of such individuals. HHS and others have long recognized the potential vulnerability of these subjects, and that research involving this population needs to be conducted with adequate safeguards. At this time HHS believes it is appropriate to solicit the views of the public on whether the current human subject protection regulations are adequate in safeguarding these individuals. This request for information and comments also stems from recommendations of an HHS working group (HHS WG), generated in response to the report published by the former NBAC entitled "Research Involving Persons with Mental Disorders That May Affect Decision-making Capacity" (December 1998), and from subsequent recommendations by the former NHRPAC.

A. NBAC Report

In its December 1998 report, the full text of which can be found on the Internet at <http://bioethics.georgetown.edu/nbac>, NBAC defined decisional impairment as a limitation or incapacity that is not part of normal growth and development. NBAC's report contained recommendations for helping to ensure adequate protections for people with decisional impairment who participate in research, but referred only to research involving persons with mental disorders

^a The National Human Research Protections Advisory Committee has been disbanded and replaced by the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections.