



Comptroller of the Currency
Administrator of National Banks

Central District Office

October 6, 2008

CRA Decision #144
October 2009

Rhonda L. Mears
Peoples Bank, National Association
138 Putnam St., P.O. Box 738
Marietta, OH 45750

Subject: Branch Application by Peoples Bank, National Association
CAIS Control Number: 2008-CE-05-0181

Dear Ms. Mears:

The Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) approves your application to establish a branch at 905 Zane Street, Zanesville, OH 43701. This approval is based on a thorough review of all information available, including the representations and commitments made in the application and by the bank's representatives. This letter also serves as authorization for the bank to establish Branch No. 143438A at the above-noted address.

Public Comments

The OCC received one comment letter from North Valley Bank (NVB), Zanesville, OH and its parent, North Valley Bancorp, Inc. The letter requests a public hearing or private meeting in regards to NVB's pending litigation against Mr. Carl Raines, the former President and Chief Executive Officer, and former board member of the Board of Directors, of NVB. The lawsuit alleges inappropriate conduct by Mr. Raines while employed by NVB and after, as an employee of Peoples Bank, N.A. The OCC has reviewed the issues raised by NVB and has determined that they are not relevant to the principles that guide the OCC in deciding whether to approve the branch application.

Request for a Public Hearing

North Valley Bank requested that the OCC conduct a public hearing or hold a private meeting. The general standard the OCC applies to determine whether to hold a public hearing is contained in 12 C.F.R. § 5.11(b), which provides:

The OCC generally grants a hearing request only if the OCC determines that written submissions would be insufficient or that a hearing would otherwise benefit the decision-making process. The OCC also may order a hearing if it concludes that a hearing would be in the public interest.

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After careful consideration, the OCC determined not to hold a public hearing or a private meeting. The OCC is not aware of any reason why written submissions would be insufficient or that a hearing would otherwise benefit the decision making process or be in the public interest.

In sum, our review of the record of the application, including the materials submitted with the application, public comment, responses to the public comment, representations of the applicant, and our review of supervisory materials, has not revealed any information inconsistent with approval.

If the branch is not opened within 18 months from this approval date, the approval automatically terminates unless the OCC grants an extension.

Within 10 days after opening, the bank must advise this office of the branch's opening date, so the OCC may complete its records. Reference the CAIS control number in your letter.

If this branch is closed, a 90-day advance notice of proposed branch closing must be submitted to the OCC pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1831r-1. Following the closing of the branch office, a final closing notice should be submitted to this office.

This approval and the activities and communications by OCC employees in connection with the filing do not constitute a contract, express or implied, or any other obligation binding upon the OCC, the United States, any agency or entity of the United States, or any officer or employee of the United States, and do not affect the ability of the OCC to exercise its supervisory, regulatory and examination authorities under applicable laws and regulations. The foregoing may not be waived or modified by any employee or agent of the OCC or the United States.

If you have any questions, contact Carolina Ledesma by e-mail at Carolina.ledesma@occ.treas.gov or by telephone at (312) 360-8881.

Sincerely,

signed

Travis W. Wilbert
Director for District Licensing
National Bank Examiner