

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 October 8, 1998.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (JoAnne F. Lewellen, Assistant Vice President) 90 Hennepin Avenue, P.O. Box 291, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55480-0291:

1. *Lake Bank Shares, Inc., Employee Stock Ownership Plan*, Albert Lea, Minnesota; to become a bank holding company by acquiring 96 percent of the voting shares of Lake Bank Shares, Inc., Albert Lea, Minnesota, and thereby indirectly acquire Security Bank Minnesota, Albert Lea, Minnesota, and First State Bank of Emmons, Emmons, Minnesota.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, September 8, 1998.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 98-24490 Filed 9-10-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-F

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

TIME AND DATE: 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 16, 1998.

PLACE: Marriner S. Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building, 20th and C Streets, NW., Washington, DC 20551.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: 1. Personnel actions (appointments, promotions, assignments, reassignments, and salary actions) involving individual Federal Reserve System employees. 2. Any matters carried forward from a previously announced meeting.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Lynn S. Fox, Assistant to the Board; 202-452-3204.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: You may call 202-452-3206 beginning at approximately 5 p.m. two business days before the meeting for a recorded announcement of bank and bank holding company applications scheduled for the meeting; or you may contact the Board's Web site at <http://www.bog.frb.fed.us> for an electronic announcement that not only lists applications, but also indicates procedural and other information about the meeting.

Dated: September 9, 1998.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 98-24546 Filed 9-9-98; 11:00 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-M

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Electronic Posting System

AGENCY: General Services Administration.

ACTION: Notice of electronic posting of business opportunities and solicitations.

SUMMARY: GSA is implementing a single, agency-wide electronic system for soliciting quotations, bids, and proposals. The Electronic Posting System (EPS) will replace existing GSA systems with duplicate functionality. This system will reduce the costs and improve the efficiency of the acquisition process.

The EPS is a World Wide Web-based application that provides an interface with the Commerce Business Daily Net for creating synopses and permits uploading of solicitation files. The EPS also provides vendors access to agency business opportunities and allows them to register to receive e-mail notification of opportunities in their area of interest.

Beginning October 1, 1998, the General Services Administration (GSA) will issue written solicitations in electronic format through our Electronic Posting System (EPS). These solicitations will be available on the Internet at: <http://eps.arnet.gov>. The same site contains information describing the EPS and how to register to receive automatic notices of acquisitions.

GSA will provide paper copies of solicitations (and attachments) only when we do not anticipate adequate competition for an acquisition if the solicitation is only made available electronically; when documents are not available electronically; or when release of drawings, exhibits or other attachments must be controlled to ensure adequate security. The related synopsis will explain if the solicitation (and its attachments) is available only electronically.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gloria Sochon, GSA Acquisition Policy Division, (202) 208-6726 or gloria.sochon@gsa.gov.

Dated: September 3, 1998.

Ida M. Ustad,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy.

[FR Doc. 98-24410 Filed 9-10-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820-61-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 93N-0253]

Mark Perkal; Grant of Special Termination; Final Order Terminating Debarment

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is issuing an order under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the act) granting special termination of the debarment of Mark Perkal, Israel. FDA bases this order on a finding that Dr. Perkal provided substantial assistance in the investigations or prosecutions of offenses relating to a matter under FDA's jurisdiction and that special termination of Dr. Perkal's debarment serves the interest of justice and does not threaten the integrity of the drug approval process.

EFFECTIVE DATE: SEPTEMBER 11, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments should reference Docket No. 93N-0253 and be sent to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Leanne Cusumano, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (HFD-7), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-594-2041.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

In a **Federal Register** notice dated November 29, 1993 (58 FR 62676), Mark Perkal, the former Executive Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer of PharmaKinetics Laboratories, Inc., was permanently debarred from providing services in any capacity to a person with an approved or pending drug product application (21 U.S.C. 335a(c)(1)(B) and (c)(2)(A)(ii) and 21 U.S.C. 321(dd)). The debarment was based on FDA's finding that Dr. Perkal was convicted of a felony under Federal law for conduct relating to the development or approval of any drug product, or otherwise relating to the regulation of a drug product (21 U.S.C. 335a(a)(2)). On April 14, 1995, Dr. Perkal applied for special termination of debarment under section 306(d)(4) of the act (21 U.S.C. 335a(d)(4)), as amended by the Generic Drug Enforcement Act (GDEA).

Under section 306(d)(4)(C) and (d)(4)(D) of the act, FDA may limit the period of debarment of a permanently

debarred individual if the agency finds that: (1) The debarred individual has provided substantial assistance in the investigation or prosecution of offenses described in subsections (a) or (b) of section 306 of the act or relating to a matter under FDA's jurisdiction; (2) termination of the debarment serves the interest of justice; and (3) termination of the debarment does not threaten the integrity of the drug approval process. Special termination of debarment is discretionary with FDA.

FDA considers a determination by the Department of Justice concerning the substantial assistance of a debarred individual conclusive in most cases. Dr. Perkal cooperated with the Department of Justice investigations and prosecutions of others, as substantiated by the testimony of the Assistant U.S. Attorney at Dr. Perkal's sentencing. Accordingly, FDA finds that Dr. Perkal provided substantial assistance as required by section 306(d)(4)(C) of the act.

The additional requisite showings that termination of debarment serves the interest of justice and poses no threat to the integrity of the drug approval process are difficult standards to satisfy. In determining whether these have been met, the agency weighs the significance of all favorable and unfavorable factors in light of the remedial, public health-related purposes underlying debarment. Termination of debarment will not be granted unless, weighing all favorable and unfavorable information, there is a high level of assurance that the conduct that formed the basis for the debarment has not recurred and will not recur, and that the individual will not otherwise pose a threat to the integrity of the drug approval process.

The evidence presented to FDA in support of termination shows that Dr. Perkal was convicted for a first offense; that he has no prior or subsequent convictions for conduct described under the GDEA and has committed no other wrongful acts affecting the drug approval process; and that his character and scientific ability are highly regarded by his professional peers. The evidence presented supports the conclusion that the conduct upon which Dr. Perkal's debarment was based is unlikely to recur. For these reasons, the agency finds that termination of Dr. Perkal's debarment serves the interest of justice and will not pose a threat to the integrity of the drug approval process.

Under section 306(d)(4)(D) of the act, the period of debarment of an individual who qualifies for special termination may be limited to less than permanent but to no less than 1 year. Dr. Perkal's period of debarment has lasted

more than 1 year. Accordingly, the Deputy Commissioner for Operations, under section 306(d)(4) of the act and under authority delegated to him (21 CFR 5.20), finds that Mark Perkal's application for special termination of debarment should be granted, and that the period of debarment should terminate immediately, thereby allowing him to provide services in any capacity to a person with an approved or pending drug product application. The Deputy Commissioner for Operations further finds that because the agency is granting Dr. Perkal's application, an informal hearing under section 306(d)(4)(C) of the act is unnecessary.

As a result of the foregoing findings, Dr. Mark Perkal's debarment is terminated effective September 11, 1998 (21 U.S.C. 335a(d)(4)(C) and (d)(4)(D)).

Dated: September 2, 1998.

Michael A. Friedman,

Deputy Commissioner for Operations.

[FR Doc. 98-24375 Filed 9-10-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-F

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration

[Document Identifier: HCFA-R-0050 and HCFA-1515/1572]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Health Care Financing Administration, HHS.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), Department of Health and Human Services, is publishing the following summary of proposed collections for public comment. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

1. *Type of Information Collection Request:* Extension of a currently

approved collection; *Title of Information Collection:* Medical Records Review Under PPS and Supporting Regulations in 42 CFR 412.40-412.52; *Form No.:* HCFA-R-0050 (OMB# 0938-0359); *Use:* Peer Review Organizations (PRO) are authorized to conduct medical review activities under the Prospective Payment System (PPS). In order to conduct the medical review activities we depend upon hospitals to make available medical records. PROs ensure that admissions are medically necessary, provided in the appropriate setting, and that they meet acceptable standards of quality.; *Frequency:* When records are reviewed; *Affected Public:* Business or other for profit; *Number of Respondents:* 6,412; *Total Annual Responses:* 746,681; *Total Annual Hours:* 27,096.

2. *Type of Information Collection Request:* Extension of a currently approved collection; *Title of Information Collection:* Home Health Agency Survey and Deficiencies Report, Home Health Functional Assessment Instrument and Supporting Regulations in 42 CFR Part 484-1-484.52; *Form No.:* HCFA-1515/1572 (OMB#0938-0355); *Use:* In order to participate in the Medicare program as a Home Health Agency (HHA) provider, the HHA must meet Federal Standards. These forms are used to record information about patients' health and provider compliance with requirements.; *Frequency:* Annually; *Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit, Not-for-profit institutions; *Number of Respondents:* 9,942; *Total Annual Responses:* 19,884; *Total Annual Hours:* 19,884.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access HCFA's Web Site address at <http://www.hcfa.gov/regs/prdact95.htm>, or E-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and HCFA document identifier, to Paperwork@hcfa.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be mailed within 60 days of this notice directly to the HCFA Paperwork Clearance Officer designated at the following address: HCFA, Office of Information Services, Security and Standards Group, Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards, Attention: Louis Blank, Room N2-14-26, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850