FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

APPEALS OF MATERIAL SUPERVISORY DETERMINATIONS

Federal law requires the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to establish an independent process to review appeals of material supervisory determinations.1 The Board issued its guidelines in March 1995.2

This document covers the Dallas Reserve Bank’s local guidelines, which supplement those of the Board of Governors. The local guidelines follow the same heading and numbering scheme as the Board’s guidelines, omitting sections where there are no local rules.

Procedures for Appealing a Material Supervisory Determination3

1. The institution’s appeal should be addressed to the Secretary, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, 2200 North Pearl Street, Dallas, Texas 75201.

The Secretary can extend the time for filing.

The Secretary will distribute copies of the appeal within the Reserve Bank and to the Board of Governors.

2. The review panel can reject the appeal for lack of clarity or information.4 If the institution decides to refile the appeal, it should be refiled with the Secretary, who will handle the refileing according to the original procedures.

3. Every review panel will consist of three individuals.5

4. The institution may request an appearance before the review panel. The date and time of the appearance at the Reserve Bank’s offices may be established by mutual consent.

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2 "Guidelines for Appeals of Material Supervisory Determinations" 60 Federal Register 16470, March 30, 1995. The Guidelines indicate the process is available to state member banks as well as all other institutions supervised by the Federal Reserve. Passage of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999 authorized Federal Reserve oversight of financial holding companies; the process is likewise available to them.

3 A material supervisory determination includes, but is not limited to, material determinations relating to examination or inspection composite ratings, the adequacy of loan loss reserves, and significant loan classifications. The term does not include any supervisory determination for which an independent right of appeal exists, such as prompt corrective action directives issued under section 38 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

4 Information submitted in support of the appeal should be limited to information that was available to the individual making the material supervisory determination under appeal at the time the determination was made or information that was offered to that individual but which the individual declined to review.

5 Panel members will not have been involved in the material supervisory determination under review and will not report to any person who was involved in the material supervisory determination. Panel members will be qualified to participate in the review and will be selected from senior supervisory staff at the Reserve Banks.
5. The review panel will put its views in writing and give its decision to the Secretary. The Secretary will give copies to the institution and the appropriate division director of the Board of Governors.

6. Any appeal of the review panel's decision should be filed with the Secretary. The Secretary will provide copies of the appeal to the Reserve Bank President and the appropriate division director at the Board of Governors.

The Reserve Bank President may decide the appeal in favor of the institution or confirm the review panel's position. Alternatively, the Reserve Bank President may reject the appeal for lack of clarity or information.

The Reserve Bank President will provide his views in writing and give his decision to the Secretary. The Secretary will give copies to the institution and the appropriate division director at the Board of Governors.

**Safeguards Against Retaliation**

The Dallas Reserve Bank's safeguards are its creation of independent review panels composed of individuals who did not participate in the material supervisory determination, who do not directly report to the person who made the material supervisory determination under review, and who are qualified to review the determination.

**Availability of Procedures**

The attached Federal Register notice and a copy of this supplementary material are available to any member of the public on request to the Secretary.

Robert D. Hankins
Executive Vice President

Approved July 20, 1995
Revised April 16, 2001
Revised January 1, 2011

Attachment
This order is available for inspection and copying in the Office of Fuels Programs Docket Room, 3F-056, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585, (202) 586-8478. The docket room is open between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.


Clifford P. Tomaszewski,
Director, Office of Natural Gas, Office of Fuels Programs, Office of Fossil Energy.

[FR Doc. 95-7854 Filed 3-29-95; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

[FE Docket No. 95-01-NG]

Pennsylvania Gas and Water Company; Order Granting Long-Term Authorization To Import Natural Gas From Canada

AGENCY: Office of Fossil Energy, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of order.

SUMMARY: The Office of Fossil Energy of the Department of Energy gives notice that it has issued an order granting Pennsylvania Gas and Water Company long-term authorization to import up to 14,703 Mcf of natural gas per day from Canada beginning May 1, 1995, through October 31, 2002. This order is available for inspection and copying in the Office of Fuels Programs Docket Room, Room 3F-056, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585, (202) 586-9478. The docket room is open between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.


Clifford P. Tomaszewski,
Director, Office of Natural Gas, Office of Fuels Programs, Office of Fossil Energy.

[FR Doc. 95-7854 Filed 3-29-95; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

Security for the Protection of the Public Financial Responsibility to Meet Liability Incurred for Death or Injury to Passengers or Other Persons on Voyages; Notice of Issuance of Certificate (Casualty)

Notice is hereby given that the following have been issued a Certificate of Financial Responsibility to Meet Liability Incurred for Death or Injury to Passengers or Other Persons on Voyages pursuant to the provisions of Section 2, Public Law 89-777 (46 U.S.C. 817(d)) and the Federal Maritime Commission’s implementing regulations at 46 CFR Part 540, as amended:

West Travel, Inc. (d/b/a Alaska Sightseeing/Cruise West), 4th and Battery Blvd., Suite 700, Seattle, Washington 98121.

Vessel: SPIRIT OF COLUMBIA


Joseph C. Polking,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 95-7790 Filed 3-29-95; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6730-01-M

Security for the Protection of the Public Indemnification of Passengers for Nonperformance of Transportation; Notice of Issuance of Certificate (Performance)

Notice is hereby given that the following have been issued a Certificate of Financial Responsibility for Indemnification of Passengers for Nonperformance of Transportation pursuant to the provisions of Section 3, Public Law 89-777 (46 U.S.C. 817(e)) and the Federal Maritime Commission’s implementing regulations at 46 CFR Part 540, as amended:

Carnival Corporation, 3655 N.W. 54th Avenue, Miami, Florida 33178-2428

Vessel: CARNIVAL DESTINY


Joseph C. Polking,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 95-7791 Filed 3-29-95; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6730-01-M

Ocean Freight Forwarder License Applicants

Notice is hereby given that the following applicants have filed with the Federal Maritime Commission applications for licenses as ocean freight forwarders pursuant to section 19 of the Shipping Act of 1984 (46 U.S.C. app. 1718 and 46 CFR 510).

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, D.C. 20573.


Worchel Transport Inc., d/b/a Prime Transport, 182-09 149th Road, Springfield Gardens, NY 11413. Officers: Sam Rachel, President, David Wortman, Vice President.

King Yang Shipping, Inc., 22431 S. Vermont Avenue, Torrance, CA 90502. Officer: Arthur King, President.

Quality Customs Broker, Inc., dba, Quality Freight Services International, 7071, South 13th Street, Suite 103, Oak Creek, WI 53154. Officer: Karin La Freniere, President.

All-Cargo Express, 7800 North University Drive, #201, TAMARAC, FL 33321. Alfred L. Cohen, Sole Proprietor.

Dated: March 27, 1995.

By the Federal Maritime Commission:

Joseph C. Polking,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 95-7789 Filed 3-29-95; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6730-01-M

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

[Docket No. R-0867]

Internal Appeals Process

AGENCY: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

ACTION: Final guidelines.

SUMMARY: The Board is issuing its final guidelines on an internal appeals process for institutions wishing to appeal an adverse material supervisory determination.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gregory A. Baer, Managing Senior Counsel, Legal Division (202/452-3236); Shawn McNulty, Assistant Director, Division of Consumer and Community Affairs (202/452-3946); or Ann Marie Kohlligan, Senior Counsel/Manager, Division of Banking Supervision and Regulation (202/452-3528), Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Supplementary Information: Background

Section 309 of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (the Act), 12 U.S.C. 4806, requires the Board (as well as the other Federal banking agencies) to establish an independent, intra-agency appellate process that is available to institutions to seek review of material supervisory determinations. Section 309 specifies various requirements that the appellate process must meet.

On December 29, 1994, the Board published for public comment its proposed guidelines that would implement the intra-agency appellate process.
In general, the proposed guidelines require that: (1) All appeals be in writing and approved by the institution's board of directors; (2) all appeals be heard and decided within specified timeframes; (3) the initial appeal be heard by a person or persons selected by the Reserve Bank (the review panel) who had not participated in, or reported to the persons who made, the material supervisory determination under review; (4) an adverse decision be appealable to a Reserve Bank President; (5) an adverse decision by a Reserve Bank President be appealable to the Board; and (6) Reserve Banks establish safeguards to protect institutions that file appeals from examiner retaliation.

Although section 309 requires the Board to develop an internal appeals process only for state member banks, the proposed guidelines expanded the process and made it available to all institutions that are subject to Federal Reserve oversight, including bank holding companies, U.S. agencies and branches of foreign banks and Edge corporations. The proposed guidelines also defined a "material supervisory determination" to include all material matters relating to the examination or inspection process, but exclude those matters, such as the imposition of a prompt corrective action directive or a cease and desist order, for which an alternative, independent right of appeal exists.

As noted in the proposed guidelines, the Board continues to believe that questions about or objections to supervisory determinations made during the course of an inspection or examination are most effectively handled as part of an ongoing Federal Reserve practice of resolving any problems informally during the course of the inspection or examination process.

Public Comments

The Board received 27 comments on its proposed guidelines from Federal Reserve Banks, financial institutions, trade associations, law firms and a consulting firm. While the comments were generally supportive of the proposed guidelines, most comments submitted suggested changes or raised concerns regarding the implementation of the internal appeals process. These proposed changes and concerns, which are discussed below, relate to five areas: (1) protection from examiner retaliation; (2) independence of the review panel; (3) who should decide the final appeal at the Board; (4) the need for additional, specific timeframes; and (5) procedural issues.

(1) Protection From Examiner Retaliation

Thirteen comments raised concerns about examiner retaliation. Several comments suggested that the Ombudsman is the appropriate individual to establish safeguards to protect institutions that have been subject to some form of retaliation or ensuring that different examiners conduct examinations that commence after an appeal has been filed. Some comments suggested that greater Board involvement in the appeals process would protect institutions against retaliation, while others suggested that the guidelines include specific sanctions and disciplinary actions for examiners found to have engaged in retaliation due to an appeal.

The Board acknowledges that some institutions may perceive that availing themselves of the appeals process may result in retaliatory action by examiners. As proposed, the guidelines require the Reserve Bank to establish safeguards to protect institutions that file appeals from retaliation. While the Board believes that this provides sufficient protection and meets the requirements of section 309, the Ombudsman is available to address such concerns and may be contacted by institutions who believe they may have suffered retaliation as a result of an appeal. The role of this official and his/her procedures for addressing these concerns will be outlined in the Board's Policy Statement for the Ombudsman. (2) Independence of Review Panel

Six comments suggested modifications to the part of the guidelines that addressed the independence of the review panel. Several stated that the appeals process cannot be independent so long as it remains an internal procedure and suggested that outside parties, such as a peer review panel or a panel appointed by the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, hear and decide all appeals. Another comment suggested that the review panel exclude not only persons who participated in, or who directly or indirectly report to the person(s) who participated in, the material supervisory determination under appeal, but anyone who directly or indirectly supervises the person(s) who made such determination.

Section 309 of the Act reflects a Congressional conclusion that an intra-agency appeals process will provide institutions with an adequate means to redress adverse material supervisory determinations. The Board does not believe that it is necessary to expand the guidelines beyond what is required by the statute. Similarly, section 309 requires that the person hearing the appeal not directly or indirectly report to the person who initially made the supervisory determination under review. Consequently, the composition of the review panel has not been modified in the final guidelines.

(3) Who Decides the Final Appeal at the Board

The proposed guidelines provided for an appeal of an adverse decision by a Reserve Bank President to the appropriate Board division director, who would consult with the appropriate Governor of the Board's oversight committee for that division. Three comments suggested that it would be more suitable for a Governor to review a decision by a Reserve Bank President. The final guidelines have been modified so that an appeal of a Reserve Bank President's decision will be to the Governor who serves as chairman of the appropriate oversight committee, who will consult with that division's director.

(4) Need for Additional Timeframes

The proposed guidelines required institutions to file an appeal within 30 days of the material supervisory determination and the review panel to decide the appeal within 30 days of receipt. The proposed guidelines also required Reserve Bank Presidents to make a decision on any matter appealed to them within 30 days of receipt. Several comments noted that the proposed guidelines did not contain timeframes for other actions, such as the time in which an appeal should be filed with a Reserve Bank President or the Board, or the time in which the Board would make a decision on an appeal.

The Board agrees with these comments on the need for additional timeframes. Consequently, the final guidelines require that an appeal to a Reserve Bank President or the Board to be filed within 30 days of receipt of an adverse decision by the review panel or the Reserve Bank President, respectively. The final guidelines also require that the Board decide any appeal within 60 days of its receipt.
(5) Procedural Issues

Several comments suggested that the Board’s guidelines include some additional procedures in order to ensure that the appeal process works smoothly. One comment stated that the guidelines do not require that the material supervisory determination remain in effect while it is under appeal, while another comment suggested that the determination be stayed pending the completion of the appeal. The Board believes that it is appropriate for the determination to remain in effect while it is under appeal, and the final guidelines have been modified to state this explicitly.

The Board does not believe that section 309 of the Act is intended to stay the enforcement action or to provide an avenue for the review of the Board's supervisory decisions, but rather is designed to provide an alternative appeals mechanism to allow the senior management person(s) with authority for U.S. operations of a foreign bank to appeal determinations that led to the enforcement action. This suggestion, while another comment suggested that the record be expunged of any material supervisory determinations that led to the enforcement action, seems inconsistent with the intent of section 309 of the Act. The Board concludes that the final guidelines still include section 309 of the Act, which is to provide an avenue for the review of material supervisory determinations and not to contest enforcement actions for which no other formal procedures exist.

The final guidelines provide that any appeal filed must contain all of the facts and arguments that the institution wishes to present to the review panel. The review panel shall also solicit the views of the Reserve Bank staff involved in the determination under appeal, Board staff, and, where appropriate, the staff of other supervisory agencies (for example, in case of joint examinations or inspections). Nothing in this appeals process shall create any discovery or other similar rights.

Guidelines for Appeals of Material Supervisory Determinations

Sections 309 of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994, 12 U.S.C. 4806, require the Reserve Banks and other Federal banking agencies to establish an independent, intra-agency process to review appeals of material supervisory determinations.

The purpose of these guidelines is to allow each Reserve Bank to administer its own appellate process, but to establish procedures under which all Reserve Banks' appellate process must operate. Doing so will ensure that each Reserve Bank's process is consistent with section 309 and that institutions will be granted the same appellant rights regardless of the Federal Reserve district in which they reside.

1. Any appeal shall be filed with the Reserve Bank President or the Board. The Reserve Bank President or the Board shall decide, in writing, by the review panel within 30 calendar days of the filing of an informationally complete appeal, whether to allow each Reserve Bank to administer its own appellate process, but to establish procedures under which all Reserve Banks' appellate process must operate. Doing so will ensure that each Reserve Bank's process is consistent with section 309 and that institutions will be granted the same appellant rights regardless of the Federal Reserve district in which they reside.

Any appeal shall be decided in writing, by the review panel within 30 calendar days of receipt of the review panel's written decision. The appeal shall contain all the facts and arguments that the institution wishes to present to the review panel. In such case, the institution may refile the appeal within 30 calendar days of receipt of written notice of the rejection of any filing.

The final guidelines have been modified to state this explicitly. The Board believes that it is appropriate for the determination to remain in effect while it is under appeal, and the appeal process shall not stay the enforcement action. This suggestion, while another comment suggested that the record be expunged of any material supervisory determinations that led to the enforcement action, seems inconsistent with the intent of section 309 of the Act. The Board concludes that the final guidelines still include section 309 of the Act, which is to provide an avenue for the review of material supervisory determinations and not to contest enforcement actions for which no other formal procedures exist.

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Any appeal shall be decided in writing, by the review panel within 30 calendar days of receipt of the review panel's written decision. The appeal shall contain all the facts and arguments that the institution wishes to present to the review panel. In such case, the institution may refile the appeal within 30 calendar days of receipt of written notice of the rejection of any filing.

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The final guidelines provide that any appeal filed must contain all of the facts and arguments that the institution wishes to present to the review panel. The review panel shall also solicit the views of the Reserve Bank staff involved in the determination under appeal, Board staff, and, where appropriate, the staff of other supervisory agencies (for example, in case of joint examinations or inspections). Nothing in this appeals process shall create any discovery or other such rights.

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The purpose of these guidelines is to allow each Reserve Bank to administer its own appellate process, but to establish procedures under which all Reserve Banks' appellate process must operate. Doing so will ensure that each Reserve Bank's process is consistent with section 309 and that institutions will be granted the same appellant rights regardless of the Federal Reserve district in which they reside.

Any appeal shall be decided in writing, by the review panel within 30 calendar days of receipt of the review panel's written decision. The appeal shall contain all the facts and arguments that the institution wishes to present to the review panel. In such case, the institution may refile the appeal within 30 calendar days of receipt of written notice of the rejection of any filing.
(7) Any appellant institution dissatisfied with the decision of the Reserve Bank President may, with the consent of its board of directors of the institution, or in the case of a U.S. agency or branch of a foreign bank, the senior management person(s) responsible for the bank's U.S. operations, appeal that decision to the appropriate Governor by filing a written appeal with the Secretary of the Board within 30 calendar days of receipt of the Reserve Bank President's written decision. The appeal may be rejected for lack of clarity or information. In such case, the institution may file the appeal within 30 calendar days of receipt of written notice of the rejection.

Safeguards Against Retaliation. Each Reserve Bank shall establish appropriate safeguards to protect appellants from retaliation. The Board's Ombudsman will periodically contact institutions after their appeals have been decided in order to make certain that no retaliation has occurred. In addition, institutions who believe they have suffered retaliation as the result of an appeal may contact the Board's Ombudsman.

Availability of Procedures. Each Reserve Bank shall make those guidelines and the Reserve Bank's process for selecting a review panel available to each institution in its district, any institution appealing a material supervisory determination, and any member of the public who requests them.

Eligible Institutions. Any institution about which the Federal Reserve makes a material supervisory determination is eligible for the appeal process. This includes state member banks, bank holding companies and their nonbank subsidiaries, U.S. agencies and branches of foreign banks, Edge and Agreement corporations, third party EDP services, and other entities examined or inspected by a Reserve Bank.

Material Supervisory Determination Defined. Whether an appealed action constitutes a "material supervisory determination" eligible for the appeal process shall be decided by the person or persons hearing the appeal, and a determination that the action is not appealable under these guidelines may further appeal to the Reserve Bank President or the appropriate oversight Governor in the same manner as any other adverse decision.

The term "material supervisory determination" includes, but is not limited to, material determinations relating to examination or inspection composite ratings, the adequacy of loan loss reserves and significant loan classifications. The term does not include any supervisory determination for which an independent right of appeal exists. Such actions include prompt corrective action directives issued pursuant to section 33 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, as amended (the FDI Act), actions to impose administrative enforcement actions under the FDI Act and the Federal Reserve Act of 1955, as amended (the FRA Act), as well as orders issued pursuant to applications under the FRA Act.

Effect of Appeal on Material Supervisory Determinations. A material supervisory determination shall remain in effect while under appeal and until such time as it is modified or overturned through the appeals process. The appeal of a material supervisory determination does not prevent the Federal Reserve from taking any supervisory or enforcement action—formal or informal—it deems appropriate to discharge the Federal Reserve's supervisory responsibilities.

Savings Provision. Section 309 expressly provides that it shall not affect the authority of the Board or any other agency to take enforcement or supervisory action against an institution. In such cases, the rights of appeal provided for in the statutes and regulations concerning these actions shall govern.


Jennifer J. Johnson, Deputy Secretary of the Board.[FR Doc. 95-7755 Filed 3-29-95; 8:45 am]

Agency Forms Under Review; Bank Holding Company Reporting Requirements

AGENCY: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

ACTION: Final Board approval of revisions to bank holding company reporting requirements.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the final approval of proposed information collections by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Board) under OMB delegated authority, as per 5 C.F.R. 1320.9 (OMB Regulations on Controlling Paperwork Burdens on the Public). The Board has given final approval to the revision of the Consolidated Financial Statements for Bank Holding Companies (FR Y-9C; OMB No. 7100-0128); the extension, with revision, of the Quarterly Financial Statements of Nonbanking Subsidiaries of Bank Holding Companies (FR Y-11Q; OMB No. 7100-0244); and the Annual Financial Statements of Nonbanking Subsidiaries of Bank Holding Companies (FR Y-11A; OMB No. 7100-0244); and the elimination of the Combined Financial Statements of Nonbank Subsidiaries of Bank Holding Companies, by Type of Nonbank Subsidiary (FR Y-11AS; OMB No. 7100-0244).

The proposal was granted initial approval by the Board on December 16, 1994. Subsequently, the proposal was published in the Federal Register with a thirty day public comment period that expired on January 26, 1995. Comment letters on the proposal were received from four bank holding companies. In general, the comment letters on the proposal were supportive of the changes to the various reports. However, some specific comments were not supportive. These comments noted the increase in burden from some aspects of the proposal and suggested modifications to the proposed revisions. The specific comments on the proposed revisions to the reports are addressed in the discussion of each individual report following later in this notice. After reviewing the comments, the Board has approved the proposed changes as originally issued for comment. In addition to those changes, the Board also has approved two further changes to the FR Y-9C—the elimination of two line items from Schedule IC-F.

The reporting changes, summarized in this notice, will be effective for the FR Y-9C and the FR Y-11Q with the March 31, 1995 reporting date and effective for the FR Y-11 and the FR Y-11A for the December 31, 1995 reporting date. The FR Y-9C and the FR Y-11Q reports effective for March 31, 1995 reporting date are due to be filed May 15, 1995 and May 30, 1995, respectively.

BACKGROUND: Under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended, the Board is responsible for the supervision and regulation of all bank holding companies. The FR Y-9 and FR Y-11 series of reports historically have been, and continue to be, the primary source of financial information on bank holding companies and their nonbanking activities between on-site inspections. Financial information, as well as ratios developed from the Y series reports, are used to detect emerging financial problems. The review performance for pre-inspection analysis, to evaluate bank holding company