ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL- 9793–8]

National Rivers and Streams Assessment 2008–009 Draft Report

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given for a 45-day public review and comment period on the draft report of the National Rivers and Streams Assessment 2008–2009 (NRSA). The NRSA draft report describes the results of the nationwide probabilistic survey that was conducted in the summers of 2008 and 2009. EPA and its state/tribal partners looked at biological conditions in rivers and streams of the conterminous United States. The draft NRSA 2008–2009 report includes information on how the survey was implemented, what the findings were on a national and ecoregional scale, and future actions and challenges.

DATES: Comments must be received by 11:59 p.m. May 9, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Email your comments to nrsa-hq@epa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alice Mayio, Assessment and Watershed Protection Division, Office of Water, Washington DC Phone: 202–566–1184; email: mayio.alice@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: To better answer questions about the condition of waters across the country, EPA and its state and tribal partners have embarked on a series of surveys under the National Aquatic Resource Surveys (NARS) program. The draft NRSA 2008–2009 is the most recent in this series of surveys. The goals of the draft NRSA 2008–2009 are to:

- Generate scientifically valid and environmentally relevant information on the condition of the nation's river and stream resources.
- Identify key stressors to river and stream health and explore their relative importance.
- Establish baseline information for future trends assessment.

Using a statistical survey design, sites were selected at random to represent the condition of the larger population of rivers and streams across the lower 48 states, from the largest “great rivers” to the smallest headwater streams. 1,924 sites were sampled.

The draft NRSA finds that 55% of the nation’s river and stream miles do not support healthy biological communities when compared to least disturbed sites in similar ecological regions. Fair conditions are found in 23% of river and stream miles, while 21% are in good condition and support healthy aquatic communities. Of the stressors that were examined, phosphorus and nitrogen are the most widespread. Biological communities are at increased risk for poor condition when phosphorus and nitrogen levels are high. This is the first time a national monitoring study of the overall condition of rivers and streams has been conducted using a statistically-valid random sample approach.

The draft report has undergone State and EPA review. EPA, through this public review, is seeking comment on the information contained in the draft report, the reasonableness of the conclusions, and the clarity with which the information is presented. You may view and download the draft report from EPA’s Web site at http://water.epa.gov/type/rsl/monitoring/riderssurvey/index.cfm.

Dated: March 14, 2013.

Nancy K. Stoner,
Acting Assistant Administrator for 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. 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 April 19, 2013.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (Colette A. Fried, Assistant Vice President) 230 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60690–1414:

1. Minier Financial, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan with 401(k) Provisions, Minier, Illinois, to acquire additional voting shares, for a total of up to 51 percent, of Minier Financial, Inc., and thereby indirectly acquire voting shares of First Farmers State Bank, both of Minier, Illinois.


Michael J. Lewandowski,
Assistant Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 2013–06675 Filed 3–22–13; 8:45 am]