



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
**Federal Trade Commission**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

**Statement of Commissioner Melissa Holyoak**

*Final Premerger Notification Form and the Hart-Scott-Rodino Rules*  
*Commission File No. P239300*

**October 10, 2024**

**I. Introduction**

The Commission issued its *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the Premerger Notification, Reporting and Waiting Period Requirements which implements the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act* (“NPRM”) on June 29, 2023.<sup>1</sup> The contents of the NPRM were harrowing and generated (justifiably) substantial outcry from many commentators. Many of the contemplated filing requirements, if implemented, would have been beyond the Commission’s legal authority, arbitrary and capricious, unjustifiably burdensome, and just plain bad policy.<sup>2</sup>

The Commission worked together on the monumental task of modifying the NPRM into the Final Rule,<sup>3</sup> ensuring the Final Rule does not suffer from the many legitimate criticisms raised by the commentators. The Final Rule modifies many provisions in the NPRM while taking great care to avoid unduly burdening merging parties or chilling the many procompetitive transactions that happen each year. To be clear, this Final Rule does not align exactly with my preferences. But I have worked to curb the excesses of the NPRM in meaningful ways that would not have happened absent my support. These significant modifications resulted in a Final Rule that is not only

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<sup>1</sup> Premerger Notification; Reporting and Waiting Period Requirements, 88 Fed. Reg. 42178 (proposed Jun. 29, 2023) (to be codified at 16 C.F.R. pts. 801 and 803) (hereinafter NPRM).

<sup>2</sup> Out of the gate, the NPRM made broad assertions about increasing concentration as a justification for the unprecedented and wide-sweeping proposed changes. NPRM, *supra* note 1, at 42179. The concentration literature upon which it relied, *id.* at 42179 n.7, however, has been heavily criticized and debunked. *See, e.g.*

CON. PERSPECTIVES 23 (2019); Carl Shapiro, *Antitrust in a Time of Populism*, 61 INT’L J. INDUS. ORG. 714 (2018); Gregory J. Werden & Luke M. Froeb, *Don’t Panic: A Guide to Claims of Increasing Concentration*, ANTITRUST MAGAZINE, Fall 2018. Most notably, the literature cited by the NPRM does not use well-defined antitrust markets in its assessment or conclusions. Further, even if increasing concentration had been a reality, it only has a limited role in analyzing competitive effects. *See infra* note 57.

<sup>3</sup> Fed. Trade Comm’n, Premerger Notification; Reporting and Waiting Period Requirements, Final Rule (Oct. 3, 2024), [https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/ftc\\_gov/pdf/p110014hsrfinalrule.pdf](https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/ftc_gov/pdf/p110014hsrfinalrule.pdf) (hereinafter Final Rule).

consistent with the agencies' statutory grant of authority, but will also close certain informational gaps that affect the agencies' ability to conduct effective premerger screening.

Commissioner Ferguson, in section III of his statement, describes in detail the benefits of certain provisions that the Commission included in the Final Rule. These provisions that he describes fill information gaps in the agencies' current ability to fulfill their missions under the

**Table 1—Rejected Proposals**

NPRM Provision	Results in Final Rule
Labor Market/Employee Information	Proposal rejected
Drafts of Transaction-Related Documents	Proposal rejected
Organizational Chart of Authors and Recipients	Proposal rejected
Other Types of Interest Holders that May Exert Influence	Proposal rejected
Expand Current 4(d)(iii) to Include Financial Projections to Synergies and Efficiencies	Proposal rejected
Deal Timeline	Proposal rejected
Provision of Geolocation Information	Proposal rejected
Identification of Messaging Systems	Proposal rejected
Litigation Hold Certification Language	Proposal rejected
Identification of F/K/A Names	Proposal rejected

For example, the prior acquisition proposal that called for ten years of prior acquisitions without any size threshold was reversed in the Final Rule to request only five years of acquisitions, and reinstated the \$10 million threshold—returning to the time period adopted in 1987<sup>6</sup> and dollar threshold that had existed since the original rules in 1978.<sup>7</sup> The NPRM proposal that would have required the filers to identify *and produce* all agreements between the merging parties has been modified significantly in the Final Rule to simply require the filers to check boxes to indicate whether they have a few types of agreements between them—*nothing* has to be produced or described. The Final Rule similarly modifies the NPRM’s overlap and supply “narratives” to require only “brief” descriptions instead. And, among other revisions, the Final Rule’s overlap and supply descriptions requirement makes clear that antitrust analysis is *not* required.

Further, many of the modifications exempt “Select 801.30 Transactions” from having to report certain information required by the Final Rule. Select 801.30 Transactions are acquisitions of third parties’ voting securities where the acquirer does not gain control, no agreements between the acquiring and acquired person govern the transaction, and the acquiror does not have the ability

<sup>6</sup> 52 FR 7066 at 7078 (Mar. 6, 1987) (“[The Commission] believes that this change can be made without harming the agencies’ ability to conduct a thorough antitrust review since an account of the acquiring person’s acquisitions over the past five years will give adequate notice of possible trends toward concentration.”).

<sup>7</sup> 43 FR 33450 at 33534 (July 31, 1978) (“The item permits the omission of prior transactions that did not involve the acquisition of more than 50 percent of the voting securities or assets of a person with preacquisition sales or assets of \$10 million, since smaller acquisitions are likely to be less significant from an antitrust standpoint.”). Unlike prior iterations of the rules, the Final Rule does require the acquired entity to also identify prior acquisitions and clarified that an acquisition of “all or substantially all” of the assets of a business must be reported.

to appoint or serve on a board.<sup>8</sup> The Final Rule likewise exempts transactions where there is no horizontal overlap or supply relationship from certain information requirements, and sets a *de minimis* threshold to exclude the requirement to describe supply relationships where the sale or purchase of the product, service, or asset represents less than \$10 million in revenue in the most recent year. Table 2 highlights some of the main modifications that have been made in the Final Rule (again, this list is not exhaustive and does not substitute for the text of the Final Rule).

**Table 2—Select Modified NPRM Proposals**

<b>NPRM Provision</b>	<b>Select Modification in Final Rule</b>
Prior Acquisitions <sup>9</sup>	

<b>NPRM Provision</b>	<b>Select Modification in Final Rule</b>
Ordinary Course Documents (Periodic Plans and Reports) <sup>15</sup>	Among others, limit to exclude “Select 801.30 Transactions” and limited to only require documents provided to Chief Executive Officers.
Identification of Limited Partners <sup>16</sup>	Among others, limit disclosure requirements for limited partners who do not have management rights.
Description of Entity Structures and Organizational Chart for Funds and MLPs <sup>17</sup>	Among others, eliminate requirement to create an organizational chart.

Notably, only two of the main proposals in the NPRM were adopted without modification: the requirements to translate foreign-language documents and to report subsidies from foreign entities of concern, which was mandated by the Merger Filing Fee Modernization Act of 2022.<sup>26</sup> All other proposals were rejected or significantly modified. Taken together, the dramatic revisions to the proposed rule set forth in the NPRM result in a Final Rule that I can support. The decisions made to scale back the proposed requirements in the NPRM will limit burden, aligns the Final Rule with the Commission’s legal authority under the HSR Act, and is tailored to address information gaps that have hampered the agencies’ premerger review.<sup>27</sup>

Sections II through IV of my statement explain why three proposals in the NPRM were especially problematic to me, and why their elimination or substantial revision was critical to my vote on this Final Rule: (II) Labor Market/Employee Information, (III) Drafts of Transaction-Related Documents, and (IV) Ten Years of Prior Acquisitions Without any Size Thresholds. To be clear, by focusing on these three proposals I do not mean to diminish the importance of the other changes reflected in the Final Rule. Each of the many revisions that scaled back the proposed requirements in the NPRM contributed to my vote to issue the Final Rule. Finally, I discuss in section V some additional considerations that led me to support the Final Rule, including important limitations in the Final Rule that ensure the Final Rule will not result in fishing expeditions.

Before proceeding, I want to discuss the Commission’s authority to issue today’s Final Rule, an issue that is critical to me as a Commissioner.<sup>28</sup> The HSR Act obligates the Commission, “with the concurrence of the Assistant Attorney General,” to issue rules that require information to be submitted in HSR filings that will “be in such form and contain such documentary material and information relevant to a proposed acquisition as is necessary and appropriate to enable the Federal Trade Commission and the Assistant Attorney General to determine whether such acquisition may, if consummated, violate the antitrust laws.”<sup>29</sup> While this mandate affords some discretion to the Commission, this discretion is not unbounded. Critically, Congress did not give the Commission authority to promulgate rules to gather information generally, or to merely heap burden upon merging parties in an effort to dissuade acquisitions. Rather, the Act explains that the purpose of HSR filings, and the rules determining the content of filings, is for the agencies “to determine whether such *acquisition* may, if consummated, violate the *antitrust laws*.”<sup>30</sup> Many proposals in the NPRM—including the three discussed below—have been rejected or substantially

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<sup>26</sup> See 15 U.S.C. § 18b (requiring the Commission to promulgate a rule requiring HSR filings to include information on subsidies received from certain foreign governments or entities that are identified as foreign entities of concern);

modified to ensure the Final Rule includes only new requirements that are consistent with the text and structure of the HSR Act.

## II. Labor Market Information

The NPRM contained many problematic proposals. Chief among them was its proposal to collect information from filers about labor markets.<sup>31</sup> As proposed, filers would report three different types of information related to labor:

- “Largest Employee Classifications[:] Provide the aggregate number of employees . . . for each of the five largest occupational categories” based upon 6-digit SOC classifications;<sup>32</sup>
- “Geographic Market Information for Each Overlapping Employee Classification[:] Indicate the five largest 6-digit SOC codes in which both parties . . . employ workers [and also provide] each ERS commuting zone in which both parties employ workers with the 6-digit classification and provide the aggregate number of classified employees in each ERS commuting zone; and”<sup>33</sup>
- “Worker and Workplace Safety Information[:] Identify any penalties or findings issued against the filing person by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Wage and Hour Division (WHD), the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), or the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in the last five years and/or any pending WHD, NLRB, or OSHA matters.”<sup>34</sup>

All three of these requirements (“Labor Proposal”) were completely rejected in the Final Rule. Chair Khan asserts in her statement that “the Final Rule *pares back some* of the labor market requirements.”<sup>35</sup> Despite this confusing statement, the text of the Final Rule makes clear that *all* (not “some”) of the labor requirements have been fully *removed*

skilled workers.<sup>37</sup> Theory aside, the Labor Proposal would have asked for information generally unhelpful for determining whether an acquisition violates the antitrust laws.

*First*, the “worker and workplace safety information” would have provided no measurable benefit to the agency in its initial determination of whether the proposed merger violates the antitrust laws. To support burdening all filers with providing this information, the NPRM asserted that “[i]f a firm has a history of labor law violations, it may be indicative of a concentrated labor market where workers do not have the ability to easily find another job.”<sup>38</sup> No evidence, empirical or otherwise, was presented to support this assertion. And I am not aware of any supportive literature and have never seen a court opinion that suggests such evidence indicates competitive harm from a merger under Section 7 of the Clayton Act (or any other antitrust violation under the Sherman Act or otherwise). Instead, this proposal seems like an overt way to harass firms with any workplace failure under the guise of an antitrust investigation. As the Supreme Court observed, “[e]ven an act of pure malice by one business competitor against another does not, without more, state a claim under the federal antitrust laws; those laws do not create a federal law of unfair competition or ‘purport to afford remedies for all torts committed by or against persons engaged in interstate commerce.’”<sup>39</sup> We simply do not have authority under the HSR Act to require filers to submit information about workplace safety.

*Second*, the proposed request for Standard Occupational Classification (“SOC”) codes would have been of—at most—limited value because SOC codes by themselves are not sufficient to define a relevant labor market for antitrust purposes.<sup>40</sup> Phrased differently, they are not tethered to the hypothetical monopolist test which has been applied by the agencies and courts in various iterations of the merger guidelines for decades.<sup>41</sup> Depending on the merger, SOC codes may be too broad to accurately assess labor competition,<sup>42</sup> limiting their predictive value for assessing competitive harm. The NPRM itself appeared to acknowledge the limited value of SOC codes: “[t]he use of [SOC] codes as a screening tool is not intended to endorse their use for any other

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<sup>37</sup> *Id.*



purpose, such as defining a relevant labor market.”<sup>43</sup> In fact, just a few examples demonstrate the limited value that SOC codes would provide to the Commission:

Attorneys working across diverse areas of expertise are broken down into attorneys (23-1011 Lawyers) and ... well, attorneys, although there is a separate category for Judges, Magistrate Judges, and Magistrates (23-1023), who are likely lawyers, too. To paraphrase Shakespeare (or a character in “Henry VI, Part 2”), let’s kill all the widgets.

To the best of my recollection, the agencies tend to slice the professional salami a little thinner than that when hiring staff.

Physicians fare a little better, although 10 categories of specialist physicians, plus “family medicine physicians” and “physicians, all other” leave out some specialties (like, say, surgery and ophthalmology) and make no room for subspecialties, which might be of interest if you’re hiring a cardiothoracic surgeon to do a quad bypass or an orthopedic surgeon to do a hip replacement (or both, but you care which surgeon does which procedure).<sup>44</sup>

*Third*

Even if one were to assume that the agencies had the authority to request the proposed labor market information, it was nonetheless properly excluded from the Final Rule because it was a solution in search of a nonexistent problem. The agencies have never brought a standalone labor challenge to an acquisition.<sup>48</sup> And this is not for lack of trying. Officials at the Commission,<sup>49</sup> Department of Justice,<sup>50</sup> and state enforcers<sup>51</sup> have stated their desire to focus on harms to the labor market, especially in mergers, since at least 2018, but the expended resources so far have been to no avail.

Granted, the Commission has included tagalong labor claims in addition to traditional theories of harm.<sup>52</sup> And, in a press release, the Commission has taken credit for protecting against harms in the labor market even though the actual complaint being announced by the press release did not allege harm in a labor market.<sup>53</sup> But these few and obscure outliers do not justify the

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<sup>48</sup> Some have considered *United States v. Bertelsmann SE & Co. KGaA*, 646 F. Supp. 3d 1, 1 (D.D.C. 2022) to be a labor-market case. I disagree. On balance, this was more of a traditional monopsony input case. *Id.* The primary concern was whether there would be sufficient outlets for best-selling books. *Id.* I am also unaware of merger challenges by private parties where the plaintiffs alleged harm in a labor market. See Suresh Naidu et al., *Antitrust Remedies for Labor Market Power*, 132 HARV. L. REV. 536, 571 (2018) (“[W]e [have not] found a reported case in which a court found that a merger resulted in illegal labor market concentration.”). The Commission, as reflected in the SBP, also classifies *Bertelsmann* as an input monopsony case. SBP, *supra* note 5, at § II.B.2, 32 of 406.

<sup>49</sup> See Testimony of Fed. Trade Comm’n Chair Joseph Simons, US Congress, *Oversight of the Enforcement of the Antitrust Laws*, Senate Judiciary Committee, 2018, available at <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/meetings/10/03/2018/oversight-of-the-enforcement-of-the-antitrust-laws> (staff instructed to “look for potential effects on the labor market with every merger they review”).

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widespread proposal to include labor market information in the Final Rule, especially information (*e.g.*, SOC codes) that has never been used in any of the agencies' filings (litigated or otherwise).

Moreover, the NPRM did not identify any economics literature that justified the request for labor information.<sup>54</sup> As explained by Albrecht *et al.*:

[D]espite growing interest in the use of antitrust law to address labor monopsony, such efforts are not supported by empirical and theoretical foundations sufficient to bear the weight of these galvanized efforts. . . .

Empirical data concerning the magnitude and impact of labor monopsonies is inconsistent. Evidence on the extent of labor-market power is mixed, with studies reaching divergent conclusions depending on the data, methodology, and markets analyzed.<sup>55</sup>

The NPRM also asserted that alleged increases in concentration justified its proposals, including its proposal for labor information.<sup>56</sup> While concentration levels may have a role in antitrust enforcement (*e.g.*, merger presumptions), general and imprecise observations of increased concentration are a slender reed upon which to base such a significant expansion of HSR authority.<sup>57</sup> These limitations also apply in the labor context. “Many factors other than

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<sup>54</sup> See NPRM, *supra* note 1, at 42197-98.

<sup>55</sup> BRIAN C. ALBRECHT ET AL., LABOR MONOPSONY AND ANTITRUST

concentration can affect wages, such as differences in firm productivity, local labor-market conditions (*e.g.*, urban vs. rural), and institutional factors like unionization rates.”<sup>58</sup> Further, as explained by Berry *et al.*:

A main difficulty in [the monopsony power literature] is that most of the existing studies of monopsony and wages follow the structure-conduct-performance paradigm; that is, they argue that greater concentration of employers can be applied to labor markets and then proceed to estimate regressions of wages on measures of concentration. [S]tudies like this may provide some interesting descriptions of concentration and wages but are not ultimately informative about whether monopsony power has grown and is depressing wages.<sup>59</sup>

In short, the economic literature does not provide any conclusive evidence on the viability or likelihood of merger harms in labor markets that would justify the NPRM’s proposals regarding labor information.

Finally, the Commission’s HSR rulemaking authority does not extend to heaping burdens upon merging parties as a fishing expedition in the hopes of developing new merger enforcement theories. Instead, if labor market concerns exist, then the Commission should conduct merger retrospectives or utilize its 6(b) authority to investigate the issue. The Commission has done neither, and it cannot rely on the need for general information gathering as a basis for demanding that all merging parties provide this information.

And no doubt, the NPRM’s proposal would have come with a substantial and unjustifiable burden upon filers and also the agencies. *First*, firms do not typically maintain SOC codes in the ordinary course of business.<sup>60</sup> Investing in the expertise to generate and report the codes would have required substantial resources.<sup>61</sup> And smaller businesses who make filings infrequently will

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declined.”); Carl Shapiro, *Antitrust in a Time of Populism*, 61 INT’L J. INDUS. ORG. 714, 722–23 (2018) (“Sheer size and market power are just not the same thing.”); DENNIS W. CARLTON & JEFFREY M. PERLOFF, MODERN INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION 268 (4<sup>th</sup> ed. 2005) (“[P]erhaps the most significant criticism is that concentration itself is determined by the economic conditions of the industry and hence is not an industry characteristic that can be used to explain pricing or other conduct.”); Timothy J. Muris, *Improving the Economic Foundations of Competition Policy*, 12 GEO

be particularly disadvantaged

versions.”<sup>69</sup> Many commentators on the NPRM opposed this requirement.<sup>70</sup> The Commission ultimately rejected this proposal, which was critical to my vote.

Simply put, the likely burden of producing drafts would have outweighed any perceived benefit. Depending upon the practice of the individuals drafting the documents, and how many people are involved in preparing different sections of the documents, there may be “dozens or even hundreds of iterative drafts.”<sup>71</sup> No question, filings would be much larger under the proposal.<sup>72</sup> Forensic collections, that is a full collection of an individual’s emails or documents, are incredibly burdensome. They not only require resources from a technical team to collect the materials; they also require time from the individual businesspeople and then, in most cases, counsel, to review the collected materials, identify responsive documents, conduct privilege reviews, prepare more expansive privilege logs, and prepare the documents for production. The status quo for HSR filings, where generally only final versions are produced, typically does not require a forensic collection. But if all drafts became a requirement for all transactions, then forensic collections, with all their costs, would become standard practice for almost *all* HSR filings.<sup>73</sup> The use of online collaborative workspaces further complicates the issue—and adds burden—because when multiple parties simultaneously revise the same document, it becomes difficult to know which versions constitute drafts.<sup>74</sup>

To defend the proposal, the NPRM argued that drafts are more likely to contain a “smoking gun.”<sup>75</sup> As evidence to support this claim, the NPRM observed that the drafts produced during a second request have more salacious content.<sup>76</sup> But receiving all drafts amounts to building a haystack around a needle. Even if some drafts contain some interesting content, that content does not support the NPRM’s proposed expansive production obligations for two reasons. *First*, earlier drafts of transaction documents sometimes contain information that may not have been finalized,

*Second*, for each of the alleged “smoking gun” drafts identified in a second request by staff, other information contained in the HSR filings already prompted the staff to issue a second request. Phrased differently, the agencies already had enough information, without the drafts, to decide to issue a second request in each of those cases. And beyond bald assertions, the NPRM did not provide any evidence demonstrating that the drafts would have made a difference in the decision whether to issue a second request.

In summary, the extensive burden resulting from the production and review by staff of drafts would have outweighed any benefits of the requirement. I struggle to imagine any circumstance in which all draft documents would become a “necessary and appropriate” input for the agencies’ initial review of proposed mergers, and therefore believe that the inclusion of this requirement in any future revision would exceed the Commission’s rulemaking authority. I would not have supported a Final Rule that required drafts and am heartened by the removal of this provision.

#### IV. Prior Acquisitions

The NPRM proposed radical changes to the prior acquisition request in the 2011 Rule. The proposed changes included: (1) expanding the lookback period for reporting prior acquisitions from five years to ten years; (2) eliminating the prior *de minimis* exception that required reporting only for prior acquisitions that “had annual net sales or total assets greater than \$10 million”; (3) requiring the acquired entity to also report prior acquisitions; and (4) requiring that acquisitions of substantially all of the assets of a business be treated the same as acquisitions of securities or non-corporate interests.<sup>79</sup> My vote was conditioned on the Commission eliminating the first two of these proposed changes. I write to explain why I believe it was proper to remove those requirements from the Final Rule and why the Commission should not revisit these proposals in future revisions to the HSR rules.

Prior acquisitions may, in limited circumstances, be relevant to analyzing the filed-for transaction, but consideration of these prior transactions comes with risk of government overreach. A prior acquisition may be relevant to analyzing a filed-for transaction when the competitive effects of the prior acquisition have not yet manifested. For example, if a firm acquired a rival and integration was ongoing or existing contractual terms prevent the effects of the merger from being fully realized, a prior acquisition may help the agencies better understand the dynamics and competitive effects of the filed-for transaction. Once firms have completed integration, realized efficiencies, and implemented any strategies they plan to orchestrate, prior acquisitions provide almost no value<sup>80</sup> to the agencies as they assess the competitive conditions surrounding the filed-

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<sup>79</sup> NPRM, *supra* note 1, at 42203.

<sup>80</sup> As one exception, the agencies have considered the ability to realize efficiencies in past transactions as evidence of the likelihood of achieving efficiencies in the current transaction. But even that information becomes stale and loses probative value at some point.

for transaction because at that juncture, the condition of the current market will reflect the effects of past transactions.<sup>81</sup>

For the last thirty-seven years, the Commission has determined that five years of prior acquisitions, with a threshold based upon the sales and assets of the entity that was acquired, was justifiable.<sup>82</sup> I do not seek to relitigate thirty-seven years of precedent. The question is whether the rulemaking record contained sufficient evidence to justify the request to reach ten years of prior acquisitions without any size threshold. I conclude that it did not.

The HSR Act limits the information that can be required under the Commission's HSR Rules to "documentary material and information relevant to *a* proposed acquisition as is necessary and appropriate to enable the Federal Trade Commission and the Assistant Attorney General to determine whether *such acquisition*



record presented “good reasons” that justified the

had the chance to achieve \$10 million in net sales or assets does not provide a comprehensive picture of each filer's acquisition strategy."<sup>97</sup> Nothing cited by the NPRM suggests that just because an acquisition target is less than five years old, that its sales will be below \$10 million. Moreover, nothing in the NPRM explained why the age of targets in "technology acquisitions" would be relevant to the whole economy, and yet the proposed rule would have applied universally. Indeed, neither the NPRM nor the rulemaking record presented evidence to justify this dramatic expansion, and without evidence, there is no justification to impose such a requirement on filers.

The NPRM's proposal to double the time period and to remove the \$10 million threshold would have added substantial burden to filing parties. The NPRM appeared content with the burden because it provided an expanded ability to analyze non-reportable prior acquisitions, including under theories of serial acquisitions.<sup>98</sup> But as explained, this benefit contravenes the Commission's rulemaking authority. Because the Final Rule must be limited to the Commission's authority, the focus must also be limited to how it assists the agencies' assessment of the filed-for transaction during the initial waiting period. As explained above, the NPRM's prior acquisition expansion would have provided almost nothing that would help the agencies to assess filed-for transactions.

#### V. Additional Considerations

The changes implemented by the Final Rule request information to analyze *only* the filed-for transaction. The changes are not to authorize the agencies to engage in general fishing expeditions to analyze non-reportable transactions or other allegedly problematic conduct divorced from the effects of the filed-for transaction. The same could not be said for some of the proposals in the NPRM, and those concerns have been rectified in the Final Rule. I understand that potential filers may be skeptical that the information gathered in HSR filings may be collected with an eye toward other purposes. In the Final Rule, each of these provisions is now modified to collect only information that is necessary and appropriate to analyze the filed-for transaction.<sup>99</sup>

The Final Rule requires filers to produce new information about officers and directors within the "stack" of companies. The ultimate rule differs substantially from the NPRM's proposal.<sup>100</sup> Among the key changes, the request only applies to acquiring persons; filers no longer have to provide information about board observers; and the request is limited to only those entities who generate revenue in the same NAICS codes as the target. This information, like all the information requested by the Final Rule, is designed to help staff better analyze the filed-for transaction. The SBP provides a detailed description of why this requested information helps obtain that goal.<sup>101</sup> The purpose of this revision is not a general fishing expedition; it is to

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<sup>97</sup> *Id.*

<sup>98</sup> The NPRM sought to right the wrongs of the so-called 40 years of failed antitrust enforcement. *See* Exec. Order No. 14,036, Executive Order on Promoting Competition in the American Economy; *see* NPRM, *supra* note 1, at 42203.

<sup>99</sup> To be clear, if a filing demonstrates anticompetitive conduct, such as price fixing, it can prompt another investigation.

<sup>100</sup> *See* app. A.

<sup>101</sup> SBP, *supra* note 5, at § VI.D.3.c., 241-254 of 406.

illuminate complicated and overlapping management structures that may impact the competitive effects of the filed-for transaction.

The additional information about minority shareholders and limited partners has also raised concern. The Final Rule again reflects key changes to the proposals in th