

Comptroller of the Currency Administrator of National Banks

Washington, D.C. 20219

Corporate Decision #99-21 August 1999

DECISION OF THE COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY ON THE APPLICATION OF FIRST NATIONAL BANK, ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO PURCHASE CERTAIN ASSETS AND ASSUME CERTAIN LIABILITIES (THE HARDEEVILLE AND RIDGELAND, SOUTH CAROLINA BRANCHES) OF CAROLINA FIRST BANK, GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA UNDER THE TITLE AND CHARTER OF FIRST NATIONAL BANK, ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA.

DECISION

Introduction

On June 17, 1999, application was made to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency for prior authorization for First National Bank, Orangeburg, South Carolina (hereinafter, FNB) to purchase certain assets and assume certain liabilities (the Hardeeville and Ridgeland, South Carolina branches) of Carolina First Bank, Greenville, South Carolina (hereinafter, CFB). This application was based on an agreement finalized between the proponents on March 23, 1999.

The Financial Institutions Involved

As of March 31, 1999, FNB, a BIF-insured, national bank, had total deposits of \$465.7 million. As of the same date, the two offices of CFB, a BIF-insured, state bank subject to the agreement had total deposits of \$33.5 million. FNB is 100% owned and controlled by First National Corporation, Orangeburg, South Carolina.

Competitive Analysis

The OCC has reviewed the competitive effects of this proposal by using its standard procedures for determining whether a purchase and assumption clearly has minimal or no adverse competitive effects. The OCC finds that the proposal satisfies the Office's criteria for a purchase and assumption that clearly has no or minimal adverse competitive effects.

Banking Factors

The Bank Merger Act requires the OCC to consider "...the financial and managerial resources and future prospects of the existing and proposed institutions, and convenience and needs of the community to be served." We find that the financial and managerial resources of FNB and CFB do not raise concerns that would cause the application to be disapproved. The future prospects of the proponents, individually and combined, are considered favorable.

Convenience and Needs

This transaction affects the Beaufort/Jasper County Federal Reserve market. While the two branches being purchased are being closed, the close proximity of the existing FNB offices will not result in any customer inconvenience. FNB has a diverse line of products which will provide existing CFB customers access to a full range of banking services. FNB intends to make the transaction as transparent as possible to existing CFB customers through customer counseling and statement flyers explaining the transaction and services available. There were no public comments received relative to this transaction. It is expected that the resulting bank will meet the convenience and needs of the the communities to be served.

Community Reinvestment Act

A review of the record of this application and other information available to the OCC as a result of its regulatory responsibilities, revealed no evidence that the applicants' record of helping to meet the credit needs of their communities, including low-and moderate-income neighborhoods, is less than satisfactory.

Conclusion

We have analyzed this proposal pursuant to the Bank Merger Act (12 U.S.C. 1828(c)) and find that it will not significantly lessen competition in any relevant market. Other factors considered in evaluating this proposal are satisfactory. Accordingly, the application is approved.

/s/	07-29-99
Cheryl Martin	Dated
Acting Licensing Manager	

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