The revision of these criteria is a systematic update of EPA’s national recommended human health criteria. EPA previously described its process for publishing revised criteria [see National Recommended Water Quality Criteria—Correction (64 FR 19781; or EPA–822–Z–99–001) or the Federal Register Notice for EPA’s 2000 Methodology (65 FR 66444)]. EPA updated the human health criteria using externally peer-reviewed information sources.

On May 13, 2014, EPA announced the availability of the draft updated human health criteria in the Federal Register notice “Updated National Recommended Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Human Health” (79 FR 27303) and announced that written views would be accepted from the public until July 14, 2014. In response to stakeholder requests, on June 23, 2014, EPA announced in the Federal Register (79 FR 35545) an extension of the public comment period for an additional 30 days, until August 14, 2014. EPA reviewed and considered all public comments received and prepared responses to those comments.

EPA developed chemical-specific science documents for each of the ninety-four chemical pollutants. These documents detail the latest scientific information supporting the final human health criteria, particularly the updated toxicity and exposure input values. A fact sheet and a summary of updated input parameters (e.g., health toxicity values, bioaccumulation factors) used to derive the final updated criteria are provided. All these documents, including EPA’s responses to views received during the comment period, are available on EPA’s Web site at http://water.epa.gov/scitech/swguidance/standards/criteria/health/.

IV. What is the relationship between EPA’s 2015 final updated human health criteria and state or tribal water quality standards?

Section 303(a)–(c) of the CWA requires states and authorized tribes to adopt water quality standards for their waters. As part of the water quality standards triennial review process set forth in section 303(c) of the CWA, states and authorized tribes are required to review and revise, if appropriate, their water quality standards at least once every three years.

States and authorized tribes must adopt water quality criteria that protect designated uses. 40 CFR 131.11(a)(1). Criteria must be based on a sound scientific rationale and contain sufficient parameters or constituents to protect the designated uses. Id. Criteria may be expressed in either narrative or numeric form. EPA’s regulations provide that states and authorized tribes should adopt numeric water quality criteria based on:

1. EPA’s recommended section 304(a) criteria; or
2. EPA’s recommended section 304(a) criteria modified to reflect site-specific conditions; or
3. Other scientifically defensible methods. (40 CFR 131.11(b)).

It is important for states and authorized tribes to consider any new or updated section 304(a) recommended criteria as part of their triennial review process to ensure that state or tribal water quality criteria reflect sound science and protect applicable designated uses. EPA recently proposed revisions to its water quality standards regulations that would, if finalized without substantive change, require states during their triennial reviews to consider new or updated section 304(a) recommended criteria and, if they do not adopt new or revised criteria for such pollutants, provide an explanation to EPA and the public as to why the state did not do so. These final updated section 304(a) human health criteria recommendations supersede EPA’s previous recommendations.

Dated: June 22, 2015.

Kenneth J. Kopocis,
Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water.
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 applications will also be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors.

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 applications will also 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 (12 U.S.C. 1843). 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 July 14, 2015.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta (Chapelle Davis, Assistant Vice President) 1000 Peachtree Street NE., Atlanta, Georgia 30309:

1. Athens Bancshares Corporation, Athens, Tennessee; a savings and loan holding company, to become a bank holding company upon the conversion of its savings and loan subsidiary, Athens Federal Community Bank, Athens, Tennessee, to a commercial bank.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, June 18, 2015.

Michael J. Lewandowski, Associate Secretary of the Board.

B. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (Jacquelyn K. Brunmeier, Assistant Vice President) 90 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408–0291:

1. Gerald Lee Reiter, New London, Stanley Glenn Lilleberg, Atwater; Keith Gerard Bangasser, Spicer; Andrew Joseph Smeil, St. Cloud, Dennis Alvin Kamstra Nisswa, Joseph Leo Reiter, Willmar; Kristen Janet Nelson, Spicer; and Thomas J. Nelson, Woodbury, all of Minnesota as a group acting in concert to acquire voting common stock of First BancShares, Inc. of Cold Spring, Cold

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Change in Bank Control Notices; Acquisitions of Shares of a Bank or Bank Holding Company

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 shares of 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 July 13, 2015.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco (Gerul C. Tsai, Director, Applications and Enforcement) 101 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94105–1579:


Michael J. Lewandowski, Associate Secretary of the Board.