

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY

In the Matter of:)	
Michael Welge)	
President, Chief Financial Officer and)	AA-CE-2020-79
Chairman of the Board)	
)	
)	
Chester National Bank)	
Chester, IL)	

CONSENT ORDER

WHEREAS, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (“OCC”) intends to initiate civil money penalty proceedings against Michael Welge (“Respondent”) pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1818(i) on the basis of Respondent’s activities while serving as President, Chief Financial Officer and Chairman of the Board of Chester National Bank, Chester, IL (“Bank”);

WHEREAS, in the interest of cooperation and to avoid the costs associated with future administrative and judicial proceedings with respect to the above matter, Respondent, without admitting or denying any wrongdoing, desires to consent to the issuance of this Consent Order (“Order”) issued pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1818(i);

NOW, THEREFORE, it is stipulated by and between the OCC, through the duly authorized representative of the Comptroller of the Currency (“Comptroller”), and Respondent that:

ARTICLE I

JURISDICTION

(1) The Bank is an “insured depository institution” as that term is defined in 12 U.S.C. § 1813(c)(2).

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(2) Respondent is President, Chief Financial Officer and Chairman of the Board of the Bank and is an “institution-affiliated party” of the Bank as that term is defined in 12 U.S.C. § 1813(u), having served in such capacity within six (6) years from the date of this Order. *See* 12 U.S.C. § 1818(i)(3).

(3) The Bank is a national banking association within the meaning of 12 U.S.C. § 1813(q)(1)(A), and is chartered and examined by the OCC. *See* 12 U.S.C. § 1 *et seq.*

(4) The OCC is the “appropriate Federal banking agency” as that term is defined in 12 U.S.C. § 1813(q) and is therefore authorized to initiate and maintain this civil money penalty action against Respondent pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1818(i).

ARTICLE II

COMPTROLLER’S FINDINGS

The Comptroller finds, and Respondent neither admits nor denies, the following:

(1) During the examination commenced June 29, 2020, the OCC found that the Bank had failed to document the credit analysis necessary to demonstrate that a Bank-owned corporate security remained of “investment grade,” as that term is defined in 12 C.F.R. § 1.2(d), despite being downgraded by two credit rating agencies. This resulted in a repeat violation of 12 C.F.R. § 1.5(c).

(2) The failure to document the required credit analysis was in violation of the Bank’s investment policy, which was specifically drafted to prevent violations of 12 C.F.R. § 1.5.

(3) Respondent failed in his role as President and Chief Financial Officer to document or cause the Bank to document the requisite credit analysis.

(4) Respondent failed in his role as Chairman of the Board to hold management accountable for adherence to the requirements of 12 C.F.R. § 1.5(c) and the Bank's investment policy.

(5) The aforementioned repeat violation of 12 C.F.R. § 1.5(c) marked the fourth time in five examinations that the OCC cited a violation of 12 C.F.R. § 1.5(b) or (c).

(6) By reason of the foregoing conduct, grounds exist for the OCC to initiate this civil money penalty action against Respondent pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1818(i).

ARTICLE III

ORDER FOR CIVIL MONEY PENALTY

Respondent consents to, and it is ORDERED that:

(1) Respondent shall pay a civil money penalty in the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000), which shall be paid in full upon Respondent's execution of this Order.

(2) Respondent shall make payment in full via pay.gov or wire transfer, in accordance with instructions provided by the OCC. The docket number of this case (AA-CE-2020-79) shall be referenced in connection with the submitted payment.

(3) This Order shall be enforceable to the same extent and in the same manner as an effective and outstanding order that has been issued and has become final pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1818.

ARTICLE IV

BANKRUPTCY

(1) If Respondent files for bankruptcy protection, Respondent shall notify the Director of Enforcement within ten (10) days of the filing and shall provide a copy of the filing

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to the OCC by mail to the Director of Enforcement, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 400 7th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20219 or by email to the address provided by the OCC.

(2) In any bankruptcy proceeding in which it is or may be contended that Respondent's obligation to pay a civil money penalty pursuant to this Order is subject to discharge, Respondent will in no manner contest the assertion of the OCC or any officer, employee, or agent of the OCC or any agent, officer, or representative of the United States, pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 523(a) or otherwise, that the civil money penalty obligation in the Order arises out of acts which result in claims not dischargeable in bankruptcy.

ARTICLE VIII

CLOSING

- (1) By executing this Order, Respondent waives:
- (a) the right to a Notice of Civil Money Penalty Assessment under 12 U.S.C. § 1818(i);
 - (b) all rights to a hearing and a final agency decision pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1818(i) and 12 C.F.R. Part 19;
 - (c) all rights to seek judicial review of this Order;
 - (d) all rights in any way to contest the validity of this Order; and
 - (e) any and all claims for fees, costs, or expenses against the United States, the OCC, or any officer, employee, or agent of the OCC, related in any way to this enforcement matter or this Order, whether arising under common law or under the terms of any statute, including, but not limited to, the Equal Access to Justice Act, 5 U.S.C. § 504 and 28 U.S.C. § 2412.

(2) Respondent shall not cause, participate in, or authorize the Bank (or any subsidiary or affiliate of the Bank) to incur, directly or indirectly, any expense relative to the negotiation and issuance of this Order except as permitted by 12 C.F.R. § 7.2014 and Part 359. In addition, Respondent shall not, directly or indirectly, obtain or accept any indemnification (or other reimbursement) from the Bank (or any subsidiary or affiliate of the Bank) with respect to such amounts except as permitted by 12 C.F.R. § 7.2014 and Part 359; provided, however, Respondent may not obtain or accept such indemnification with respect to payment of the civil money penalty.

(3) Respondent acknowledges that he has read and understands the premises and obligations of this Order and declares that no separate promise or inducement of any kind has been made by the OCC or any officer, employee, or agent of the OCC to cause or induce Respondent to agree to consent to the issuance of this Order and/or to execute this Order.

(4) This Order constitutes a settlement of any proceedings arising out of the facts, omissions, or violations described in the Comptroller's Findings (Article II of this Order). The OCC agrees not to institute the proceedings referenced in the first whereas clause of this Order for the specific acts, omissions, or violations described in Article II of this Order unless such acts, omissions, or violations reoccur. However, the specific acts, omissions, or violations described in Article II may be used by the OCC in future enforcement actions to establish a pattern of misconduct or the continuation of a pattern of misconduct.

(5) This Order shall not be construed as an adjudication on the merits and, except as set forth in paragraph (4) above, shall not inhibit, estop, bar, or otherwise prevent the OCC from taking any action affecting Respondent if, at any time, the OCC deems it appropriate to do so to fulfill the responsibilities placed upon the OCC by the several laws of the United States.

(6) Nothing in this Order shall preclude any proceedings brought by the OCC to enforce the terms of this Order, and nothing in this Order constitutes, nor shall Respondent contend that it constitutes, a waiver of any right, power, or authority of any other representatives of the United States or agencies thereof, including the Department of Justice, to bring other actions deemed appropriate.

(7) This Order is intended to be, and shall be construed to be, a final order issued pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1818, and expressly does not form, and may not be construed to form, a contract binding on the United States, the OCC, or any officer, employee, or agent of the OCC. Respondent expressly acknowledges that no officer, employee, or agent of the OCC has statutory or other authority to bind the United States, the United States Treasury Department, the OCC, or any other federal bank regulatory agency or entity, or any officer, employee, or agent of those entities, to a contract affecting the OCC's exercise of its supervisory responsibilities.

(8) This Order is "issued with the consent of . . . the institution-affiliated party concerned," pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1818(h)(2).

(9) The terms of this Order, including this paragraph, are not subject to amendment or modification by any extraneous expression, prior agreements, or prior arrangements between the parties, whether oral or written.

(10) The provisions of this Order are effective upon issuance by the OCC, through the Comptroller's duly authorized representative, whose hand appears below, and shall remain effective and enforceable, except to the extent that, and until such time as, any provisions of this Order shall have been amended, suspended, waived, or terminated in writing by the OCC, through the Comptroller's duly authorized representative.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the undersigned has hereunto set his hand.

/s/

2/23/21

Michael Welge

Date

IT IS SO ORDERED.

//s// Digitally Signed, Dated: 2021.02.26

Brian James
Deputy Comptroller
Central District