FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Notice

TIME AND DATE: 2 p.m., Wednesday, March 24, 2010.

PLACE: The United States Department of Labor Auditorium, Frances Perkins Building, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: The Commission will hear oral argument in the matter *Secretary of Labor* v. *Eastern Associated Coal Corporation,* Docket No. WEVA 2007–335. (Issues include whether certain violations of roof control requirements constituted an "unwarrantable failure to comply.")

Any person attending this oral argument who requires special accessibility features and/or auxiliary aids, such as sign language interpreters, must inform the Commission in advance of those needs. Subject to 29 CFR 2706.150(a)(3) and 2706.160(d).

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Jean Ellen (202) 434–9950/(202) 708–9300 for TDD Relay/1–800–877–8339 for toll free.

Jean H. Ellen,

Chief Docket Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2010–5090 Filed 3–5–10; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 6735–01–P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Change in Bank Control Notices; Acquisition of Shares of Bank 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 office 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 March 22, 2010.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (Glenda Wilson, Community Affairs Officer) 411 Locust Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63166-2034:

1. R. Tracy Fox, Little Rock, Arkansas, as trustee of the Smith Associated Banking Corporation Voting Trust Agreement, which will gain control of Smith Associated Banking Corporation, Hot Springs, Arkansas; and indirectly control Bank of Salem, Salem, Arkansas, and Security Bank, Stephens, Arkansas.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, March 4, 2010.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 2010–4970 Filed 3–8–10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210–01–S

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Sunshine Act Meeting

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

TIME AND DATE: 12 p.m., Monday, March 15, 2010.

PLACE: Marriner S. Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building, 20th and C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 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 items carried forward from a previously announced meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michelle Smith, Director, or Dave Skidmore, Assistant to the Board, Office of Board Members at 202–452–2955.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: You may call 202–452–3206 beginning at approximately 5 p.m. two business days before the meeting for a recorded 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.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, March 5, 2010.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 2010–5106 Filed 3–5–10; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 6210–01–S

FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD

Sunshine Act; Notice of Meeting

TIME AND DATE: 9 a.m. (Eastern Time) March 15, 2010.

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 February 16, 2010, 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.

Parts Closed to the Public

3. Proprietary Data.
4. Proprietary Data.

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

Dated: March 4, 2010.

Thomas K. Emswiler,

Secretary, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board.

[FR Doc. 2010–5049 Filed 3–5–10; 11:15 am]

BILLING CODE 6760–01–P

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

[File No. 091 0133]

PepsiCo, Inc.; Analysis of Agreement Containing Consent Order To Aid Public Comment

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission.

ACTION: Proposed Consent Agreement.

SUMMARY: The consent agreement in this matter settles alleged violations of federal law prohibiting unfair or deceptive acts or practices or unfair methods of competition. The attached Analysis to Aid Public Comment describes both the allegations in the draft complaint and the terms of the consent order—embodied in the consent agreement—that would settle these allegations.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before March 26, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties are invited to submit written comments electronically or in paper form. Comments should refer to "PepsiCo, File

No. 091 0133" to facilitate the organization of comments. Please note that your comment—including your name and your state—will be placed on the public record of this proceeding, including on the publicly accessible FTC website, at (*http://www.ftc.gov/os/publiccomments.shtm*).

Because comments will be made public, they should not include any sensitive personal information, such as an individual's Social Security Number; date of birth; driver's license number or other state identification number, or foreign country equivalent; passport number; financial account number; or credit or debit card number. Comments also should not include any sensitive health information, such as medical records or other individually identifiable health information. In addition, comments should not include any "[t]rade secret or any commercial or financial information which is obtained from any person and which is privileged or confidential. . . .," as provided in Section 6(f) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. 46(f), and Commission Rule 4.10(a)(2), 16 CFR 4.10(a)(2). Comments containing material for which confidential treatment is requested must be filed in paper form, must be clearly labeled "Confidential," and must comply with FTC Rule 4.9(c), 16 CFR 4.9(c).[1]

Because paper mail addressed to the FTC is subject to delay due to heightened security screening, please consider submitting your comments in electronic form. Comments filed in electronic form should be submitted by using the following weblink: (*https://public.commentworks.com/ftc/pepsico*) and following the instructions on the web-based form. To ensure that the Commission considers an electronic comment, you must file it on the web-based form at the weblink: (*https://public.commentworks.com/ftc/pepsico*). If this Notice appears at (*http://www.regulations.gov/search/index.jsp*), you may also file an electronic comment through that website. The Commission will consider all comments that regulations.gov forwards to it. You may also visit the FTC website at (*http://www.ftc.gov/*) to read the Notice and the news release describing it.

A comment filed in paper form should include the "PepsiCo, File No. 091 0133" reference both in the text and on the envelope, and should be mailed or delivered to the following address: Federal Trade Commission, Office of the Secretary, Room H-135 (Annex D), 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580. The FTC is requesting that any comment filed in paper form be sent by courier or overnight service, if possible, because U.S. postal mail in the Washington area and at the Commission is subject to delay due to heightened security precautions.

The Federal Trade Commission Act ("FTC Act") and other laws the Commission administers permit the collection of public comments to consider and use in this proceeding as appropriate. The Commission will consider all timely and responsive public comments that it receives, whether filed in paper or electronic form. Comments received will be available to the public on the FTC website, to the extent practicable, at (*http://www.ftc.gov/os/publiccomments.shtm*). As a matter of discretion, the Commission makes every effort to remove home contact information for individuals from the public comments it receives before placing those comments on the FTC website. More information, including routine uses permitted by the Privacy Act, may be found in the FTC's privacy policy, at (*http://www.ftc.gov/ftc/privacy.shtm*).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joan Heim (202-326-2014) or Joseph S. Brownman (202-326-2605), Bureau of Competition, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20580.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 6(f) of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 38 Stat. 721, 15 U.S.C. 46(f), and § 2.34 the Commission Rules of Practice, 16 CFR 2.34, notice is hereby given that the above-captioned consent agreement containing a consent order to cease and desist, having been filed with and accepted, subject to final approval, by the Commission, has been placed on the public record for a period of thirty (30) days. The following Analysis to Aid Public Comment describes the terms of the consent agreement, and the allegations in the complaint. An electronic copy of the full text of the consent agreement package can be obtained from the FTC Home Page (for February 26, 2010), on the World Wide Web, at (*http://www.ftc.gov/os/actions.shtm*). A paper copy can be obtained from the FTC Public Reference Room, Room 130-H, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20580, either in person or by calling (202) 326-2222.

Public comments are invited, and may be filed with the Commission in either paper or electronic form. All comments should be filed as prescribed in the **ADDRESSES** section above, and must be received on or before the date specified in the **DATES** section.

Analysis of Agreement Containing Consent Order to Aid Public Comment

I. Introduction

The Federal Trade Commission ("Commission") has accepted, subject to final approval, an Agreement Containing Consent Order from Respondent PepsiCo, Inc. ("PepsiCo"), to address concerns in connection with PepsiCo's acquisitions of two of its bottlers and the subsequent exclusive license from Dr Pepper Snapple Group, Inc. ("DPSG"), to bottle, distribute and sell the Dr Pepper, Crush, and Schweppes carbonated soft drink brands of DPSG in certain territories. The Consent Agreement requires, among other things, that PepsiCo limit the persons within the company who have access to commercially sensitive confidential information that DPSG will provide to PepsiCo to enable PepsiCo to carry out the distribution functions contemplated by the license.

The DPSG - PepsiCo license agreement followed PepsiCo's announced proposed acquisitions of its two largest bottler-distributors, Pepsi Bottling Group, Inc. ("PBG"), and PepsiAmericas, Inc. ("PAS"). These two bottler-distributors had been licensed by PepsiCo and by DPSG to bottle and distribute many of their carbonated soft drink brands. Following the acquisitions, PepsiCo will take on the bottling and distribution functions previously performed by PBG and PAS.

The Complaint alleges that, as a result of PepsiCo's acquisition of PBG and PAS, PepsiCo will have access to DPSG's commercially sensitive confidential marketing and brand plans. Without adequate safeguards, PepsiCo could misuse that information, leading to anticompetitive conduct that would make DPSG a less effective competitor or would facilitate coordination in the industry. To remedy this problem, the proposed Consent Agreement allows only PepsiCo employees who perform traditional carbonated soft drink "bottler functions" access to the DPSG commercially sensitive information. It prohibits PepsiCo employees involved in traditional "concentrate-related functions" from seeing that information.

II. Respondent PepsiCo, Inc.

PepsiCo is a corporation organized, existing, and doing business under and

[1] The comment must be accompanied by an explicit request for confidential treatment, including the factual and legal basis for the request, and must identify the specific portions of the comment to be withheld from the public record. The request will be granted or denied by the Commission's General Counsel, consistent with applicable law and the public interest. *See* FTC Rule 4.9(c), 16 CFR 4.9(c).

by virtue of the laws of the State of North Carolina, with its office and principal place of business located at 700 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase, New York 10577. PepsiCo in 2009 had total worldwide revenues from the sale of all products of about $43 billion. PepsiCo's United States sales in 2009 of carbonated soft drink concentrate totaled about $3 billion. United States sales of all of PepsiCo's carbonated soft drink brands are over $20 billion.

PepsiCo is a food and beverage company that includes PepsiCo Americas Beverages (a beverage arm), Frito-Lay (a snack food arm), and Quaker Foods (a cereal arm). Among other products, PepsiCo produces the concentrate for the PepsiCo carbonated soft drink beverage brands that are distributed by its bottlers. Some of those brands are Pepsi-Cola, Diet Pepsi, Mountain Dew, Diet Mountain Dew, Sierra Mist, Slice, and Mug Root Beer.

III. Licensor Dr Pepper Snapple Group, Inc.

DPSG is a corporation organized, existing and doing business under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Delaware, with its office and principal place of business located at 5301 Legacy Drive, Plano, Texas 75024. Among other things, DPSG produces the concentrate for the DPSG carbonated soft drink brands that are distributed by its bottlers. Some of those brands are Dr Pepper, Diet Dr Pepper, Crush, Schweppes, Canada Dry, Vernor's, A&W Root Beer, 7-UP, Hires Root Beer, IBC, RC Cola, Diet Rite, Welch's Grape Soda, Sunkist, and Squirt. DPSG in 2009 had total revenues of about $6 billion. DPSG's United States sales in 2009 of carbonated soft drink concentrate totaled about $1.5 billion.

IV. The Bottlers

A. Pepsi Bottling Group, Inc.

PBG is a corporation organized, existing and doing business under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Delaware, with its office and principal place of business located at One Pepsi Way, Somers, New York 10589. PBG is the nation's largest bottler and distributor of PepsiCo beverages and accounts for about 56% of PepsiCo's total U.S. bottler-distributed volume of carbonated soft drink beverages. PBG's United States sales in 2009 of carbonated soft drinks totaled about $6 billion. PBG is the bottler-distributor for many PepsiCo and DPSG carbonated soft drink brands. The geographic areas or territories in which PBG is licensed to distribute PepsiCo brand carbonated soft drinks include all or a portion of 41 states and the District of Columbia.

B. PepsiAmericas, Inc

PAS is a corporation organized, existing and doing business under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Delaware, with its office and principal place of business located at 4000 RBC Plaza, 60 South Sixth Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402. PAS is the nation's second largest bottler and distributor of PepsiCo beverages. PAS's United States sales in 2009 of carbonated soft drinks totaled about $2.5 billion. PAS accounts for about 19% of PepsiCo's total U.S. bottler-distributed volume of carbonated soft drinks. PAS is the bottler-distributor for many PepsiCo and DPSG carbonated soft drink brands. The principal geographic areas or territories in which PAS is licensed to distribute PepsiCo brand carbonated soft drinks include all or a portion of 19 states, primarily in the Midwest.

V. The Two Transactions

A. The Bottler Acquisitions

On August 3, 2009, PepsiCo entered into agreements with PBG and PAS, the two largest independent bottlers and distributors of its carbonated soft drink brands, to acquire all of their remaining outstanding voting securities. The total value of the acquired shares for both bottlers would be approximately $7.8 billion. At the time of the agreements, PepsiCo owned about 40% of PBG and about 43% of PAS. Together, PBG and PAS have been responsible for about 75% of all United States bottler-distributed sales of PepsiCo carbonated soft drink brands and about 20% of all United States bottler-distributed sales of DPSG carbonated soft drink brands.

B. The DPSG-PepsiCo License Agreement

Following the agreements to acquire PBG and PAS, PepsiCo sought a license to continue to bottle and distribute the DPSG brands that the bottling companies had distributed. (The DPSG licenses held by PBG and PAS were terminated by DPSG as a result of the proposed acquisitions.) In the DPSG-PepsiCo license agreement, dated December 7, 2009, PepsiCo agreed to bottle and distribute DPSG's Dr Pepper, Crush, and Schweppes carbonated soft drink brands in the former PBG and PAS territories, where those bottlers had been producing and distributing those products. PepsiCo agreed to pay DPSG $900 million for a non-exclusive license to produce[2] and an exclusive, twenty-year[3] license to distribute and sell those brands.

Under the license agreement, PepsiCo has agreed, among other things, to (a) distribute the Dr Pepper brand in all classes of trade based on the Pepsi brands; (b) grow the Dr Pepper brand based on the sales of other carbonated soft drink brands; (c) promote the DPSG beverages and provide sales support for such promotions, based on PepsiCo's promotions of its other soft drink beverages, and (d) in connection with price-off promotions and media advertising, promote and advertise the Dr Pepper brand based on rates of promotion and advertising of the PepsiCo brands.

VI. The Proposed Complaint

The Commission's Complaint alleges that PepsiCo and DPSG are direct competitors in the highly concentrated and difficult to enter markets for (a) branded concentrate and (b) branded and direct-store-door delivered carbonated soft drinks. The concentrate markets are both national and local, and the branded carbonated soft drink markets are local. Total United States sales of concentrate are about $9 billion, and total United States sales of carbonated soft drinks, measured at retail, are about $70 billion.

By acquiring PBG and PAS, PepsiCo will be bottling and distributing both its own products and those of its competitor DPSG. Concentrate manufacturers like DPSG share commercially sensitive information with bottlers so that bottlers can effectively carry out their responsibilities; DPSG currently provides this sort of information to PBG and PAS. As DPSG's bottler, PepsiCo will need this type of information.

At the same time, Pepsico remains a competitor of DPSG. PepsiCo could use the information in ways that undermine competition. The Complaint alleges that PepsiCo's access to DPSG's confidential information could eliminate competition between PepsiCo and DPSG, increase the likelihood that PepsiCo may unilaterally exercise market power, and facilitate coordinated interaction in the industry. In turn, that conduct could lead to higher prices for consumers.

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[2] The production right is not exclusive to allow DPSG to produce carbonated soft drinks in the former PBG and PAS territories for sale by DPSG outside those territories.

[3] The license agreement is for an initial term of twenty (20) years, with automatic renewal for additional twenty (20) year periods, unless terminated pursuant its terms.

VII. The Proposed Consent Order

To remedy the alleged competitive concern associated with access to the DPSG commercially sensitive confidential information, the consent decree prevents that information from reaching PepsiCo employees who could use it to either harm DPSG or to facilitate collusion. PepsiCo must set up a firewall to prevent persons responsible for "concentrate-related functions" – the kinds of functions in which PepsiCo engaged as a competitor of DPSG when both had their brands distributed by PBG and PAS – from access to the DPSG information. Persons at PepsiCo who are assigned to perform traditional "bottler functions" – the kinds of functions that PBG and PAS historically have performed for DPSG – will be permitted access to that information.

The proposed Consent Agreement also provides for the appointment of a monitor to assure PepsiCo's compliance with the Consent Agreement. The monitor will have a fiduciary responsibility to the Commission. The monitor will be appointed for a five (5) year term, but the Commission may extend or modify the term as appropriate.

The order, like the DPSG-Pepsi license agreement, will have a term of twenty (20) years.

VIII. Opportunity for Public Comment

The Consent Agreement has been placed on the public record for thirty (30) days for receipt of comments from interested persons. Comments received during this period will become part of the public record. After thirty days, the Commission will again review the proposed Consent Agreement, as well as the comments received, and will decide whether it should withdraw from the Consent Agreement or make final the Decision and Order.

By accepting the Consent Agreement subject to final approval, the Commission anticipates that the competitive problem alleged in the Complaint will be resolved. The purpose of this analysis is to invite and facilitate public comment concerning the Consent Agreement. It is not intended to constitute an official interpretation of the proposed Consent Agreement, nor is it intended to modify the terms of the Decision and Order in any way.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2010–4894 Filed 3–8–10; 11:48 am]

BILLING CODE 6750–01–S

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

[File No. 072 3165]

Richard J. Stanton; Analysis of Proposed Consent Order to Aid Public Comment

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission.

ACTION: Proposed Consent Agreement.

SUMMARY: The consent agreement in this matter settles alleged violations of federal law prohibiting unfair or deceptive acts or practices or unfair methods of competition. The attached Analysis to Aid Public Comment describes both the allegations in the draft complaint and the terms of the consent order — embodied in the consent agreement — that would settle these allegations.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before March 29, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties are invited to submit written comments electronically or in paper form. Comments should refer to "Richard J. Stanton, File No. 072 3165" to facilitate the organization of comments. Please note that your comment — including your name and your state — will be placed on the public record of this proceeding, including on the publicly accessible FTC website, at (*http://www.ftc.gov/os/publiccomments.shtm*).

Because comments will be made public, they should not include any sensitive personal information, such as an individual's Social Security Number; date of birth; driver's license number or other state identification number, or foreign country equivalent; passport number; financial account number; or credit or debit card number. Comments also should not include any sensitive health information, such as medical records or other individually identifiable health information. In addition, comments should not include any "[t]rade secret or any commercial or financial information which is obtained from any person and which is privileged or confidential. . . .," as provided in Section 6(f) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. 46(f), and Commission Rule 4.10(a)(2), 16 CFR 4.10(a)(2). Comments containing material for which confidential treatment is requested must be filed in paper form, must be clearly labeled "Confidential," and must comply with FTC Rule 4.9(c), 16 CFR 4.9(c).[1]

Because paper mail addressed to the FTC is subject to delay due to heightened security screening, please consider submitting your comments in electronic form. Comments filed in electronic form should be submitted by using the following weblink: (*https://public.commentworks.com/ftc/richardjstanton*) and following the instructions on the web-based form. To ensure that the Commission considers an electronic comment, you must file it on the web-based form at the weblink: (*https://public.commentworks.com/ftc/richardjstanton*). If this Notice appears at (*http://www.regulations.gov/search/index.jsp*), you may also file an electronic comment through that website. The Commission will consider all comments that regulations.gov forwards to it. You may also visit the FTC website at (*http://www.ftc.gov/*) to read the Notice and the news release describing it.

A comment filed in paper form should include the "Richard J. Stanton, File No. 072 3165" reference both in the text and on the envelope, and should be mailed or delivered to the following address: Federal Trade Commission, Office of the Secretary, Room H-135 (Annex D), 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580. The FTC is requesting that any comment filed in paper form be sent by courier or overnight service, if possible, because U.S. postal mail in the Washington area and at the Commission is subject to delay due to heightened security precautions.

The Federal Trade Commission Act ("FTC Act") and other laws the Commission administers permit the collection of public comments to consider and use in this proceeding as appropriate. The Commission will consider all timely and responsive public comments that it receives, whether filed in paper or electronic form. Comments received will be available to the public on the FTC website, to the extent practicable, at (*http://www.ftc.gov/os/publiccomments.shtm*). As a matter of discretion, the Commission makes every effort to remove home contact information for individuals from the public comments it receives before placing those comments on the FTC website. More information, including routine uses permitted by the Privacy Act, may be found in the FTC's privacy policy, at (*http://www.ftc.gov/ftc/privacy.shtm*).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laura Berger (202-326-2471), Bureau of

[1] The comment must be accompanied by an explicit request for confidential treatment, including the factual and legal basis for the request, and must identify the specific portions of the comment to be withheld from the public record. The request will be granted or denied by the Commission's General Counsel, consistent with applicable law and the public interest. *See* FTC Rule 4.9(c), 16 CFR 4.9(c).