

The General Counsel states that the request does not require the Authority to determine: (1) Whether there is a duty to bargain over matters set forth in section 7106(b)(1); or (2) the legal impact of Executive Order 12871 on such duty. The General Counsel states further that the "existence of the mandate of Executive Order 12871 to negotiate over subsection (b)(1) matters" and the decision of the United States Court of Appeals for District of Columbia Circuit in *Association of Civilian Technicians, Montana Air Chapter No. 29 v. FLRA*, 22 F.3d 1150 (DC Cir. 1994), have "rendered the relationship between subsections (a) and (b) a major policy issue * * *."

The issues before the Authority are whether a general ruling on the issue raised in the General Counsel's request is warranted and, if it is, what the ruling should be. Under § 2429.4 of the Authority's regulations, the Authority solicits views on these matters in writing. Written comments received in the Authority's Case Control Office by close of business on Friday, April 14, 1995, will be considered.

To assist the Authority in determining whether a general ruling on the issue raised by the General Counsel is warranted and, if so, what the ruling should be, the Authority invites comments regarding the following questions. In answering the questions, examples of proposals and matters that illustrate the views presented may be helpful.

1. Are matters and proposals which are within the bargaining subjects set forth in section 7106(b)(1) of the Statute negotiable at the election of agency management at the level of exclusive recognition even though those matters and proposals also may be within the subjects set forth in section 7106(a) of the Statute?

2. What is the proper meaning to be accorded the phrase in section 7106(a) stating that it is "[s]ubject to subsection (b)," as it relates to subsection (b)(1)?

3. What is the proper meaning to be accorded the phrase in section 7106(b) stating that "Nothing in this section shall preclude any agency and any labor organization from negotiating—"? For example, does it operate with respect to section 7106(b)(1) as a "clarification" or a "limitation," a distinction raised by the court in *American Federation of Government Employees, Local 2782 v. FLRA*, 702 F.2d 1183, 1186-87 (DC Cir. 1983) (*dicta*)?

4. What matters or proposals, if any, within the subjects set forth in section 7106(b)(1) are not also within (i.e., do not also affect) one or more subjects set forth in section 7106(a)?

5. Does the relationship between section 7106(a) and (b)(1) depend on the particular section 7106(a) subject which is affected?

6. Does the relationship between section 7106(a) and (b)(1) depend on whether parties are bargaining over proposals for an agreement or whether an agency head is exercising authority under section 7114(c) of the Statute to review an agreement already reached?

Dated: March 13, 1995.

Federal Labor Relations Authority.

Phyllis N. Segal,

Chair.

Pamela Talkin,

Member.

Tony Armendariz,

Member.

[FR Doc. 95-6511 Filed 3-15-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6267-01-P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

First Security Bancorp, et al.; Formations of; Acquisitions by; and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied for the Board's approval under section 3 of the Bank Holding Company Act (12 U.S.C. 1842) and § 225.14 of the Board's Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.14) to become a bank holding company or to acquire a bank or bank holding company. The factors that are considered in acting on the applications are set forth in section 3(c) of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)).

Each application is available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. Once the application has been accepted for processing, it will also be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing to the Reserve Bank or to the offices of the Board of Governors. Any comment on an application that requests a hearing must include a statement of why a written presentation would not suffice in lieu of a hearing, identifying specifically any questions of fact that are in dispute and summarizing the evidence that would be presented at a hearing.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding each of these applications must be received not later than April 10, 1995.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (Randall C. Sumner, Vice President) 411 Locust Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63166:

1. *First Security Bancorp*, Searcy, Arkansas; to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of Farmers Investment

Corporation, Little Rock, Arkansas, and thereby indirectly acquire Farmers Bank & Trust Company, Clarksville, Arkansas.

B. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (James M. Lyon, Vice President) 250 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55480:

1. *First Community Bancorp, Inc.*, Glasgow, Montana; to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of Wolf Point Acquisition Bank, Wolf Point, Montana, a *de novo* bank.

C. Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco (Kenneth R. Binning, Director, Bank Holding Company) 101 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94105:

1. *Westamerica Bancorporation*, San Rafael, California; to merge with North Bay Bancorp, Novato, California, and thereby indirectly acquire Novato National Bank, Novato, California.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, March 10, 1995.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 95F-0040]

Chemie Research and Manufacturing Co., Inc.; Filing of Food Additive Petition

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing that Chemie Research and Manufacturing Co., Inc., has filed a petition proposing that the food additive regulations be amended to provide for the safe use of a glycerin extract of dried grapefruit seeds and pulp as an antimicrobial agent in the processing of fresh or frozen poultry, fish, or shellfish. **DATES:** Written comments on the petitioner's environmental assessment by April 17, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, rm. 1-23, 12420 Parklawn Dr., Rockville, MD 20857.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dennis M. Keefe, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS-206), Food and Drug Administration, 200 C St. SW., Washington, DC 20204, 202-418-3102.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act