

Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2. In addition to one complete version of the comment that includes any information claimed as CBI, a copy of the comment that does not contain the information claimed as CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public version of the official record. Information not marked confidential will be included in the public version of the official record without prior notice. If you have any questions about CBI or the procedures for claiming CBI, please consult the person identified under "FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT."

E. What Should I Consider as I Prepare My Comments for EPA?

You may find the following suggestions helpful for preparing your comments:

1. Explain your views as clearly as possible.
2. Describe any assumptions that you used.
3. Provide copies of any technical information and/or data you used that support your views.
4. If you estimate potential burden or costs, explain how you arrived at the estimate that you provide.
5. Provide specific examples to illustrate your concerns.
6. Offer alternative ways to improve the notice.
7. Make sure to submit your comments by the deadline in this document.
8. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, be sure to identify the docket control number assigned to this action in the subject line on the first page of your response. You may also provide the name, date, and **Federal Register** citation.

II. Proposed Experimental Programs

The subject program proposes to test and evaluate genetically modified soybean that has been developed to provide control of velvetbean caterpillar (*Anticarsia gemmatilis*), stem borer (*Epinotia aporema*), and soybean looper (*Pseudoplusia includens*). Monsanto Company proposes to plant 66.5 acres of the plant-pesticide in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee on March 1, 2000. All plantings of soybean containing the Cry1Ac protein under this experimental program will be contained during the experimental program. No portion of the crop will be used for food or feed.

III. What Action is the Agency Taking?

Following the review of the Monsanto Company application and any comments and data received in response to this notice, EPA will decide whether to issue or deny the EUP request for this EUP program, and if issued, the conditions under which it is to be conducted. Any issuance of an EUP will be announced in the **Federal Register**.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection,
Experimental use permits.

Dated: January 21, 2000.

Janet L. Andersen,

Director, Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

[FR Doc. 00-2485 Filed 2-8-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6534-4]

Request for Qualifications and Preliminary Proposals for Communications, Outreach and Education

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing a request for qualifications and preliminary proposals for organizations interested in assisting the Chesapeake Bay Program in its effort to provide the communications, outreach and education components of the Bay Program partnership. Applicants must be a non-profit organization, interstate agency, college or university institution. The organization must have conducted work within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Note, this is a request for proposals for the benefit of the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership and not for direct benefit to EPA. Funding will be provided to an organization under the authority of the Clean Water Act, Section 117(a) and (b).

An original and 5 copies of proposals must be received by the US EPA, Chesapeake Bay Program by close of business March 3, 2000. The RFP is available at the following web-site: <http://www.epa.gov/r3chespk/> You may also request a copy by calling Robert Shewack at 410-267-9856 or by E-mail at: shewack.robert@epa.gov. All proposals must be received by EPA by close of business March 3, 2000. Any

late, incomplete or fax proposals will not be considered.

William Matuszeski,

Director, Chesapeake Bay Program.

[FR Doc. 00-2826 Filed 2-8-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-M

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

ACTION: Notice and request for comment.

SUMMARY: The FDIC, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35). Currently, the FDIC is soliciting comments concerning an information collection titled "Applicant Background Questionnaire."

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before April 10, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties are invited to submit written comments to Tamara R. Manly, Management Analyst (Regulatory Analysis), (202) 898-7453, Office of the Executive Secretary, Room 4058, Attention: Comments/OES, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, 550 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20429. All comments should refer to "Applicant Background Questionnaire." Comments may be hand-delivered to the guard station at the rear of the 17th Street Building (located on F Street), on business days between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. [FAX number (202) 898-3838; Internet address: comments@fdic.gov].

A copy of the comments may also be submitted to the OMB desk officer for the FDIC: Alexander Hunt, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Room 3208, Washington, DC 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tamara R. Manly, at the address identified above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposal To Add the Following Collection of Information

Title: Applicant Background Questionnaire.
OMB Number: new collection.

Frequency of Response: Occasional.
Affected Public: Potential FDIC employment applicants.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 16,000.

Estimated Time per Response: 3 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 800 hours.

General Description of Collection: The FDIC Applicant Background Questionnaire will be completed voluntarily by FDIC job applicants who are not currently FDIC employees. Responses to questions on the survey will provide information on gender, age, disability, race/national origin, and the applicant's source of vacancy announcement information. Data will be used by the Office of Diversity and Economic Opportunity and the Personnel Services Branch to evaluate the effectiveness of various recruitment methods used by the FDIC to ensure that the agency meets workforce diversity objectives.

Request for Comment

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the FDIC's functions, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the estimates of the burden of the information collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

At the end of the comment period, the comments and recommendations received will be analyzed to determine the extent to which the collection should be modified prior to submission to OMB for review and approval. Comments submitted in response to this notice also will be summarized or included in the FDIC's requests to OMB for renewal of this collection. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated at Washington, DC, this 3rd day of February 2000.
 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Robert E. Feldman.

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-2903 Filed 2-8-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6714-01-U

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, February 9, 2000, 10:00 a.m., Meeting Open to the Public.

The following items were added to the agenda.

1996 Republican National Convention Committee on Arrangements—Administrative Review of Repayment Determination, Proposed Statement of Reasons (LRA#472).

Express Advocacy Rule (11 CFR 100.22).

Legislative Recommendations, 2000.

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, February 15, 2000, 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: 999 E Street, NW, Washington, DC

STATUS: This Meeting Will Be Closed to the Public

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED: Compliance matters pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 437g.

Audits conducted pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 437g, 438(b), and Title 26, U.S.C.

Matters concerning participation in civil actions or proceedings or arbitration.

Internal personnel rules and procedures or matters affecting a particular employee.

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, February 16, 2000, 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: 999 E Street, NW, Washington, DC (Ninth Floor).

STATUS: This Hearing Will Be Open to the Public.

MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMISSION: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on General Public Political Communications Coordinated with Candidates.

DATE AND TIME: Thursday, February 17, 2000, 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: 999 E Street, NW, Washington, DC (Ninth Floor).

STATUS: This Meeting Will Be Closed to the Public.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED: Correction and Approval of Minutes.

1996 Democratic National Convention Committee, Inc.—Administrative Review of Repayment Determination, Proposed Statement of Reasons (LRA#471).

Advisory Opinion 1999-39: WellPoint Health Networks Political Action Committee by counsel, James A. Sivesind.

Final Rules and Statement of Basis and Purpose Implementing the Electronic Freedom of Information Act Amendments.

Status of Regulations.

Administrative Matters.

PERSON TO CONTACT FOR INFORMATION:

Mr. Ron Harris, Press Officer,
 Telephone: (202) 694-1220.

Mary W. Dove,

Acting Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 00-3152 Filed 2-7-00; 2:58 pm]

BILLING CODE 6715-01-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, NW, 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.: 217-011688.

Title: Iceland Steamship/Samskip Slot Charter Agreement.

Parties: Iceland Steamship Company Ltd. (Eimskip) Samskip hf.

Synopsis: Under the proposed agreement, Samskip agrees to charter space on Eimskip vessels in the trade between U.S. East Coast ports and Iceland. This agreement replaces the parties' previous agreement that expired on January 31, 2000. The parties request expedited review.

By Order of the Federal Maritime Commission.

Dated: February 4, 2000.

Bryant L. VanBrakle,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-2939 Filed 2-8-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6730-01-P

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

Ocean Transportation Intermediary License Applicants

Notice is hereby given that the following applicants have filed with the Federal Maritime Commission applications for licenses as Non-Vessel Operating Common Carrier and Ocean Freight Forwarder—Ocean Transportation Intermediaries pursuant to section 19 of the Shipping Act of 1984 as amended (46 U.S.C. app. 1718 and 46 CFR part 515).

Persons knowing of any reason why any of the following applicants should not receive a license are requested to contact the Office of Freight Forwarders, Federal Maritime Commission, Washington, DC 20573.