The costs of bank equity offerings in response to strengthened regulatory intervention *

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Abstract

This paper studies bank new equity offerings in response to strengthened regulatory intervention regulation. The key finding is that banks with relatively low capital were more likely to issue new equity though they were not capital deficient in terms of exisiting regulatory requirement. Announcements of new equity issuance have been associated with statistically significant negative abnormal returns. The total cost of recapitalization including announcement return was positively related to bank capital. Our results suggest that bank equity offerings convey information on the risks of future shortfall of capital or the future regulatory risks.

Keywords: Basel capital regulation, signaling, seasoned equity offer, announcement return

JEL classification: G21; G28; G18; G14; G32

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