sale of gasoline would become significantly more concentrated as a result of the merger, and the relatively small number of remaining wholesalers could tacitly or expressly coordinate price increases. Postmerger concentration, as measured by the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index, would increase by more than 100 points, to levels above 1,400 in five markets and to levels above 1,800 in the remaining markets. In each of the gasoline markets alleged in the complaint, BP and Amoco, and three other firms, would have at least 70% of the wholesale gasoline market.

According to the complaint, entry into the wholesale sale of gasoline in each of these markets is difficult and would not be timely, likely or sufficient to prevent anticompetitive effects that may result from this merger.

IV. Terms of the Agreement Containing Consent Order (''the Proposed Consent Order'')

The proposed consent order will remedy the Commission's competitive concerns about the proposed acquisition. Under Paragraph II of the proposed consent order, the proposed Respondents must divest the Amoco terminal serving each of the nine relevant terminal markets to Williams Energy Ventures, Inc., a subsidiary of The Williams Companies (''Williams''), or to another acquirer approved by the Commission. Williams is a major energy company with substantial experience in operating terminals.

The Commission's goal is evaluating possible purchasers of divested assets is to maintain the competitive environment that existed prior to the acquisition. A proposed buyer must not itself present competitive problems. The Commission believes that Williams is well qualified to operate the divested terminals and that divestiture to Williams will not be anticompetitive in these markets.

The proposed consent order requires that the divestitures occur not later than ten days after the BP/Amoco merger is consummated, or thirty days after the consent agreement is signed, whichever is later. The proposed consent agreement also requires respondents to rescind the transaction with Williams if the Commission, after the comment period, decides to reject Williams as the buyer. If the Williams agreement is rescinded, then respondents are required to divest the terminals within six months from the date the order becomes final, at no minimum price, to an acquirer that receives the prior approval of the Commission and only in a manner that receives the prior approval of the Commission. If respondents have not divested the terminals pursuant to Paragraph II of the order, then the Commission may appoint a trustee to divest the assets.

The proposed consent order obtains relief with respect to the wholesale sale of gasoline in two ways. First, in eight markets where either Amoco or BP (or both) own retail gasoline stations (Charleston, South Carolina; Charlotte, North Carolina; Columbia, South Carolina; Jackson, Tennessee; Memphis, Tennessee; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Savannah, Georgia; and Tallahassee, Florida), Paragraph III of the proposed order requires respondents to divest gasoline stations belonging to either Amoco or BP (as specified in the proposed order) to an acquirer approved by the Commission. These divestitures must be completed within six months of the date on which the parties signed the agreement containing consent order (December 29, 1998).

Second, in all 30 markets, including markets in which neither Amoco nor BP owns retail gasoline stations, Paragraph IV of the order requires Amoco and BP to give their wholesale customers (both jobbers and open dealers) the option of conceling their franchise and supply agreements with Amoco and BP, freeing them to switch their retail gasoline stations to other brands. In order to provide an incentive for these persons to switch to other brands, the order provides that wholesale customers who take advantage of this provision will be released from all debts, loans, obligations and other responsibilities under their agreements with Amoco and BP (other than for fuels actually delivered and other specified debts scheduled by the respondents), if they agree to stop selling Amoco and BP gasoline in the market and not sell any other brand that has more than 20% of the market. The proposed order requires that BP and Amoco provide notice to their wholesale customers upon the Commission's final acceptance of the proposed order (should the Commission do so after the public comment period), and allows these customers thirty days to exercise this option. Should a wholesale customer choose to terminate its relationship with BP or Amoco under the terms of the proposed order, BP and Amoco will not solicit that customer as a re seller of branded gasoline for two years thereafter.

In addition, Paragraph V of the order requires that unless gasoline sellers representing a specified volume of sales to Toledo and Youngstown, Ohio agree to switch to other brands, then respondents must divest retail gasoline stations with an equivalent volume of sales to an acquirer acceptable to the Commission.

For a period of ten years from the date the proposed consent order becomes final, the proposed Respondents are required to provide notice to the Commission prior to acquiring terminal assets or gasoline stations located in the markets at issues.

The proposed Respondents are required to provide to the Commission a report of compliance with the proposed consent order within thirty days following the date on which the order becomes final, every thirty days thereafter until the divestitures are completed, and annually for a period of ten years.

V. Opportunity for Public Comment

The proposed consent order has been placed on the public record for sixty days for receipt of comments by interested persons. Comments received during this period will become part of the public record. After sixty days, the Commission will again review the agreement and the comments received and will decide whether it should withdraw from the agreement or make the proposed consent order final.

By accepting the proposed consent order subject to final approval, the Commission anticipates that the competitive problems alleged in the compliant will be resolved. The purpose of this analysis is to invite public comment on the proposed consent order, including the proposed sale of terminal assets to Williams, in order to aid the Commission in its determination of whether to make the proposed consent order final. This analysis is not intended to constitute an official interpretation of the proposed consent order, nor is it intended to modify the terms of the proposed consent order in any way.

By direction of the Commission.

Benjamin I. Berman,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99–197 Filed 1–5–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750–01–M

GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

Joint Financial Management Improvement Program (JFMIP)—Federal Financial Management System Requirements (FFMIA)

[Document No. JFMIP–SR–98–6]

AGENCY: Joint Financial Management Improvement Program (JFMIP).

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The JFMIP is seeking public comment on an exposure draft titled,

''Direct Loan System Requirements,'' dated December 14, 1998. The draft is being issued to update a December 1993 document. The draft incorporates: (1) statutory and regulatory changes; (2) technological changes; and (3) JFMIP documentation changes. The document is designed to provide financial managers with Governmentwide mandatory requirements for financial systems in order to process and record financial events effectively and efficiently, and to provide complete, timely, reliable, and consistent information for decision makers and the public.

DATES: Comments are due by February 26, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the exposure draft have been mailed to Agency Senior Financial Officials and are available on the JFMIP website: http://www.financenet.gov/financenet/fed/jfmip/jfmipexp.htm.

Comments should be addressed to JFMIP, 441 G Street NW., Room 3111, Washington, DC 20548.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dennis Mitchell, 202–512–5994 or via Internet: mitchelld.jfmip@gao.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Financial Management Improvement Act (FFMIA) of 1996 mandated that agencies implement and maintain systems that comply substantially with Federal financial management systems requirements, applicable Federal accounting standards, and the U.S. Government Standard General Ledger at the transaction level. The FFMIA statute codified the JFMIP financial systems requirements documents as a key benchmark that agency systems must meet in order to be substantially in compliance with systems requirements provisions under FFMIA. To support the requirements outlined in the FFMIA, we are updating requirements documents that are obsolete and publishing additional requirements documents.

Comments received will be reviewed and the exposure draft will be revised as necessary. Publication of the final requirements will be mailed to agency senior financial officials and will be available on the JFMIP website.

Karen Cleary Alderman,

Executive Director, Joint Financial Management Improvement Program.

[FR Doc. 99–158 Filed 1–5–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 1610–02–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

Notice of a Cooperative Agreement With Meharry Medical College

The Office of Minority Health (OMH), Office of Public Health and Science, announces that it will enter into an umbrella cooperative agreement with Meharry Medical College. This cooperative agreement is an umbrella cooperative agreement and will establish the broad programmatic framework in which specific projects can be supported by various agencies during the project period.

The purpose of this cooperative agreement is to strengthen the nation's capacity to prepare health professionals from disadvantaged backgrounds to serve minority populations and to develop a national model for improving health care delivery to indigent and underserved citizens. The ultimate goal is to improve the health status of minorities and disadvantaged people.

Authorizing Legislation

This cooperative agreement is authorized under section 1807(e)(1) of the Public Health Service Act, as amended.

Background

Assistance will be provided only to Meharry Medical College to accomplish the objectives of this cooperative agreement because it has the following combination of factors:

1. Meharry Medical College is the largest private, historically black institution exclusively dedicated to educating health care professionals and biomedical scientists in the United States.
2. Meharry Medical College has historically trained a significant number of African American physicians and dentists in the United States. Currently, 15 percent of those practicing are Meharry graduates. Since 1970, Meharry has awarded more than 10 percent of the Ph.D's in biomedical sciences received by African Americans.
3. The Majority of Meharry's graduates practice in medically underserved rural and inner city areas.
4. Meharry, a private academic health center, has forged an agreement with a public hospital to establish a unique model for the efficient distribution of resources in delivering improved services for poor and indigent citizens.

This cooperative agreement will be awarded in FY 1999 for a 12-month budget period within a project period of five-years. Depending upon the types of projects and availability of funds, it is anticipated that this cooperative agreement will initially receive approximately $3,000,000. Continuation awards within the project period will be made on the basis of satisfactory progress and the availability of funds.

Under this cooperative agreement, OMH will:

1. Meet with Meharry Medical College representatives to discuss and approve work plans, including objectives, data integrity and confidentiality, evaluation techniques and budget items;
2. Provide guidance in critical areas, including but not limited to financing, accounting, and resources management.
3. Review and approve the development of managed care curricula and evaluation designs; and
4. Review and approve the implementation and dissemination of relevant project findings, final reports prior to dissemination to public and private parties.

Meharry will:

1. Devote its best effort to improving the administration and financing of Meharry Medical College;
2. Develop a plan to integrate residents of other area health professions institutions into the surgery, OB/GYN and pediatric services of Metropolitan Nashville General Hospital at the Meharry campus with the expressed intent of enhancing health service and education of undergraduate medical students;
3. Develop a plan to create a collaborative relationship between Meharry's family medicine program and other local higher education institutions to expand family practice activity throughout middle Tennessee;
4. Continue to develop an integrated services network between Meharry's faculty practice plan and other local area health delivery systems;
5. Carry out plans to improve the quality and quantity of its faculty; and
6. Work closely and cooperatively with the consultants and technical assistance supported or provided by HHS.

Where To Obtain Additional Information

If you are interested in obtaining additional information regarding this project, contact Ms. Mimi Chafin, Division of Program Operations, Office of Minority Health, 5515 Security Lane, Suite 1000, Rockville, Maryland 20852 or telephone (301) 594–0769.

The Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance number is 93.004.