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 August 24, 1999.

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

1. First M&F Corporation, Kosciusko, Mississippi; to acquire Community Federal Bancorp, Inc., Tupelo, Mississippi, and its subsidiary, Community Federal Savings Bank, Tupelo, Mississippi, and thereby engage in operating a savings association, pursuant to § 225.28(b)(4) of Regulation Y. Comments regarding this application must be received no later than September 3, 1999.

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

1. Community First Bankshares, Inc., Fargo, North Dakota; to acquire Community Insurance, Fargo, North Dakota, and thereby indirectly acquire B & I Insurance, Inc., Gordon, Nebraska, and thereby engage in general insurance activities in a community with a population not exceeding 5,000, pursuant to § 225.28(b)(11)(iii) of Regulation Y.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, August 4, 1999.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 99–20492 Filed 8–9–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210–01–F

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 August 25, 1999.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco (Maria Villanueva, Manager of Analytical Support, Consumer Regulation Group) 101 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94105-1579:

1. Wells Fargo & Company, San Francisco, California; Norwest Mortgage, Inc., Des Moines, Iowa; and Norwest Ventures, LLC, Des Moines, Iowa; to engage *de novo* through a joint venture, MSC Mortgage,LLC, Sarasota, Florida, in residential mortgage lending, pursuant to § 225.28(b)(1) of Regulation Y.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, August 5, 1999.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 99–20601 Filed 8–9–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210–01–F

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

[GSA Bulletin FPMR H–76]

Utilization and Disposal

AGENCY: Office of Governmentwide Policy, GSA.

ACTION: Notice of bulletin.

SUMMARY: The attached bulletin provides all Federal agencies with information on the disposal of excess biomedical equipment and IT equipment with potential Y2K defects.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Martha Caswell, Personal Property Management Policy Division, Office of Governmentwide Policy, General Services Administration, Washington, DC 20405; telephone (202) 501–3846; e-mail martha.caswell@gsa.gov.

GSA Bulletin FPMR H–76—Utilization and Disposal

To: Heads of Federal agencies

SUBJECT: Disposal of Year 2000 (Y2K) Noncompliant Biomedical Equipment and Information Technology (IT) Equipment

1. *What is the purpose of this bulletin?* Federal Property Management Regulations (FPMR) part 101–42 provides policy direction with respect to hazardous materials, which includes excess biomedical equipment. It also provides for the reporting of IT equipment as described in FPMR 101–43.304. The purpose of this bulletin is to provide further information for agencies on the disposal of excess biomedical and IT equipment with potential Y2K defects.

2. *When does this bulletin expire?* This bulletin contains information of a continuing nature and will remain in effect until canceled or revised.

3. *What is the background?* The Y2K technology problem relates to the inability of some automated equipment to correctly recognize dates after 1999. This inability may affect the normal operation of information technology equipment and biomedical equipment. In biomedical equipment, the Y2K problem may present a potential risk to public health and safety if not corrected. In response to this potential risk, GSA is providing guidance to executive agencies on the disposal of such equipment when it becomes excess.

4. *What does this bulletin cover?* This bulletin applies to (1) biomedical equipment listed on the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) critical list, and (2) IT equipment. The FDA critical list includes biomedical equipment identified by the FDA as having the greatest potential for presenting a risk to patients if a date problem is not corrected. Federal agencies should consult the FDA's Federal Y2K Biomedical Clearinghouse (Y2K Clearinghouse) located at http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/yr2000/year2000.html for information on equipment on the FDA list.

5. *Disposal of biomedical equipment.*

a. *What is extremely hazardous biomedical equipment?* For disposal purposes, Y2K noncompliant biomedical equipment may be identified as ''extremely hazardous'' in accordance FPMR 101–42.001. Extremely hazardous in this instance is Y2K noncompliant biomedical equipment that has been determined by the holding agency to endanger public health or safety, or the environment, if it is not rendered harmless before being used by other agencies or released outside the government.

b. *Who determines the status of biomedical equipment?* Biomedical

engineers/technicians within the holding agency must determine if the biomedical equipment is:

(1) Y2K compliant;

(2) Y2K noncompliant; or

(3) Y2K status unknown.

c. *How do we dispose of biomedical equipment if it is Y2K compliant?* If Y2K compliant, excess biomedical equipment must be identified as ''Y2K compliant'' on the equipment itself and on the reporting document (SF 120) and disposed of through normal disposal procedures described in FPMR 101–43.3, 101–44.2 and 101–45.3. Executive agencies obtaining excess Y2K compliant biomedical equipment must reflect the ''Y2K compliant'' status on all inventory control documentation pertaining to such equipment.

d. *How do we dispose of biomedical equipment that is not Y2K compliant?* If Y2K status of biomedical equipment is noncompliant, the holding agency must determine whether the equipment can be economically repaired (refer to FDA's critical item list at http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/yr2000/year2000.html) or whether it must be destroyed in accordance with FPMR 101–45.9. Destruction means rendering the equipment completely inoperable for its intended use. For items that can be economically repaired, the recipient should bear the cost for remediation and testing. In no case should excess or surplus Y2K noncompliant biomedical equipment be transferred for use without the assurance that Y2K remediation and testing will be performed. Otherwise, the equipment will be destroyed.

e. *What do we do with biomedical equipment when the Y2K status cannot be determined?* Excess biomedical equipment that is Y2K status unknown may not be transferred. If the Y2K status cannot be economically determined by the holding agency, it should be destroyed in accordance with FPMR 101–45.9 and 101–42.403(e).

6. *IT equipment.*

a. *Do we also report the status of IT equipment?* Yes, all IT equipment must also be identified by the holding agency as Y2K compliant, Y2K noncompliant, or Y2K status unknown. The Y2K status must be visible on the equipment and all reporting documents.

b. *What are the disposal procedures for IT equipment?* IT equipment will be disposed of through normal disposal procedures as described in FPMR 101–43.3, 101–44.2 and 101–45.3.

7. *Who should we contact for further information?* Martha Caswell, Personal Property Management Policy Division, Office of Governmentwide Policy, General Services Administration, Washington, DC 20405; telephone (202) 501–3846; e-mail martha.caswell@gsa.gov.

Dated: August 4, 1999.

Stanley C. Langfeld,

Acting Associate Administrator, Office of Governmentwide Policy.

[FR Doc. 99–20562 Filed 8–9–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820–24–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 96F–0493]

Gerard T. O'Brien; Denial, Response to Objections

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice; order denying objection.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is denying an objection to the agency's denial of a petition (FAP 7A4530) proposing that the food additive regulations be amended to provide for the safe use of a mixture of hydrogen peroxide and sodium bicarbonate as an antimicrobial agent on fresh poultry. The objector did not request a hearing, and thus waives the right to such a hearing.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James C. Wallwork, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS–215), Food and Drug Administration, 200 C St. SW., Washington, DC 20204–0001, 202–418–3078.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a notice published in the **Federal Register** of January 2, 1997 (62 FR 101), FDA announced that a food additive petition (FAP 7A4530) had been filed by Gerard T. O'Brien, 2162 Skyline Dr., Gainesville, GA 30501. The petitioner requested that FDA amend the food additive regulations to provide for the safe use of a mixture of hydrogen peroxide and sodium bicarbonate as an antimicrobial agent on fresh poultry. In the **Federal Register** of September 26, 1997 (62 FR 50617), FDA published an order denying this petition, in accordance with § 171.100(a) (21 CFR 171.100(a)), because FDA concluded that the petition did not contain sufficient data and information to allow the agency to determine either that the food additive is safe for its proposed use or that the additive will have its intended technical effect.

In its denial, the agency explained that the petitioner had failed to provide data and information to demonstrate that the hydrogen peroxide and sodium bicarbonate mixture would significantly reduce pathogenic bacterial contamination on the surface of fresh poultry, e.g., *Salmonella*, *Escherichia coli*, and psychrophiles, and that the petitioner had failed to provide data and information on whether oxidative effects of hydrogen peroxide would occur on poultry as a result of the proposed use. FDA noted that the agency had requested certain data from the petitioner on several occasions during its review of the petition, including laboratory data to demonstrate that there is reduced bacterial contamination on poultry processed with hydrogen peroxide and sodium bicarbonate, TBA (2-thiobarbituric acid) values (an indicator of oxidation) in skin/fat and meat from processed poultry, and a basis to estimate the amount of hydrogen peroxide that reacts with poultry during the proposed treatment. Because the petitioner failed to provide these data and information, FDA did not have a sufficient basis to determine whether the food additive would achieve its intended technical effect or was safe for the intended use. Accordingly, FDA denied the petition.

Under § 171.110 of the food additive regulations, objections and requests for a hearing are governed by part 12 (21 CFR part 12) of FDA's regulations. Section 12.22(a) sets forth the conditions that each objection must meet for filing. Section 12.22(a) provides that each objection must: (1) Be submitted on or before the 30th day after the date of publication of the final rule; (2) be separately numbered; (3) specify with particularity the provision of the order objected to; (4) state whether a hearing is requested; and (5) for each objection for which a hearing is requested, include a detailed description of the factual information to be presented in support of the objection. Failure to include a description and analysis for an objection constitutes a waiver of the right to a hearing on that objection.

In response to the agency's denial of FAP 7A4530, the petitioner, on October 22, 1997, submitted material within the 30-day objection period challenging the denial. The petitioner submitted, as its objection, references to three complaints filed in various legal proceedings in Federal court. Such complaints were filed before the date of the agency's denial of the petition, and therefore, were not written in response to the agency's denial, but were submitted as ''objections.'' A copy of one of the referenced complaints, filed on August 25, 1997, in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, was included in the submission. In addition,