Hyperlinking

The Internet has made it possible for financial institutions and non-financial commercial enterprises to partner in ways that may not be apparent to customers visiting a web site. For example, a financial institution's web site may include hyperlinks that transfer the customer to the web sites of one or more non-financial institutions. These other web sites may provide non-financial information or sell non-financial products or services. Sites differ in the degree to which they inform a person that products or services accessible through the selection of a hyperlink are, or are not, offered, sponsored, or endorsed by the bank, which may be confusing to site visitors.

- Should the FDIC promulgate a regulation or publish guidance setting forth standards for state nonmember banks concerning the use of hyperlinks?
- Are there technology solutions to address these issues?

Physical Location

Internet banking raises issues with respect to how the FDIC should interpret existing laws and regulations that reference geographic terms or rely on concepts of physical presence. For example, the definition of ''branch'' contained in § 303.41(a) of the FDIC's regulations (12 CFR 303.41(a)) assumes the existence of a building permanently or temporarily located at a specific physical location. It does not address banking transactions conducted over the Internet where the consumer and a bank representative do not meet face to face. *See* 12 CFR part 303, subpart C.

- Does reliance on these terms and concepts create an impediment to financial institutions conducting operations on the Internet? If so, how should the FDIC clarify its regulations?
- Are there other instances in which online banking or lending would benefit from a clarification of references to physical location in FDIC regulations? If so, how should the FDIC address those instances?

Appraisals

Certain loans must be supported by written real estate appraisals performed in accordance with uniform standards, supported by the presentation and analysis of relevant market information. *See* 12 CFR part 323.

- Would online lending benefit from any clarification of the FDIC's application of this regulation in terms of what constitutes a written appraisal, or the presentation of relevant market information. If so, what clarifications should the FDIC make to facilitate the use of appraisals in electronic form?
- What types of controls regarding authentication of an electronic appraisal, certification of the appraiser, or other standards would be appropriate to assure authenticity and integrity in connection with filing electronic appraisals?

Electronic Signatures

The Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, 15 U.S.C. 7001, *et seq.* (E-Sign Act), provides that contracts and signatures with respect to any transaction affecting interstate commerce may not be denied validity solely because they are in electronic form. The E-Sign Act also provides that records of such contracts may be maintained in electronic form, subject to certain requirements, *i.e.*, they must accurately reflect the information in the contract, be accessible to all persons who are entitled to access them, and be capable of being accurately reproduced for later reference.

- Should the FDIC promulgate regulations or publish guidance setting forth standards for the use of electronic signatures and records? *See* 15 U.S.C. 7004.

By order of the Board of Directors.

Dated at Washington, DC, this 10th day of July, 2001.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Robert E. Feldman,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01–17666 Filed 7–13–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6714–01–P

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

[FEMA–1370–DR]

Minnesota; Amendment No. 6 to Notice of a Major Disaster Declaration

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice amends the notice of a major disaster declaration for the State of Minnesota, (FEMA–1370–DR), dated May 16, 2001, and related determinations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 26, 2001

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Madge Dale, Readiness, Response and Recovery Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646–5920.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of a major disaster declaration for the State of Minnesota is hereby amended to include the following areas among those areas determined to have been adversely affected by the catastrophe declared a major disaster by the President in his declaration of May 16, 2001:

Dodge, Faribault, and Isanti Counties for Public Assistance.

Beltrami County for Public Assistance (already designated for Individual Assistance).

McLeod and Pope Counties for Individual Assistance (already designated for Public Assistance).

(The following Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers (CFDA) are to be used for reporting and drawing funds: 83.537, Community Disaster Loans; 83.538, Cora Brown Fund Program; 83.539, Crisis Counseling; 83.540, Disaster Legal Services Program; 83.541, Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); 83.542, Fire Suppression Assistance; 83.543, Individual and Family Grant (IFG) Program; 83.544, Public Assistance Grants; 83.545, Disaster Housing Program; 83.548, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.)

Lacy E. Suiter,

Assistant Director, Readiness, Response and Recovery Directorate.

[FR Doc. 01–17642 Filed 7–13–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6718–02–P

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

[FEMA–1384–DR]

Oklahoma; Major Disaster and Related Determinations

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is a notice of the Presidential declaration of a major disaster for the State of Oklahoma (FEMA–1384–DR), dated June 29, 2001, and related determinations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 29, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Madge Dale, Response and Recovery Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646–5920.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that, in a letter dated June 29, 2001, the President declared a major disaster under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 USC 5121, as follows:

I have determined that the damage in certain areas of the State of Oklahoma, resulting from severe storms, flooding, and tornadoes on May 27–30, 2001, is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 USC 5121 (Stafford Act). I, therefore, declare that such a major disaster exists in the State of Oklahoma.