

## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[PR Docket No. 92-257; DA 98-522]

### Applications for VHF Public Coast Spectrum

1. By this *Order*, we impose a suspension of acceptance and processing of applications for very high frequency (VHF) public coast spectrum (156-162 MHz), effective March 17, 1998. As an initial matter, we note that the Commission imposed a suspension regarding VHF public coast spectrum applications in the *Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Second Further Notice)* in PR Docket No. 92-257, 62 FR 37533 (July 14, 1997). The Commission-imposed suspension took effect on June 17, 1997, and was to be effective until March 17, 1998. For the reasons stated herein, we take action to continue suspension of acceptance and processing of VHF public coast applications during the pendency of the PR Docket No. 92-257 proceeding.

2. In the *Second Further Notice*, the Commission proposed service rules for the Maritime Services, including the introduction of geographic area licensing for VHF public correspondence channels. In order to permit the effective resolution of the issues raised in the *Second Further Notice*, the Commission suspended the acceptance of (1) public coast station applications to use VHF spectrum and private land mobile radio applications proposing to share that spectrum for new licenses, (2) amendments to such new license applications, and (3) applications to modify existing licenses, and amendments thereto, except for applications involving renewals, transfers, assignments, and modifications proposing neither to expand a station's service area nor obtain additional public coast VHF spectrum. The Commission also suspended the processing of pending applications for VHF public coast spectrum that either were mutually exclusive with other applications or as to which the period for filing competing applications had not expired. The Commission further expressly reserved the right to extend the suspension if it did not adopt final rules by the end of the suspension period.

3. To date, the Commission has not adopted final rules in PR Docket No. 92-257. As a result, the same reasons which prompted the Commission to impose the initial suspension remain today. We believe that a continued suspension of acceptance and processing of public coast VHF spectrum applications is warranted in

order to facilitate the orderly and effective resolution of the matters pending in this proceeding. We are concerned that, absent such action, the goals underlying initiation of the PR Docket No. 92-257 proceeding might be compromised by the influx of applications for new licenses, as well as modifications to existing licenses, that are inconsistent with the decisions ultimately made by the Commission. Thus, we believe that there is good cause to continue suspension of the acceptance and processing of public coast VHF spectrum applications. This suspension shall remain in effect until sixty days after the final rules enacted in the *Third Report and Order* in Docket No. 92-257 are published in the **Federal Register**.

4. This decision is procedural in nature and therefore not subject to notice and comment and effective date requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act. Moreover, there is good cause for proceeding in this manner, for to do otherwise would be impractical, unnecessary, and contrary to the public interest because compliance would undercut the purposes of this action.

5. Accordingly, *It is ordered*, pursuant to sections 4(i), 4(j), and 303(r) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 154(i), 154(j), and 303(r), that there be a continued suspension of the acceptance and processing of applications to use VHF public coast spectrum, effective March 17, 1998. The suspension will continue until sixty days after the final rules enacted in the *Third Report and Order* in Docket No. 92-257 are published in the **Federal Register**. This action is taken under delegated authority pursuant to § 0.331 of the Commission's Rules, 47 CFR 0.331.

6. For further information concerning this *Order*, contact Scot Stone, Policy and Rules Branch, Public Safety and Private Wireless Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, at (202) 418-0680.

Federal Communications Commission.

**Daniel B. Phythyon**,  
Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.  
[FR Doc. 98-8498 Filed 4-1-98; 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. Unless otherwise noted, nonbanking activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

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 April 27, 1998.

**A. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta**  
(Lois Berthaume, Vice President) 104 Marietta Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2713:

1. *Premier Bancshares, Inc.*, Atlanta, Georgia; to merge with Button Gwinnett Financial Corporation, Snellville, Georgia, and thereby indirectly acquire The Bank of Gwinnett County, Lawrenceville, Georgia.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, March 27, 1998.

**Jennifer J. Johnson**,

*Deputy Secretary of the Board.*

[FR Doc. 98-8563 Filed 4-1-98; 8:45 am]

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## FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

### Notice of Proposals to Engage in Permissible Nonbanking Activities or to Acquire Companies that are Engaged in Permissible Nonbanking Activities

The companies listed in this notice have given notice under section 4 of the Bank Holding Company Act (12 U.S.C. 1843) (BHC Act) and Regulation Y, (12 CFR Part 225) to engage *de novo*, or to acquire or control voting securities or assets of a company, including the companies listed below, that engages either directly or through a subsidiary or other company, in a nonbanking activity

that is listed in § 225.28 of Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.28) or that the Board has determined by Order to be closely related to banking and permissible for bank holding companies. Unless otherwise noted, these activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

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.

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 April 16, 1998.

**A. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis** (Randall C. Sumner, Vice President) 411 Locust Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2034:

1. *Bainum Bancorp*, Glenwood, Arkansas; to engage *de novo* in extending credit and servicing loans, pursuant to § 225.28(b)(1) of the Board's Regulation Y.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, March 27, 1998.

**Jennifer J. Johnson,**

*Deputy Secretary of the Board.*

[FR Doc. 98-8564 Filed 4-1-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-F

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[INFO-98-15]

#### Proposed Data Collections Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations

In compliance with the requirement of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects. To request more information on the

proposed projects or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and instruments, call the CDC Reports Clearance Officer on (404) 639-7090.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden 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 through the use of automated collection techniques for other forms of information technology. Send comments to Seleda Perryman, CDC Assistant Reports Clearance Officer, 1600 Clifton Road, MS-D24, Atlanta, GA 30333. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

#### Proposed Projects

1. *Hemoglobin A1c HEDIS Measure Testing*—New—Managed care organizations (MCOs) increasingly use HEDIS measures developed by the Committee on Performance Measurement of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) as vehicles to document and track health care quality. NCQA recently formed the Diabetes Quality Improvement Project, whose purposes are to broaden the range and to improve the reliability of diabetes performance measures.

Because the Diabetes Control and Complications Trial (DCCT) has established that achieving glycemic control reduces the complications of diabetes, an important focus of the measures will be the association of glycemic control and diabetes-related morbidity. Since complications of diabetes develop over many years, however, use of this data to assess quality of care presents important problems. For example, the measures may reflect problems that developed before enrollment in a health plan rather than the quality of care provided by the health plan. To more accurately assess the quality of diabetes care in a health plan, we need to identify intermediate

outcomes measures that are not subject to these problems.

Health status is an outcome of medical care that can be obtained readily through member survey and may provide an intermediate measure of quality of care for chronic diseases like diabetes. The purpose of this study is to evaluate perceived health status as a function of glycemic control in diabetic patients. We will investigate associations of changes in member perceptions of their health as a function of changes in their glycemic control. We also will look for variation in the association of health status with glycemic control across subsets of the population.

The general plan of analysis is a retrospective, longitudinal design. In January and February of 1997, 931 Kaiser Permanente enrollees with diabetes completed a telephone survey examining knowledge of diabetes and diabetes care, satisfaction with medical care in the health plan, and perceptions of health status. The participants' responses were linked with an existing dataset collected on diabetic members in conjunction with a project conducted by NCQA. The dataset contains enrollment history, outpatient visits, pharmacy dispensings, laboratory tests and results, and inpatient care. The cohort responding to the first survey will be contacted in mid-1998 for a follow-up survey comprised of 51 questions. The second survey will include two instruments used to examine health status. This will increase the data available for measuring health status and will permit a comparison of the two instruments as well. Questions related to blood pressure, foot care, weight, change in weight, and satisfaction with care will also be retained.

The general model for analysis will be change in member perceptions of health as a function of changes in HbA1c values. The hypothesis is that improved HbA1c will correlate with improved health status and worsening HbA1c will correlate with worsening health status. By examining this hypothesis, we can assess the utility of perceived health status as a valid intermediate measure of quality of diabetes care.

Respondents	Number of respondents	Number of responses/ respondent	Avg. burden/ responses (in hrs.)	Total burden (in hrs.)
Diabetic patient .....	600	1	0.5	300
Total .....				300