

purpose of the copy tests will be to examine whether alternative disclosures can improve consumer understanding of mortgage terms and help to reduce potential deception about mortgage offers. The findings from the focus groups and interviews will be used in developing the alternative disclosures used in the copy tests.

All information will be collected on a voluntary basis and consumers will receive usual and customary compensation for their participation. For the qualitative research the FTC has contracted with a consumer research firm to locate eligible borrowers, recruit respondents, moderate the focus groups, conduct the interviews, and write a report of the findings. For the quantitative research the FTC has also contracted with a consumer research firm to locate eligible borrowers and recruit respondents as well as to conduct the copy tests and write a brief methodological report. The results will assist the FTC in determining how required disclosures and other information affects consumers' ability to understand the cost and features of mortgages. This understanding will further the FTC's mission of protecting consumers and competition in this important market.

## 2. Estimated Hours Burden

### Qualitative Research

The contractor will recruit 12 consumers for each focus group, with the expectation that each group will be comprised of 8–10 participants. Each focus group will take two hours. Thus, the focus group research will impose a

burden of up to 40 hours (2 groups  $\times$  10 participants per group  $\times$  2 hours per participant). Approximately 36-one-hour long, in-depth interviews will be conducted. If all respondents are single decision makers, this would amount to a 36-hour burden. However, some of the interviews may include couples. Assuming that half of the interviews include couples (the upper bound offered by the contractor), the hours burden for the in-depth interviews would increase to 54 hours ((18  $\times$  2 hours) + (18  $\times$  1 hour)). The cumulative burden for the qualitative research will range from 76 hours to 94 hours.

### Quantitative Research

Approximately 800 consumers who engaged in a mortgage transaction during the previous year will participate in the quantitative phase of the research. Each copy test interview will take roughly 20–30 minutes. The estimated hours burden for the quantitative research ranges from 267 hours (800 respondents  $\times$   $\frac{1}{3}$  hour per respondent) to 400 hours (800 respondents  $\times$   $\frac{1}{2}$  hour per respondent).

### Total

The total estimated hours burden for both phases of the study ranges from 343 hours (76 hours + 267 hours) to 494 hours (94 hours + 400 hours).

## 3. Estimated Cost Burden

Participants will be compensated financially for their participation, as recommended and budgeted for by the contractor. Participation is voluntary and will not require start-up, capital, or labor expenditures by respondents.

By direction of the Commission.

**C. Landis Plummer,**

*Acting Secretary.*

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## FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

### Granting of Request for Early Termination of the Waiting Period Under the Premerger Notification Rules

Section 7A of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. 18a, as added by Title II of the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, requires persons contemplating certain mergers or acquisitions to give the Federal Trade Commission and the Assistant Attorney General advance notice and to wait designated periods before consummation of such plans. Section 7A(b)(2) of the Act permits the agencies, in individual cases, to terminate this waiting period prior to its expiration and requires that notice of this action be published in the **Federal Register**.

The following transactions were granted early termination of the waiting period provided by law and the premerger notification rules. The grants were made by the Federal Trade Commission and the Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice. Neither agency intends to take any action with respect to these proposed acquisitions during the applicable waiting period.

Trans #	Acquiring	Acquired	Entities
<b>Transactions Granted Early Termination—03/24/2003</b>			
20030458 .....	Fiserv, Inc .....	Bruce Christensen .....	Precision Computer Systems, Inc.
20030462 .....	General Atlantic Partners 76, L.P .....	SSA Investor, LLC .....	SSA Global Technologies, Inc.
20030469 .....	Coöperatieve Centrale Raiffeisen-Boerenleenbank B.A.	Southeast Timber, Inc .....	Southeast Timber, Inc.
20030470 .....	International Paper Company .....	Southeast Timber, Inc .....	Southeast Timber, Inc.
<b>Transactions Granted Early Termination—03/25/2003</b>			
20030421 .....	Johnson & Johnson .....	Grunenthal Pharma GmbH & Co. KG ....	Grunenthal GmbH.
20030448 .....	Philadelphia Suburban Corporation .....	DQE, Inc .....	AcquaSource Development Company. Aqua Source Operations, Inc. AcquaSource Utility, Inc. The Reynolds Group, Inc.
<b>Transactions Granted Early Termination—03/26/2003</b>			
20021081 .....	A. Jerrold Perenchio .....	Hispanic Broadcasting Corporation .....	Hispanic Broadcasting Corporation. Univision Communications, Inc.
20030419 .....	Behrman Capital III, L.P .....	ILC Industries, Inc .....	ILC Industries, Inc.
20030457 .....	Artal Group S.A .....	Florine Mark .....	The WW Group, Inc.