



December 5, 2005

**To All New Orleans Zone Financial Institutions:**

The Federal Reserve Banks announced today that the New Orleans Branch check processing operation will permanently move to the Atlanta Office of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. Since Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast in August, the Atlanta office has been processing checks on a contingency basis for the New Orleans zone. We have decided to make this arrangement permanent as part of our strategy to respond to declining check volumes nationally. The transition from contingency to permanent status will be complete by March 31, 2006.

The Reserve Banks considered moving New Orleans' check processing to Atlanta this past spring as part of the annual check infrastructure review, but decided to delay that move and re-evaluate the decision again in 2006. However, because we knew that at some point in the near future we would move New Orleans' check processing to Atlanta, we have chosen to make this move now.

The Atlanta office will continue to fully support financial institutions processing checks in New Orleans Branch zone. Because much of the transition has already been completed as a result of the contingency situation, New Orleans check customers will experience minimal additional service changes. More specifically, New Orleans zone depositors should continue to use the deposit stations to drop off work for processing in Atlanta. In addition, as announced on October 14, 2005 we have established deadlines in Atlanta for those depositors who prefer to deposit work directly. The deadlines at the deposit stations and at the Atlanta office are included in Attachment I. We are continuing to evaluate other transportation arrangements and will notify you of any changes.

Going forward, the New Orleans Branch will continue to provide cash services to financial institutions in its zone, conduct economic and financial education programs, and carry out community affairs activities to encourage economic development. Also, the New Orleans Branch will continue to be involved in monetary policy through its local board of directors that provides valuable economic intelligence from the Gulf Coast area.

As we move forward with this effort over the next several months, we will be providing you with additional information related to accounting, billing, and other operational details. For your convenience, the most current check restructuring information can be found on [www.frbfinancialservices.org](http://www.frbfinancialservices.org).

We appreciate your patience during this time and look forward to continuing to provide you with efficient, high-quality payment services. Should you have questions or concerns, I encourage you to contact your account executive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick K. Barron".

Patrick K. Barron  
First Vice President and Chief Operating Officer  
Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Attachment

## New Orleans Deposit Deadlines

**Effective: 10/17/05**

Deposit Station	New Orleans Deadline at Deposit Stations Weekday	New Orleans Deadline at Deposit Stations Weekend
Baton Rouge	8:45 PM *	Midnight
Alexandria	6:30 PM *	8:00 pm Fri
Lake Charles	6:30 PM *	9:15 pm Fri
Lafayette	7:30PM *	9:00 pm Fri
Jackson	8:00 PM *	12:30 am Sat
Mobile	10:00 PM *	1:30 am Sat
Gulfport/Biloxi	8:45 PM *	Midnight
Hattiesburg	8:00 PM *	10:30 pm Fri

**\* City, RCPC, and Government Item deposit products will receive next day availability. Call your Account Executive for Other Fed and Mixed product availability**

Program	New Orleans Deadline at FRB Atlanta	Days Offered
<b>Forward Deposit Programs</b>		
<b>City</b>		
City Regular	7:30 AM	M-F
City Premium		n/a
City Fine Sort	7:00 AM	M-F
<b>RCPC</b>		
RCPC Regular	1:00 AM	M-F
RCPC Premium	3:00 AM	M-F
RCPC Group Sort A	12:01 AM	M-F
RCPC Payor Bank GS	3:00 AM	M-F
RCPC Premium Plus GS	7:30 AM	M-F
RCPC Fine Sort	7:00 AM	M-F
RCPC HDGS	7:30 AM	M-F
<b>Other Fed</b>		
Other Fed Regular	11:00 PM	M-Th
	4:30 PM	Sat
Other Fed Group Sort A	11:00 PM	M-Th
Other Fed Group Sort B	11:00 PM	M-Th
Other Fed Group Sort C	N/A	N/A
Early OF GS AA	1:00 PM	M-Th
Early OF GS BB	1:00 PM	M-Th
Selected PPGS	1:30 AM	T-F
NCS	11:00 PM	M-Th
	1:30 AM	T-F
	4:30 PM	Sat

<b>Mixed</b>		
Mixed	11:00 PM	M-Th
	4:30 PM	Sat
Mixed Unencoded **	11:00 PM	M-Th
	4:30 PM	Sat
<b>Misc Products</b>		
Amount Encoding **	11:00 PM	M-Th
	4:30 PM	Sat
<b>Government Items</b>		
Treasury Checks	3:00 PM	M-F
Postal Money Orders	3:00 PM	M-F
Paid Savings Bonds	3:00 PM	M-F
<b>Non-Machineable</b>		
Local	9:00 AM	M-F
Other Fed	9:00 AM	M-F
<b>Return Deposit Programs</b>		
<b>Qualified</b>		
City Regular	7:30 AM	M-F
City Fine Sort	7:00 AM	M-F
RCPC Regular	1:00 AM	M-F
RCPC Premium	3:00 AM	M-F
RCPC Fine Sort	7:00 AM	M-F
Other Fed	11:00 PM	M-Th
	4:30 PM	Sat
<b>Qualified Mixed</b>	11:00 PM	M-Th
	4:30 PM	Sat
<b>Unqualified Sorted</b>		
Local (City & RCPC)	11:00 PM	M-Th
Other Fed	11:00 PM	M-Th
	4:30 PM	Sat
<b>Unqualified Mixed</b>		
(City, RCPC & Other Fed)	11:00 PM	M-Th
	4:30 PM	Sat

\*\* Other Fed endpoints in Mixed deposits will be deferred 1 extra day