

Press Releases

January 9, 2002

OTS 02-03 - OTS Withdraws Proposed Holding Company Rule

Office of Thrift Supervision

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For further information

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OTS 02-03

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OTS WITHDRAWS PROPOSED HOLDING COMPANY RULE

WASHINGTON - The Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS) today announced that it is withdrawing a proposed rule it published in the November 8 Federal Register covering the authority of some thrift holding companies to engage in the same list of financial activities as the Federal Reserve Board permits financial holding companies under the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999.

Under the law, more than 85 percent of thrift holding companies are currently grandfathered to engage in a wider range of activities than those permissible for financial holding companies under Gramm-Leach-Bliley. After industry meetings and reviewing initial comments on the proposal, OTS decided that its existing authority is sufficient to permit non-grandfathered holding companies to engage in financial activities without the benefit of the proposed rule.

The agency will deal with any new issues in this area through guidance or case-by-case determinations.

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The Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS), a bureau of the U.S. Treasury, regulates and supervises the nation's thrift industry. OTS's mission is to ensure the safety and soundness of thrift institutions and to support their role as home mortgage lenders and providers of other community credit and financial services. For copies of news releases or other documents visit the OTS web page at www.ots.treas.gov.