WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) today released its projected schedule of Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) examinations to be conducted in the first quarter of 1998.

The OCC encourages public comment on the national banks scheduled to be examined under the CRA, and suggests that comments be submitted to the institutions themselves or to the appropriate OCC district office prior to (or as early as possible during) the month in which the exam is scheduled. All public comments received prior to the close of the CRA exam will be considered by the OCC.

The OCC's CRA exam schedule is posted on the Internet at http://www.occ.treas.gov.

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The OCC charters, regulates and supervises more than 2,600 national banks and 66 federal branches and agencies of foreign banks in the U.S., accounting for 56 percent of the nation's banking assets. Its mission is to ensure a safe, sound and competitive national banking system that supports the citizens, communities and economy of the United States.