



January 3, 2008

Jennifer J. Johnson, Secretary  
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Robert E. Feldman, Executive Secretary  
Attention: Comments  
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Regulation Comments  
Chief Counsel's Office  
Office of Thrift Supervision  
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**RE: Community Reinvestment Act; Interagency Questions and Answers  
Regarding Community Reinvestment (Docket OP-1290-Federal Reserve; RIN 3064-  
AC97(FDIC); Docket ID OCC-2007-0012 (OCC); Docket ID OTS-2007-0030 (OTS) )**

Dear Ms. Johnson:

We would appreciate the opportunity to clarify remarks contained in a previous ~~comment~~ letter dated September 10, 2007. In connection with that letter, we would clarify Page 3 Section c) to read as follows:

- c) Also as to the substance, we would ask that you revise Section I of the "Proposed New Questions and Answers", which states:

*The agencies propose a new question and answer, §11.12(g)—4, that would give full effect to section 2903(b)'s broader geographic language. The proposed question and answer would state that activities engaged in by a majority-owned financial institution with a minority- or women-owned financial institution or a low-income credit union that benefit the local communities where the minority- or women-owned financial institution or low-income credit union is located will be favorably considered in the CRA performance evaluation of the majority-owned institution. The minority- or women-owned institution or low-income credit union need not be located in, and the activities need not benefit, the assessment area(s) of the majority-owned institution or the broader statewide or regional area that includes its assessment area(s).*

We would recommend that the qualifying language that reads "...that benefit the local communities where the minority- or women-owned financial institution or low-income credit union is located" be stricken, as it appears to require that majority banks obtain some type of proof (presumably a certificate or similar document) that their involvement with the minority bank ultimately can be directly linked to a specific CRA-related activity of the minority bank. This creates exactly the type of uncertainty in the application of these rules that will dissuade a majority bank from engaging in the desired activity at all. Stated differently, if a majority bank has the choice of a certain CRA beneficial activity such as the purchase of a loan pool in its assessment area, or a less certain (given the above referenced qualifying language) benefit from investing in a minority institution, in our experience they will almost always choose the more certain approach.

We hope that this letter effectively clarifies our remarks with respect to this section of the Interagency Questions and Answers. We appreciate your consideration and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Norma Alexander Hart  
President