

**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 application by Midwest Bancorporation, Inc. and Affiliates Employee Stock Ownership Plan Trust, Poplar Bluff, Missouri, to increase its ownership in Midwest Bancorporation, Inc., Poplar Bluff, Missouri, and thereby increase its control of First Midwest Bank of Dexter, Dexter, Missouri, and First Midwest Bank of the Ozarks, Piedmont, Missouri.

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