

**For release:
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ST. LOUIS, Mo. — The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, acting pursuant to delegated authority for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, today approved the applications by First Banks, Inc. Hazelwood, Missouri, and its subsidiary bank holding company, The San Francisco Company, San Francisco, California, to acquire 100 percent of the outstanding voting shares of Northway State Bank, Grayslake, Illinois. Also approved is the companion application by First Bank, St. Louis, Missouri, to merge with Northway State Bank, pursuant to Section 18(c) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, and to retain the acquired main office facility as a branch office, pursuant to Section 9 of the Federal Reserve Act and Section 208.6 of Regulation H.

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