FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE BOARD

[No: 97–70]

Pilot Procedures and Pilot Proposal Initial Submission Guidelines

Whereas, the Federal Housing Finance Board (Finance Board) considers it appropriate to adopt a policy that provides procedures for processing and analyzing pilot programs proposed by the Federal Home Loan Banks;

Now therefore be it resolved that, the Finance Board hereby adopts the Pilot Procedures and Pilot Proposal Initial Submission Guidelines attached hereto.

Dated: November 12, 1997.

By the Board of Directors of the Federal Housing Finance Board.

Bruce A. Morrison,
Chairman.

The text of the Pilot Procedures and Pilot Proposal Initial Submission Guidelines follows:

Policy and Procedures For Pilot Proposals That Support Housing and Community Investment

Purpose: To establish procedures to be followed by staff of the Federal Housing Finance Board (Finance Board) in the processing and analysis of proposed Federal Home Loan Bank (Bank) pilot programs through which the Banks would make other investments that support housing and community development. These procedures shall apply also to the processing and analysis of proposed amendments to existing pilot programs. In establishing these procedures, it is the Finance Board’s intent that the pilot review process proceed in an efficient, expeditious fashion at all stages.

Introduction: The Federal Home Loan Bank Act (Bank Act) provides that certain assets of each Bank not required for advances to members, may be invested in certain specified securities and investments. The Finance Board has implemented the investment provisions of the Bank Act through its regulations and the Financial Management Policy (FMP). Under Section 934.1 of the Finance Board’s regulations and Section II.B.12 of the FMP, certain Bank investments that support housing and community development, and that are not specifically authorized under the FMP or otherwise, may be submitted to the Finance Board for approval. This policy establishes general procedures to be followed by Finance Board staff in reviewing pilot proposals or pilot amendment proposals (Proposal) for compliance with the statutory, regulatory, and FMP requirements.

References: 12 U.S.C. Sections 1431(g), 1431(h), and 1436(a); 12 CFR Section 934.1, of the Finance Board regulations; and Section II.B.12 of the FMP.

Procedures for Review of Proposals

I. Receipt of Proposal. Copies of a Proposal shall be distributed to Finance Board Directors and appropriate Finance Board staff.

II. Review of Proposal. The Office of Policy and the Office of General Counsel shall review the Proposal to ensure that it is complete and to determine whether there is evidence of a market for the proposal and whether it prima facie satisfies the FMP requirements (detailed below) and responds to the Finance Board's Pilot Proposal Submission Guidelines (Attachment).

III. FMP Requirements. Section II of the FMP specifies certain types of assets as permissible investments to the extent they are specifically authorized under 12 U.S.C. 1431(g), 1431(h), or 1436(a), or to the extent a Bank has determined that they are securities in which fiduciary or trust funds may be invested under the laws of the State in which the Bank is located. Other investments that support housing and community development are permitted, provided that the Bank:

A. Ensures the appropriate levels of expertise, establishes policies, procedures, and controls, and provides for any reserves required to effectively limit and manage risk exposure and preserve the Bank’s and the Federal Home Loan Bank System’s triple-A rating;

B. Ensures that the Bank’s involvement in such investment activity assists in providing housing and community development financing that is not generally available, or that is available at lower levels or under less attractive terms;

C. Ensures that such investment activity promotes (or at the very least, does not detract from) the cooperative nature of the System;

D. Provides a complete description of the contemplated investment activity (including a comprehensive analysis of how the above three requirements are fulfilled) to the Finance Board; and

E. Receives written confirmation from the Finance Board, prior to entering into such investments, that the above investment eligibility standards and requirements have been satisfied.

IV. The Office of Policy and the Office of General Counsel shall identify any policy or legal issues or questions, identify and discuss with the Office of Supervision the management of any potential risks involved in the Proposal, discuss the Proposal with other staff as...
necessary, call Bank personnel to clarify any uncertain or unclear aspects, and discuss issues or questions with the Director of the Office of Policy and the General Counsel, as appropriate.

V. If the Office of Policy and the Office of General Counsel deem the Proposal incomplete, staff shall contact the Bank and afford Bank officials the opportunity to submit the necessary additional information.

VI. If the Proposal is deemed complete by the Office of Policy and the Office of General Counsel but is not believed to meet the requirements of the FMP, the Director of the Office of Policy shall notify the Bank, either formally or informally, and afford the Bank the opportunity either to withdraw, modify, or insist upon the Proposal, as structured, being published for comment.

VII. If the Office of Policy and the Office of General Counsel determine that the Proposal is complete and appears to address the requirements of the FMP and all issues or questions are satisfactorily resolved, the Office of Policy and the Office of General Counsel shall draft a Notice for publication in the Federal Register. The Notice shall be a summary of the Proposal that is sufficiently detailed to allow meaningful comments from interested parties through a comment period. However, it need not contain the staff’s analysis of whether or how the proposal meets the FMP requirements. Publication of a Notice does not imply any level of approval or support of the Proposal by the Finance Board. The Board of Directors of the Finance Board will not review and render a decision on the Proposal until after public comments received on the Proposal are reviewed and analyzed by staff, as is discussed below.

VIII. Prior to publication, the Office of Policy shall provide the Bank a copy of the section of the Notice that describes the Proposal and solicit the Bank’s comments on the accuracy and completeness of the section.

IX. The Notice must be approved by the Director of the Office of Policy and the Office of General Counsel, with copies provided to the Directors of the Office of Supervision and the Office of Public Affairs, prior to going to the Executive Secretariat and then to the Managing Director for signature.

X. After publication of the Notice in the Federal Register, the Office of Policy and the Office of General Counsel shall respond to calls from the general public concerning the Proposal. The Office of Policy may answer questions about the program but requests for written information should be referred to the Office of General Counsel.

XI. The Office of Policy and the Office of General Counsel shall analyze comments received and discuss them with other Finance Board staff as necessary.

XII. To the extent necessary and appropriate, the Office of Policy or the Office of General Counsel shall contact the Bank and request a response to the issues or questions raised by commenters.

XIII. Following publication of the Notice, the Bank shall submit to the Finance Board proposed policies and procedures to address risks inherent in its proposed pilot program (e.g., credit risk, market risk, interest rate risk, and other risks).

XIV. Prior to Finance Board consideration, the Office of Policy and the Office of General Counsel shall review the proposed policies and procedures submitted by the Bank; the Bank’s identification of, and plans for, managing risk; and the adequacy of expertise and number of staff planned by the Bank for its proposed pilot program. If necessary, staff may request additional information, clarification, etc.

XV. Following review and analysis of the Proposal, public comments received, and the above three factors, the Office of Policy and the Office of General Counsel, in consultation with the Office of Supervision, shall make a determination as to whether to recommend approval or disapproval to the Board of Directors of the Finance Board. The following shall result from this determination:

A. A briefing shall be held for Finance Board Directors regarding the Proposal and staff’s recommendation.

B. A Board package shall be prepared for the Proposal and include the staff’s recommendation and a summary of public comments.

C. Finance Board staff shall present the Proposal and their recommendation to the Board of Directors of the Finance Board.

XVI. The Board of Directors of the Finance Board will take action on the Proposal. If approved, the Board resolution approving the Proposal shall indicate that the approval is subject to the pilot program passing a safety and soundness examination conducted by the Office of Supervision.

XVII. The Office of Policy shall prepare a letter for signature by the Chairman or Managing Director to inform the Bank of the Finance Board’s decision on the Proposal.

XVIII. If the Board of Directors has approved the Proposal, program implementation shall be contingent upon confirmation by the Office of Supervision that the appropriate program policies, procedures, and controls have been implemented by the FHLBank.

Pilot Proposal Initial Submission Guidelines

The following criteria should be addressed and included in a Bank’s pilot proposal or pilot amendment proposal (Proposal) submitted to the Finance Board for approval:

1. Board Resolution: A resolution from the Bank’s board of directors approving the Proposal and authorizing its submission to the Finance Board.

2. Description of Proposal: A complete description and discussion of the Proposal, including each of the following:
   a. Overall goals and objectives
   b. Pilot size and basis for determination
   c. Pilot operations
   d. Profitability goals and timeline
   e. The marketplace: Potential competitors (size, sophistication, typical staffing, expertise, etc.) typical margins, historical loss experience, and whether marketplace is expanding or contracting and why
   f. Discuss which components of the program the Bank will have to create, hire, etc. This could include personnel, management, policies, procedures, hardware, software, facilities, etc.
   g. How the Proposal would benefit membership
   h. Expected benefits for the end user of the pilot product
   i. Identification and management of potential risks
   j. Explanation/basis for loan loss or risk reserves anticipated

3. Compliance Authorization Criteria: Explanation of how the Proposal meets the requirements of Section II B.12 of the Finance Board’s Financial Management Policy. Please provide specific responses for each subpart. This should also include a legal opinion that the proposed activity may be legally authorized by the Finance Board.

4. Pilot Documentation, Support and Reporting: Discussion of anticipated program documentation, support, and reporting, including each of the following:
   a. Evidence of a market for the pilot product. This could include letters of support from anticipated participants, market surveys, etc., and should include anticipated participants’ estimates of the dollar volume of their participation within the first three years of the program.
   b. Examples of required documentation between the Bank, members, and other related counterparties, as well as any legal agreements drafted for the pilot.
c. The management structure for operating the pilot program. Identify the management, staff, and directors who will be assigned to oversee and operate the pilot and discuss their expertise. Their resumes should be included with the Proposal. Discuss what additional personnel will need to be hired.

d. A listing, description, and examples of management reports necessary to adequately monitor ongoing pilot activities.

5. Measurement of Pilot Success: A discussion of criteria the Bank intends to utilize to measure the success of the program, such as:

a. When the Bank anticipates reviewing the program and making a decision on whether to seek permanent or other status for the pilot.

b. The existence of a sunset provision.

c. The factors or conditions that might trigger a decision to terminate the pilot.

[Fed. Reg. 97-10964 Filed 11-25-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6725-01-P

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

Notice of Agreement(s) Filed

The Commission hereby gives notice of the filing of the following agreement(s) under the Shipping Act of 1984.

Interested parties may review or obtain copies of agreements at the Washington, DC offices of the Commission, 800 North Capitol Street, N.W., Room 692. Interested parties may submit comments on an agreement to the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, Washington, DC 20573, by December 8, 1997.

Agreement No.: 202-008900-063.
Title: The “8900” Lines Agreement.

Parties:
The National Shipping Company of Saudi Arabia
United Arab Shipping Company (S.A.G.)
DSR-Senator Lines
A.P. Moller-Maersk Line
Sea-Land Service, Inc.
P&O Nedlloyd Limited


[Fed. Reg. 97-30978 Filed 11-25-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6730-01-M

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

Notice of Filing of Complaint and Assignment

Notice is given that a complaint filed by Bermuda Container Line Ltd. (“BCL”), against Respondents SHG International Sales Inc. (“SHG”), FX Coughlin Co. (“Coughlin”), and Clark Building Systems, Inc. (“Clark”) was served November 20, 1997.

Complainant alleges that (1) SHG violated sections 8 and 23 or, alternatively, section 19, and section 10(a)(1) of the Shipping Act of 1984 (“the Act”), 46 U.S.C. app. §§ 1707 and 1721 or 1718, and 1709(a)(1), by failing to file a non-vessel operating common carrier (“NVO”) tariff or bond or performing freight forwarding services without a forwarder license, and by concealing the identity of the shipper with respect to a shipment from Clark, PA to Bermuda, entering into a credit agreement with no intention of paying the freight and misrepresenting itself as the shipper; (2) Respondent Coughlin violated section 19 of the Act and 46 CFR §§ 510.21(c), (e) and (f), by falsely certifying that it had processed the shipment’s Bill of Lading (“BL”) when it knew or should have known that the BLs designated shipper (SHG) could not be a shipper, seeking a commission from Complainant by misrepresentation and permitting SHG to use Coughlin’s forwarding license; and (3) Respondent Clark violated section 10(a)(1) of the Act by delivering cargo to Complainant when it knew or should have known that SHG had no tariff or NVO bond on file with the Commission and failing to inform Complainant of the facts or to pay the shipment’s freight.

Pursuant to the further terms of 46 CFR 502.61, the initial decision of the presiding officer in this proceeding shall be issued by November 20, 1998, and the final decision of the Commission shall be issued by March 22, 1999.

Joseph C. Polking,
Secretary.

[Fed. Reg. 97-31032 Filed 11-25-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6730-01-M

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Change in Bank Control Notices; Acquisitions of Shares of Banks or Bank Holding Companies

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 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 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 December 10, 1997.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City (D. Michael Manies, Assistant Vice President) 925 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri 64198-0001:

1. Wallace Company, Limited Partnership, Cheyenne, Wyoming; to