



News Release

PRESS OFFICE

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SBA to Hold Public Meetings on Proposed Lender Oversight/Credit Risk Management Rule

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Small Business Administration has begun a three-week series of public meetings to elicit comments from interested parties on a new SBA proposed lender oversight/credit risk management rule. The meetings are scheduled for eight different cities, from San Francisco to Chicago, between April 1 and 18, 2008. (See full schedule at end of this press release.)

SBA had originally published the proposed rule to incorporate risk-based lender oversight into the agency's regulations on October 31, 2007. On December 20, 2007, the comment period was extended through February 29, 2008. These meetings are an additional effort by the agency to broaden the opportunity for public participation in the rulemaking process, as comments made at these meetings will be considered by the SBA in promulgating the new regulations.

"We are committed to transparency, and there is no better way to demonstrate it than soliciting public participation in the rulemaking process," said SBA Administrator Steve Preston. "SBA considers these meetings a valuable component of its deliberations. Providing a mechanism beyond the single written round of notice and comment will enable the SBA to better understand the views of the public and will assist us in assessing and refining the proposed rule."

The new proposed rule incorporates a proposed regulatory framework for SBA's oversight of participating 7(a), 504 and Microloan lenders. This framework would enhance SBA's Office of Credit Risk Management's ability to more effectively manage credit risk and lender performance, and enforce lending program requirements.

Parties interested in commenting or attending the meetings are encouraged to register in advance. Requests must be received at least one week prior to meeting date. For registration and further information, please contact Keri Pessagno of SBA's Office of Credit Risk Management at keri.pessagno@sba.gov, or (202) 481-0744.

For more information about all of the SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800 U ASK SBA or TDD 704-344-6640, or visit the SBA's Web site at <http://www.sba.gov>.

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Schedule of meetings

Location	Address	Meeting Date	Registration Closing Date
San Francisco, CA	SBA District Office, 455 Market Street, 6th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105.	Tuesday, April 1, 2008. Begins 9:30 a.m., Ends 12:30 p.m.	Tuesday, March 25, 2008.
Los Angeles, CA	SBA District Office, 330 N. Brand Blvd., Suite 1200, Glendale, CA 91203.	Thursday, April 3, 2008. Begins 9:30 a.m., Ends 12:30 p.m.	Thursday, March 27, 2008.
Boston, MA	O'Neil Federal Office Building, 10 Causeway Street, Auditorium, Boston, MA 02222.	Tuesday, April 8, 2008. Begins 9:30 a.m., Ends 12:30 p.m.	Tuesday, April 1, 2008.
Philadelphia, PA	Robert N.C. Nix Building, 900 Market Street, 2 nd Floor, Courtroom Number 7, Philadelphia, PA 19107	Wednesday, April 9, 2008. Begins 9:30 a.m., Ends 12:30 p.m.	Wednesday, April 2, 2008.
Atlanta, GA	Kennesaw State University, Continuing Education Center, 3333 Busbee Drive, Room 400, Kennesaw, GA 30144–3089.	Tuesday, April 15, 2008. Begins 10 a.m., Ends 1 p.m.	Tuesday, April 8, 2008.
Dallas, TX	SBA Disaster Office 14925 Kingsport Road, Ft., Worth, TX 76155.	Wednesday, April 16, 2008. Begins 9:30 a.m., Ends 12:30 p.m.	Wednesday, April 9, 2008.
Kansas City, MO	SBA District Office, 1000 Walnut Street, Suite 500, Kansas City, MO 64106.	Thursday, April 17, 2008. Begins 8 a.m., Ends 11 a.m.	Thursday, April 10, 2008.
Chicago, IL	Citicorp Center, 500 West Madison Street, 3rd Floor Conference Center, Chicago, IL 60661.	Friday, April 18, 2008. Begins 9:30 a.m., Ends 12:30 p.m.	Friday, April 11, 2008.