

BEFORE THE DEPUTY INSURANCE COMMISSIONER
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

In Re: : Pursuant to Sections 1401, 1402
: and 1403 of the Insurance Holding
Application of United Fire & Casualty : Companies Act, Article XIV of the
Company in Support of the Request for : Insurance Company Law of 1921, Act
Approval to Acquire Control of Mercer : of May 17, 1921, P. L. 682, as
Insurance Company and Franklin : amended, 40 P.S. §§991.1401,
Insurance Company : 991.1402 and 991.1403
: :
: Order No. ID-RC-11-01

DECISION AND ORDER

AND NOW, on this 1st day of March, 2011, Stephen J. Johnson, Deputy Insurance Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (“Deputy Commissioner”), hereby makes the following Decision and Order:

Pursuant to the Insurance Holding Companies Act and in consideration of the documents, presentations and reports received, as well as other inquiries and studies as permitted by law, the Deputy Commissioner hereby makes the following findings of fact:

FINDINGS OF FACT

Identity of Parties

1. Franklin Insurance Company (“Franklin”) is a domestic stock casualty insurance company organized pursuant to the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with its principal place of business located in Pennington, New Jersey.
2. Mercer Insurance Company (“Mercer” and together with Franklin “Domestic Insurers”) is a domestic stock casualty insurance company organized pursuant to the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with its principal place of business located in Pennington, New Jersey. Franklin is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mercer.
3. Mercer Insurance Group, Inc. (“Group”) is an insurance holding company organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with its principal place of business located in Pennington, New Jersey. Mercer is a wholly-owned subsidiary of

Group.

4. United Fire & Casualty Company (“Applicant”) is a admitted casualty insurance company organized under the laws of Iowa with its principal place of business located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
5. Dee Ann McIntyre (“Ms. McIntyre”) is an individual with her primary residence located in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Ms. McIntyre holds approximately 13% of the issued and outstanding capital stock of Applicant.
6. Ms. McIntyre is the sole ultimate controlling person of Applicant.

Acquisition Filing

7. The Insurance Holding Companies Act, Article XIV of the Insurance Company Law of 1921, Act of May 17, 1922, P.L. 682, as amended, 40 P.S. §§991.1401 et seq. (“Insurance Holding Companies Act”), provides that all changes in control of domestic insurers must be filed with the Department for approval or disapproval.
8. On December 29, 2010, the Insurance Department of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (“Department”) received an application (which together with all material received subsequently is hereinafter referenced as “Application”) from Applicant for approval to acquire control of Domestic Insurers.
9. The Application was filed pursuant to Section 1402 of the Insurance Holding Companies Act.

Department Procedures

10. On January 15, 2011, the Department published notice in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* that the Application was submitted by Applicant and such notice invited interested persons to submit comments to the Department regarding the Application for 30 days following the date of the publication (“Comment Period”).
11. The Department received no comments regarding the Application during the 30-day Comment Period.

Description of the Proposed Acquisition

12. As described in the Application, on November 30, 2010, Applicant and Group entered into a Agreement and Plan of Merger (“Agreement”) whereby a wholly-owned subsidiary of Applicant would merge with and into Group.

13. As described in the Application and pursuant to the Agreement, Applicant would acquire indirect control of 100% of the issued and outstanding capital stock of Domestic Insurers.
14. As described in the Application, Applicant would pay the total purchase price with cash.
15. Ms. McIntyre would become the sole ultimate controlling person of Domestic Insurers upon consummation of the instant transaction.

Standards for Review

16. Section 1402(f)(1) of the Insurance Holding Companies Act establishes the standards for approval of an application for a change in control of a domestic insurer.

Licensing Requirements

17. When analyzing an application for change in control under Section 1402 of the Insurance Holding Companies Act, the Department reviews the requirements for continued licensure of the domestic insurer being acquired.
18. The classes of insurance for which an insurance company may be incorporated and become licensed to write are set out in Section 202 of the Insurance Company Law (40 P.S. §382).
19. The minimum paid up capital stock and paid in surplus required of a stock insurer for each class of insurance is set out in Section 206 of the Insurance Company Law (40 P.S. §386).
20. In accordance with Section 206 of the Insurance Company Law (40 P.S. §386), Mercer is required to maintain a minimum paid up capital stock of \$2,050,000 to write the classes of insurance for which it is presently licensed.
21. In accordance with Section 206 of the Insurance Company Law (40 P.S. §386), Mercer is required to maintain a minimum paid in surplus of \$1,025,000 to write the classes of insurance for which it is presently licensed.
22. Upon completion of the transaction, Mercer will have paid up capital in an amount that will satisfy the statutory minimum required of a casualty insurance company licensed to write the classes of authority currently held by Mercer.
23. Upon completion of the transaction, Mercer will have paid in surplus in an amount that will satisfy the statutory minimum required of a casualty insurance company licensed to

write the classes of authority currently held by Mercer.

24. In accordance with Section 206 of the Insurance Company Law (40 P.S. §386), Franklin is required to maintain a minimum paid up capital stock of \$2,050,000 to write the classes of insurance for which it is presently licensed.
25. In accordance with Section 206 of the Insurance Company Law (40 P.S. §386), Franklin is required to maintain a minimum paid in surplus of \$1,025,000 to write the classes of insurance for which it is presently licensed.
26. Upon completion of the transaction, Franklin will have paid up capital in an amount that will satisfy the statutory minimum required of a casualty insurance company licensed to write the classes of authority currently held by Franklin.
27. Upon completion of the transaction, Franklin will have paid in surplus in an amount that will satisfy the statutory minimum required of a casualty insurance company licensed to write the classes of authority currently held of Franklin.

Competitive Impact

28. The acquisition of control of Domestic Insurers is subject to review and analysis under Section 1403 of the Insurance Holding Companies Act to determine whether the effect of the acquisition of control would be to substantially lessen competition or tend to create a monopoly in the Commonwealth.
29. The acquisition of control of Domestic Insurers will not lessen competition or tend to create a monopoly in the Commonwealth because the market share of Applicant, as stated in the Application, does not exceed the market share levels established in Section 1403.

Financial Condition of Applicant

30. When analyzing an application for an acquisition of control under Section 1402 of the Insurance Holding Companies Act, the Department reviews the financial condition of the acquiring person(s).
31. The Department has reviewed the annual financial statement submitted by Applicant and Ms. McIntyre as of December 31, 2009.
32. The financial condition of Applicant and Ms. McIntyre will not pose any impediments to the change in control nor jeopardize the financial condition of Domestic Insurers.

Plans for the Acquired Insurer

33. When analyzing an application for an acquisition of control under Section 1402 of the Insurance Holding Companies Act, the Department reviews the plans or proposals which the acquiring party has for the insurer.
34. As stated in the Application, Applicant has no future plans or proposals to liquidate Domestic Insurers, to sell their assets, to merge or consolidate them with any person or persons, or to make any other material change in their business operations or corporate structure.

Management

35. When analyzing an application for an acquisition of control under Section 1402 of the Insurance Holding Companies Act, the Department reviews the competence, experience and integrity of the persons who will control the operations of the acquired insurer.
36. Biographical affidavits for all directors and executive officers of Applicant were reviewed by the Department.
37. The Department is satisfied that the persons who would control the operations of Domestic Insurers have such competence, experience and integrity that the interests of policyholders and the public would not be jeopardized.
38. If any of the above Findings of Fact are determined to be Conclusions of Law, they shall be incorporated in the Conclusions of Law as if fully set forth therein.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Under Section 1402 of the Insurance Holding Companies Act, the Department has jurisdiction to review and approve the change in control of Domestic Insurers.
2. Under Section 1402 of the Insurance Holding Companies Act, the Department must approve an application for a change in control unless the Department has found that:
 - a) The insurer will not be able to satisfy the requirements for the issuance of a license to operate the line or lines of business for which they are presently licensed;
 - b) The change in control will substantially lessen competition in insurance in this Commonwealth or tend to create a monopoly therein;
 - c) The financial condition of the acquiring company is such as might jeopardize the financial stability of the insurer or prejudice the interests of its policyholders;
 - d) Any plans to liquidate the insurer, sell its assets or consolidate or merge it with any person, or to make material changes in its business or corporate structure or management are unfair and unreasonable to policyholders of the insurers and not in the public interest;
 - e) The competence, experience and integrity of those persons who would control the operation of the insurer are such that it would not be in the interest of policyholders and the general public to permit the acquisition of control; or,
 - f) The acquisition is likely to be hazardous or prejudicial to the insurance buying public.
 - g) The acquisition of control is not in compliance with the laws of this Commonwealth, including Article VIII-A, Insurance Company Mutual-to-Stock Conversion Act.
3. Under Section 1402 of the Insurance Holding Companies Act, the Deputy Commissioner has not found that any of the above conditions are present with respect to the change in control of Domestic Insurers.
4. If any of the above Conclusions of Law are determined to be Findings of Fact, they shall be incorporated in the Findings of Fact as if fully set forth therein.

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ORDER

Upon consideration of the foregoing, the Deputy Insurance Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby makes the following Order:

The application of United Fire & Casualty Company (“Applicant”) in support of the request for approval to acquire control of Mercer Insurance Company and Franklin Insurance Company as set forth in the application, is hereby approved, subject to this Order and the following condition:

Applicant shall provide to the Department a list of closing documents within five days after consummation of the subject transaction and shall maintain the listed documents and make them available to the Department for a period of not less than five years from the date of consummation.

This Order is effective immediately and valid for one year, provided no material changes are made to the transaction prior to consummation. This one year limitation does not apply to any conditions prescribed by the Department in the Order.

Stephen J. Johnson
Deputy Insurance Commissioner
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania