

Edgar Filing: WACHOVIA CORP/ NC - Form 425

WACHOVIA CORP/ NC
Form 425
May 21, 2001

Filed by First Union Corporation

Pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act of 1933 and deemed filed pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Subject Company: Wachovia Corporation
Commission File No. 1-9021

Date: May 21, 2001

This filing contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such statements include, but are not limited to, (i) statements about the benefits of the merger between First Union Corporation and Wachovia Corporation, including future financial and operating results, cost savings, enhanced revenues, and accretion to reported earnings that may be realized from the merger; (ii) statements with respect to First Union's and Wachovia's plans, objectives, expectations and intentions and other statements that are not historical facts; and (iii) other statements identified by words such as "believes", "expects", "anticipates", "estimates", "intends", "plans", "targets", "projects" and similar expressions. These statements are based upon the current beliefs and expectations of First Union's and Wachovia's management and are subject to significant risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ from those set forth in the forward-looking statements.

The following factors, among others, could cause actual results to differ materially from the anticipated results or other expectations expressed in the forward-looking statements: (1) the risk that the businesses of First Union and Wachovia will not be integrated successfully or such integration may be more difficult, time-consuming or costly than expected; (2) expected revenue synergies and cost savings from the merger may not be fully realized or realized within the expected time frame; (3) revenues following the merger may be lower than expected; (4) deposit attrition, operating costs, customer loss and business disruption following the merger, including, without limitation, difficulties in maintaining relationships with employees, may be greater than expected; (5) the ability to obtain governmental approvals of the merger on the proposed terms and schedule; (6) the failure of First Union's and Wachovia's stockholders to approve the merger; (7) competitive pressures among depository and other financial institutions may increase significantly and have an effect on pricing, spending, third-party relationships and revenues; (8) the strength of the United States economy in general and the strength of the local economies in which the combined company will conduct operations may be different than expected resulting in, among other things, a

deterioration in credit quality or a reduced demand for credit, including the resultant effect on the combined company's loan portfolio and allowance for loan losses; (9) changes in the U.S. and foreign legal and regulatory framework; and (10) adverse conditions in the stock market, the public debt market and other capital markets (including changes in interest rate conditions) and the impact of such conditions on the combined company's capital markets and asset management activities. Additional factors that could cause First Union's and Wachovia's results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements can be found in First Union's and Wachovia's reports (such as Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and

Edgar Filing: WACHOVIA CORP/ NC - Form 425

available at the SEC's Internet site (<http://www.sec.gov>). All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements concerning the proposed transaction or other matters attributable to First Union or Wachovia or any person acting on their behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements above. First Union and Wachovia do not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect circumstances or events that occur after the date the forward-looking statements are made.

The proposed transaction will be submitted to First Union's and Wachovia's stockholders for their consideration, and, on April 26, 2001, First Union filed a registration statement on Form S-4 with the SEC containing a preliminary joint proxy statement/prospectus of First Union and Wachovia and other relevant documents concerning the proposed transaction. Stockholders are urged to read the definitive joint proxy statement/prospectus when it becomes available and any other relevant documents filed with the SEC, as well as any amendments or supplements to those documents, because they will contain important information. You will be able to obtain a free copy of the registration statement and the joint proxy statement/prospectus, as well as other filings containing information about First Union and Wachovia, at the SEC's Internet site (<http://www.sec.gov>). Copies of the joint proxy statement/prospectus and the SEC filings that will be incorporated by reference in the joint proxy statement/prospectus can also be obtained, without charge, by directing a request to First Union, Investor Relations, One First Union Center, Charlotte, North Carolina 28288-0206 (704-374-6782), or to Wachovia, Investor Relations, 100 North Main Street, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27150 (888-492-6397).

First Union and Wachovia, and their respective directors and executive officers may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from the stockholders of First Union and Wachovia in connection with the merger. Information about the directors and executive officers of First Union and their ownership of First Union common stock is set forth in First Union's proxy statement on Schedule 14A, as filed with the SEC on March 13, 2001. Information about the directors and executive officers of Wachovia and their ownership of Wachovia common stock is set forth in Wachovia's proxy statement on Schedule 14A, as filed with the SEC on March 19, 2001. Additional information regarding the interests of those participants may be obtained by reading the definitive joint proxy statement/prospectus regarding the proposed transaction when it becomes available.

THE FOLLOWING NEWS RELEASE WAS ISSUED BY WACHOVIA CORPORATION

For Additional Information:
Ed L. Hutchins, 336-732-4200
ed.hutchins@wachovia.com

May 18, 2001

For Release: Immediately

Wachovia CEO Declines Increase in Retirement Benefits as part of Merger Agreement with First Union

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. - Wachovia Chairman and Chief Executive Officer L.M. Baker Jr. today said that he has entered an amendment to the First Union merger agreement deleting any increase in retirement compensation for his benefit as part of the merger.

As part of the original merger agreement with First Union, neither Baker nor First Union Chairman and Chief Executive Officer G. Kennedy Thompson elected to receive any stock options, restricted stock, other awards or salary

Edgar Filing: WACHOVIA CORP/ NC - Form 425

increases.

"I have received a number of inquiries from Wachovia shareholders regarding my personal pension benefits to be paid as set forth in the agreement underlying the proposed merger of Wachovia and First Union," said Baker. "The future of Wachovia and its value to shareholders, customers, employees and the communities it supports are too important to be put at risk by concerns regarding the compensation of any individual.

"Wachovia has enjoyed strong support from shareholders, customers and its employees over the years, and their loyalty and trust is sacred. It is painful to me to have anyone possibly feel that I would benefit personally at their or the company's expense."

Baker said that he believes the proposed merger presents an "extraordinary opportunity to create one of the finest financial services companies in the world."

He also stated that the progress that has been made in the integration process of the two companies is "ahead of schedule and is proceeding smoothly. The new Wachovia will derive its strength from combining two financial institutions with complementary strengths. The merger does not just create a bigger bank. For shareholders, Wachovia's merger with First Union is a unique opportunity to own an exceptional company with significant potential to build greater shareholder value."

On April 16, 2001, Wachovia (NYSE: WB) announced a merger of equals with First Union Corporation (NYSE: FTU).

Wachovia Corporation, with dual headquarters in Atlanta and Winston-Salem, N.C., is a leading financial holding company serving regional, national and international markets. As of

March 31, 2001, Wachovia had assets of \$75.6 billion. Member companies offer consumer and commercial banking, bank card, asset and wealth management, capital markets and investment banking, community development finance, brokerage and insurance services. Wachovia Bank, N.A., the principal subsidiary, has nearly 650 offices and 1,350 ATMs primarily in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

This news release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, including, without limitation, (i) statements about the benefits of the merger between First Union Corporation and Wachovia Corporation, including future financial and operating results, cost savings, enhanced revenues, and accretion to reported earnings that may be realized from the merger; (ii) statements with respect to First Union's and Wachovia's plans, objectives, expectations and intentions and other statements that are not historical facts; and (iii) other statements identified by words such as "believes," "expects," "anticipates," "estimates," "intends," "plans," "targets" and similar expressions. These statements are based upon the current beliefs and expectations of First Union's and Wachovia's management and are subject to significant risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ from those set forth in the forward-looking statements.

The following factors, among others, could cause actual results to differ materially from the anticipated results or other expectations expressed in such forward-looking statements: (1) the risk that the businesses of First Union and Wachovia will not be integrated successfully or such integration may be more difficult, time-consuming or costly than expected; (2) expected revenue synergies and cost savings from the merger may not be fully realized or realized within the expected time frame; (3) revenues following the merger may be lower than expected; (4) deposit attrition, operating costs, customer loss and business disruption following the merger, including, without limitation, difficulties in maintaining relationships with employees, may be greater than expected; (5) the ability to obtain governmental approvals of the merger on the proposed terms and schedule; (6) the failure of First Union's and Wachovia's stockholders to approve the merger; (7) competitive pressures among depository

Edgar Filing: WACHOVIA CORP/ NC - Form 425

and other financial institutions may increase significantly and have an effect on pricing, spending, third-party relationships and revenues; (8) the strength of the United States economy in general and the strength of the local economies in which the combined company will conduct operations may be different than expected resulting in, among other things, a deterioration in credit quality or a reduced demand for credit, including the resultant effect on the combined company's loan portfolio and allowance for loan losses; (9) changes in the U.S. and foreign legal and regulatory framework; and (10) adverse conditions in the stock market, the public debt market and other capital markets (including changes in interest rate conditions) and the impact of such conditions on the combined company's capital markets and asset management activities. Additional factors that could cause First Union's and Wachovia's results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements can be found in First Union's and Wachovia's Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements concerning the proposed transaction or other matters and attributable to First Union or Wachovia or any person acting on their behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements referenced above. First Union and Wachovia do not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect circumstances or events that occur after the date the forward-looking statements are made.

Additional Information:

You are urged to read the definitive joint proxy statement/prospectus regarding the proposed transaction when it becomes available, because it will contain important information. You may obtain a free copy of the preliminary joint proxy statement/prospectus filed as part of First Union's registration statement on Form S-4, and other filings containing information about First Union and Wachovia, including the definitive joint proxy statement/prospectus when it becomes available, without charge, at the SEC's internet site (<http://www.sec.gov>). Copies of the joint proxy statement/prospectus and the SEC filings that will be incorporated by reference in the joint proxy statement/prospectus can also be obtained, without charge, by directing a request to First Union Corporation, Investor Relations, One First Union Center, 301 South College Street, Charlotte, NC 28288-0206, 704-374-6782, or to Wachovia Corporation, Investor Relations, 100 North Main Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27150, 888-492-6397. Information regarding the participants in the proxy solicitation and a description of their direct and indirect interest, by security holdings or otherwise, is contained in the materials filed with the SEC by each of First Union and Wachovia on April 16, 2001.