

there are reasonable questions regarding the existence of extraordinary circumstances that may create the potential for the use of the categorical exclusion to be questioned. If a record is prepared, it should cite the categorical exclusion used and show that the agency considered: (1) How the action fits within the class of actions described in the categorical exclusion, and (2) whether there are any extraordinary circumstances that would preclude the project or proposed action from qualifying as a categorically excluded action.

Some courts have required documentation to demonstrate that a Federal agency has considered extraordinary circumstances in cases where the absence of extraordinary circumstances is not obvious.¹⁷ Documenting the use of a categorical exclusion facilitates judicial review under the Administrative Procedure Act, which requires review to be based upon a pre-existing record.¹⁸

Using a categorical exclusion does not absolve Federal agencies from complying with the requirements of other laws, regulations, and policies. Documentation created for individual actions or projects may be necessary to comply with such requirements. When that is the case, all resource analyses and the results of any consultations or coordination (e.g., under Endangered Species Act or National Historic Preservation Act), should be included or incorporated by reference in the administrative record for the action.

B. Public Involvement

Most Federal agencies do not routinely notify the public when they use a categorical exclusion to meet their NEPA responsibilities. In situations where there is a high public interest in an action that will be categorically excluded, CEQ encourages Federal agencies to involve the public in some manner (e.g., notification, scoping), particularly when the public can assist the agency in determining whether a proposal involves extraordinary circumstances or cumulative impacts.

VII. Periodic Review of Categorical Exclusions

The CEQ regulations direct Federal agencies to periodically review their policies and procedures; however, they

do not describe how such a review should be conducted.¹⁹ CEQ encourages Federal agencies to develop procedures for identifying and revising categorical exclusions that no longer effectively reflect current environmental circumstances or where agency procedures, programs, or missions have changed.

A Federal agency can keep a record of its experience by tracking information provided by agency field offices.²⁰ In such cases, a Federal agency review of a categorical exclusion could consist of e-mails, memos, and letters from field offices that include observations of the effects of implemented actions, and public input on actions and their environmental effects.

Another approach to reviewing existing categorical exclusions is through a program review. Program reviews can occur at various levels (e.g., field office, division office, headquarters office) and on various scales (e.g., geographic location, project type, or as a result of an interagency agreement). While a Federal agency may choose to initiate a program review that specifically focuses on categorical exclusions, it is possible that program reviews with a different focus may also be able to provide documentation of experience relevant to a categorical exclusion.

There are many good reasons why Federal agencies should perform categorical exclusion reviews. They can serve as the impetus for expanding the categorical exclusion to include actions not previously categorically excluded. They may help identify additional extraordinary circumstances. Categorical exclusion reviews may also help a Federal agency consider the appropriate documentation when using certain categorical exclusions.

Finally, the rationale and supporting information for establishing or documenting experience with using a categorical exclusion can be lost when there are inadequate systems and procedures for recording, retrieving, and preserving agency documents and administrative records. Therefore, Federal agencies may benefit from a review of current practices used for maintaining and preserving such records. Measures to ensure future availability may include, but not be limited to, redundant storage systems (e.g., multiple drives, paper copies), and improvements in the agency electronic

and hard copy filing and retrieval systems.²¹

Public comments are requested on or before October 27, 2006.

Dated: September 14, 2006.

James L. Connaughton,
Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality.

[FR Doc. 06-7756 Filed 9-18-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3125-W6-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 October 13, 2006.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond (A. Linwood Gill, III, Vice President) 701 East Byrd Street, Richmond, Virginia 23261-4528:

¹⁷ Council on Environmental Quality, "The NEPA Task Force Report to the Council on Environmental Quality—Modernizing NEPA Implementation," p. 58 (Sept. 2003), available at <http://www.ceq.eh.doe.gov/ntf>.

¹⁸ The agency determination that an action is categorically excluded may be challenged under the Administrative Procedures Act. 5 U.S.C. 702 *et seq.*

¹⁹ 40 CFR 1506.6.

²⁰ Council on Environmental Quality, "The NEPA Task Force Report to the Council on Environmental Quality—Modernizing NEPA Implementation", p. 63, (Sept. 2003), available at <http://www.ceq.eh.doe.gov/ntf>.

²¹ Council on Environmental Quality, "The NEPA Task Force Report to the Council on Environmental Quality—Modernizing NEPA Implementation", p. 63, (Sept. 2003), available at <http://www.ceq.eh.doe.gov/ntf>.

1. *RBC Centura Banks, Inc.*, Raleigh, North Carolina, and its parent companies, Royal Bank of Canada, Montreal, Quebec; Royal Bank Holding Inc., Toronto, Ontario; RBC Holdings (USA) Inc., New York, New York; RBC USA Holdco Corporation, New York, New York; RBC Holdings (Delaware) Inc., Wilmington, Delaware; Prism Financial Corporation, Chicago, Illinois; and FLAG Acquisition Sub, Inc., Rocky Mount, North Carolina; to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of FLAG Financial Corporation, Atlanta, Georgia, and thereby indirectly acquire FLAG Bank, Atlanta, Georgia.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, September 14, 2006.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. E6-15549 Filed 9-18-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-S

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

SES Performance Review Board

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the appointment of members to the FTC Performance Review Board.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Georgia Koliopoulos, Director of Human Resources, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580, (202) 326-2364.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Publication of the Performance Review Board (PRB) membership is required by 5 U.S.C. 4314(c)(4). The PRB reviews and evaluates the initial appraisal of a senior executive's performance by the supervisor, and makes recommendations regarding performance ratings, performance awards, and pay-for-performance pay adjustments to the Chairman.

The following individuals have been designated to serve on the Commission's Performance Review Board:

Charles H. Schneider, Executive Director, Chairman;

Jeffrey Schmidt, Director, Bureau of Competition;

Lydia B. Parnes, Director, Bureau of Consumer Protection;

William Blumenthal, General Counsel;

Pauline M. Ippolito, Associate Director, Bureau of Economics.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. E6-15541 Filed 9-18-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Announcement of Availability of Funds for Cooperative Agreement To Provide Technical Assistance and Support to the Afghan Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) in Strengthening the Management of the Women's and Children's Hospitals in Kabul, Afghanistan

AGENCY: Office of Global Health Affairs, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

ACTION: Notice.

Announcement Type: Single Eligibility—FY 2006 Initial Announcement.

Funding Opportunity Number: OGHA 06-025.

GSA Catalog Of Federal Domestic Assistance: 93.017.

KEY DATES: September 19, 2006, Application Availability. September 26, 2006, Optional Letter of Intent due by 5 p.m. e.t. October 4, 2006, Applications due by 5 p.m. e.t.

SUMMARY: In partnership with the Afghan Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), the Office of Global Health Affairs (OGHA) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), announces that up to \$1,750,000 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 funds is available for ONE (1) cooperative agreement to provide support as a single-source performance-based cooperative agreement to provide the Afghan MOPH with direct support for the development of a regional network of Maternal-Child Care including community health centers, polyclinics and secondary and tertiary hospitals in Kabul for the purpose of coordinating planning and program development. The primary goal of this project is to improve the quality of care at women's and children's health institutions in Afghanistan. HHS/OGHA anticipates substantial HHS scientific and programmatic involvement in the administration of the quality-improvement program. The project will be for a program period of three (3) years, and individual budget periods of one (1) year, for a total of \$1,750,000.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Authority: Department of Health and Human Services Appropriations Act, 2006, Title II, Pub. L. No. 109-149, 119 Stat. 2833, 2844 (2005) and section 103(a)(4)(H) of the Afghan Freedom Support Act, 2002, Pub. L. 107-327, 116 Stat. 2797.

Purposes of the Agreement

HHS, in partnership with other relevant U.S. Government departments

and agencies, anticipates involvement in the development, administration and oversight of this program to improve hospital-management capacity within the Afghan MOPH. The program will be for a program period of three (3) years and individual budget periods of one (1) year. Approximately a total of \$1,750,000 will be available for the three-year program period.

This cooperative agreement complements and builds upon the work of the Afghan MOPH Hospital Management Task Force (HMTF) and its efforts to implement the Essential Package of Hospital Services (EPHS) and the recommendations of the Joint U. S. Government/Afghan MOPH health-facility management planning team, as outlined above. Implementation and adherence to recognized evidence-based health-care and facility-management standards will be essential elements of a successful proposal.

The primary goal of this project is to organize and establish a seamless and sustainable integration system for the delivery of the full range of quality prenatal, intrapartum, postpartum care, including health promotion, prevention, maintenance and professional care for pregnant women and their neonates. While this agreement is focused on Kabul, the Afghan MOPH has the ultimate goal of implementing this model in other Provinces.

The integration will promote a two-way referral system to originate and end at the community level in the Comprehensive Health Centers and Polyclinics, with appropriate care provided at the secondary- and tertiary-care hospitals in Afghanistan.

This system will ensure the provision of the continuum of care in Kabul, including ambulatory care, acute care, and possibly home care and home visits.

A second goal is to ensure that care at the horizontal level is also appropriate, and that a workable and effective linkage exists between the maternity, newborn and pediatric secondary- and tertiary-care hospitals.

A third goal is to develop an interface between public central, regional and local health systems and the emerging private-sector health sector.

A fourth goal is to develop a mechanism whereby there is a rationalization method that provides for the sharing of care, the consolidation and coordination of clinical care and the joint planning for the future development of maternal, neonate and pediatric care within Kabul City.

In consultation with OGHA, the Afghan MOPH will set the vision and direction for the health system, will outline the priorities, will create the