

during the risk assessment process. EPA will use the peer review comments to revise and complete the Handbook and case studies.

DATES: The peer review meeting will begin on Wednesday, March 24, 1999 at 9:00 a.m. and end on Thursday, March 25, 1999 at approximately 5:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend the peer review meeting as observers. Seating is limited so advance registration is suggested.

ADDRESSES: The peer review meeting will be held at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, Old Town, 901 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-1501, phone 703-683-6000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The EPA has contracted with Eastern Research Group, Inc. (ERG, Inc., 110 Hartwell Avenue, Lexington, Massachusetts 02173) to manage and conduct the peer review. To attend the meeting as an observer, please preregister by calling ERG at 781-674-7374 or fax a registration request to 781-674-2906. Upon registration you will be sent an agenda and a logistical fact sheet. A limited amount of time is set aside on the second day of the meeting for observers to present brief oral comments on a first-come, first-serve basis and is limited to the time available; therefore, please notify ERG's registration line if you wish to present oral comments.

Interested parties can obtain a single copy of the draft materials by calling EPA's National Service Center for Environmental Publications (NSCEP) at 1-800-490-9198. When contacting NSCEP, please provide your name and mailing address, and request publication number EPA/600/R-99/025 dated March 1999.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In March 1995, responding to recommendations in a National Research Council report, EPA's Administrator issued the Policy for Risk Characterization for Agency-wide use. A subcommittee of the EPA's Science Policy Council has been working with risk assessors and risk managers to test and develop principles for implementing the Policy. Unlike EPA's risk assessment guidelines, which provide specific guidance for targeted parts of the risk assessment process (e.g., Guidelines for Carcinogen Risk Assessment, Guidelines for Developmental Toxicity Risk Assessment), the draft Handbook proposes general guidance that focuses on presenting the results of the risk assessment so that these results are clear and reasonable for risk assessors and risk managers alike. The overall objective is to enable risk assessors to

more effectively prepare and present their results for risk managers to use in environmental decision-making. The accompanying case studies offer examples of several different kinds or risk characterizations. EPA is inviting the peer reviewers to provide comments and offer recommendations for enhancing the discussion of principles and processes in the draft Handbook and case studies. EPA will use the peer review comments to revise and complete the Handbook and case studies for Agency assessors and managers to use as one of their tools for implementing the Policy for Risk Characterization.

Dated: February 24, 1999.

Dorothy E. Patton,

Director, Office of Science Policy.

[FR Doc. 99-5234 Filed 3-4-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-M

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

Notice of Agreement(s) Filed

The Commission hereby gives notice of the filing of the following agreement(s) under the Shipping Act of 1984.

Interested parties can review or obtain copies of agreements at the Washington, DC offices of the Commission, 800 North Capitol Street, N.W., Room 962. Interested parties may submit comments on an agreement to the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, Washington, DC 20573, within 10 days of the date this notice appears in the **Federal Register**.

Agreement No.: 202-011346-007

Title: Israel Trade Conference

Parties:

Farrell Lines, Inc.

Zim Israel Navigation Co., Ltd.

Croatia Line d.d.

Synopsis: The proposed modification revises Article 13.1 of the Agreement to reduce the notice period for taking independent action from ten days to 72 hours

Dated: March 1, 1999.

By Order of the Federal Maritime Commission.

Bryant L. VanBrakle,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-5426 Filed 3-4-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6730-01-M

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Change in Bank Control Notices; Acquisitions of Shares of Banks 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 offices 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 19, 1999.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (JoAnne F. Lewellen, Assistant Vice President) 90 Hennepin Avenue, P.O. Box 291, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55480-0291:

1. *Stan Saylor*, Hebron, North Dakota; to acquire voting shares of Dakota Community Bankshares, Inc., Hebron, North Dakota, and thereby indirectly acquire voting shares of Dakota Community Bank, Hebron, North Dakota.

B. Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City (D. Michael Manies, Assistant Vice President) 925 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri 64198-0001:

1. *Chris J. Murphy*, Omaha, Nebraska; to acquire voting shares of Otoe County Bancorporation, Inc., Nebraska City, Nebraska, and thereby indirectly acquire voting shares of Otoe County Bank & Trust Company, Nebraska City, Nebraska.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, March 1, 1999.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 99-5423 Filed 3-4-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-F

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 March 29, 1999.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City (D. Michael Manies, Assistant Vice President) 925 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri 64198-0001:

1. Ameriwest Corporation, Omaha, Nebraska; to acquire 32 percent of the voting shares of Otoe County Bancorporation, Inc., Nebraska City, Nebraska, and thereby indirectly acquire Otoe County Bank & Trust Company, Nebraska City, Nebraska.

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

1. Reliance Bancshares, Inc., Des Peres, Missouri; to become a bank holding company by acquiring 100 percent of the voting shares of Reliance Bank, Des Peres, Missouri (in organization).

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, March 1, 1999.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 99-5422 Filed 3-4-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-F

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Notice of Meeting of Consumer Advisory Council

The Consumer Advisory Council will meet on Thursday, March 25, 1999. The meeting, which will be open to public observation, will take place at the

Federal Reserve Board's offices in Washington, D.C., in Dining Room E of the Martin Building (Terrace level). The meeting will begin at 8:45 a.m. and is expected to conclude at 1:00 p.m. The Martin Building is located on C Street, Northwest, between 20th and 21st Streets.

The Council's function is to advise the Board on the exercise of the Board's responsibilities under the Consumer Credit Protection Act and on other matters on which the Board seeks its advice. Time permitting, the Council will discuss the following topics:

Privacy. The Depository and Delivery Systems Committee will lead a discussion on concerns among consumers, financial institutions, and others about consumer financial privacy matters.

Community Reinvestment Act. The Bank Regulations Committee will lead a discussion on several issues related to CRA such as the regulation's emphasis on loan volume, the consistency of large bank examinations, and the factors involved in identifying qualified investments.

Credit Card Disclosures. The Consumer Credit Committee will lead a discussion of views on the potential need for legislation involving additional disclosures related to the use of credit cards by consumers.

Members Forum. Individual Council members will present views on economic conditions present within their industries or local economies.

Committee Reports. Council committees will report on their work.

Other matters previously considered by the Council or initiated by Council members also may be discussed.

Persons wishing to submit views to the Council regarding any of the above topics may do so by sending written statements to Ann Bistay, Secretary of the Consumer Advisory Council, Division of Consumer and Community Affairs, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, D.C. 20551. Information about this meeting may be obtained from Ms. Bistay, 202-452-6470. Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) users may contact Diane Jenkins, 202-452-3544.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, March 1, 1999.

Jennifer J. Johnson

Secretary of the Board

[FR Doc. 99-5459 Filed 3-4-99; 8:45AM]

Billing Code 6210-01-F

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program: Revised Amount of the Average Cost of a Health Insurance Policy

The Health Resources and Services Administration is publishing an updated monetary amount of the average cost of a health insurance policy as it relates to the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP).

Subtitle 2 of Title XXI of the Public Health Service Act, as enacted by the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 and as amended, governs the VICP. The VICP, administered by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (the Secretary), provides that a proceeding for compensation for a vaccine-related injury or death shall be initiated by service upon the Secretary and the filing of a petition with the United States Court of Federal Claims. In some cases, the injured individual may receive compensation for future lost earnings, less appropriate taxes and the "average cost of a health insurance policy, as determined by the Secretary."

Section 100.2 of the VICP's implementing regulations (42 CFR Part 100) provides that revised amounts of an average cost of a health insurance policy, as determined by the Secretary, are to be published from time to time in a notice in the **Federal Register**. The previously published amount of an average cost of a health insurance policy was \$236.18 per month (63 FR 16264, April 2, 1998); this amount was based on data from a survey by the Health Insurance Association of America, updated by a formula using changes in the medical care component of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) (All Urban Consumers, U.S. City average) for the period January 1, 1997, through December 31, 1997.

The Secretary announces that for the 12-month period, January 1, 1998, through December 31, 1998, the medical care component of the CPI increased 3.4 percent. According to the regulatory formula (§ 100.2), 2 percent is added to the actual CPI change for each year. This adjustment to the CPI change results in an increase of 5.4 percent. Applied to the baseline amount of \$236.18, this results in a new amount of \$248.93.

Therefore, the Secretary announces that the revised average cost of a health insurance policy under the VICP is \$248.93 per month. In accordance with § 100.2, the revised amount was