

to assure consideration only for comments received on or before this date.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments may be submitted to the Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. You may also provide comments via the NRC's Operator Licensing web site (<http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/REACTOR/OL/OLguidance.html>). Copies of comments received may be examined on the NRC Public Electronic Reading Room (<http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html>) and at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW, Washington, DC.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. S. Guenther by telephone at (301) 415-1056, or by e-mail [sxg@nrc.gov](mailto:sxg@nrc.gov).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 6th day of July 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Glenn M. Tracy,**

*Chief, Operator Licensing, Human Performance and Plant Support Branch, Division of Inspection Program Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 00-18022 Filed 7-14-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7590-01-P**

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

Extension: Rule 17g-1; SEC File No. 270-208; OMB Control No. 3235-0213.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 [44 U.S.C. 3501-3520], the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") a request for extension of approval of rule 17g-1 [17 CFR 270.17g-1] under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Act").

Rule 17g-1 governs the fidelity bonding of officers and employees of registered management investment companies ("funds") and their advisers. Rule 17g-1 requires, in part, the following:

- *Independent Directors' Approval Requirements.* At least annually, the independent directors of a fund must approve the form and amount of the fund's fidelity bond. Rule 17g-1 provides a schedule of minimum

amounts for fidelity bonds based on a fund's size. The independent directors also must approve the amount of any premium paid for any "joint bond" covering multiple funds or certain other affiliates of the fund.

- *Fidelity Bond Content Requirements.* The fidelity bond must provide that it shall not be cancelled, terminated or modified except upon 60-days written notice to the affected party and to the Commission. In addition, a joint bond must provide that the fidelity insurance company will provide all funds covered by the bond with (i) a copy of the bond and any amendments to the bond; (ii) a copy of any formal filing of a claim on the bond; and (iii) notification of the terms of the settlement on any claim prior to execution of that settlement.

- *Joint Bond Agreement Requirement.* A fund that is insured by a joint bond must enter into an agreement with all other parties insured by the joint bond regarding recovery under the joint bond.

- *Required Filings with the Commission.* Upon execution of a fidelity bond or any amendment thereto, a fund must file with the Commission a copy of: (i) the executed fidelity bond; (ii) the resolution of the fund's independent directors approving the fidelity bond; and (iii) a statement as to the period for which the fidelity bond premiums have been paid. In the case of a joint bond, a fund also must file a copy of: (i) a statement showing the amount of a single insured bond the fund would have maintained under the rule had it not been named under a joint bond; and (ii) each agreement between the fund and all other insured parties. A fund also must notify the Commission in writing within 5 days of any claim and settlement on a claim made under a fidelity bond.

- *Required Notices to Directors.* A fund must notify by registered mail each member of its board of directors of (i) any cancellation, termination or modification of the fidelity bond at least 45 days prior to the effective date; and (ii) the filing or settlement of any claim under the fidelity bond when the notification is filed with the Commission.

Rule 17g-1's independent directors' annual review requirements, fidelity bond content requirements, joint bond agreement requirement and required notices to directors are designed to ensure the safety of fund assets against losses due to the conduct of persons who may obtain access to those assets. These requirements also facilitate oversight of a fund's fidelity bond. The rule's required filing with the Commission are designed to assist the

Commission in monitoring funds' compliance with the fidelity bond requirements.

The Commission staff estimates that approximately 3500 funds are subject to the requirements of rule 17g-1, and that on average a fund spends approximately one hour per year complying with the rule's paperwork requirements. The Commission staff therefore estimates the total annual burden of the rule's paperwork requirements to be 3500 hours.

These estimates of average burden hours are made solely for the purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act. These estimates are not derived from a comprehensive or even a representative survey or study of Commission rules. The collection of information required by rule 17g-1 is mandatory and will not be kept confidential. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

Please direct general comments regarding the information above to: (i) Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503; and (ii) Michael Bartell, Associate Executive Director, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: July 11, 2000.

**Margaret H. McFarland,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

Extension:

Rule 17Ad-4(b) & (c), SEC File No. 270-264,

OMB Control No. 3235-0341.

Rule 15, SEC File No. 270-360, OMB Control No. 3235-0409.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget requests for extension on the previously

approved collections of information discussed below.

#### **Rule 17Ad-4(b) & (c) Notices Regarding Exempt Transfer Agent Status**

Rule 17Ad-4(b) & (c) is used to document when transfer agents are exempt, or no longer exempt, from the minimum performance standards and certain recordkeeping provisions of the Commission's transfer agent rules. Rule 17Ad-4(c) sets forth the conditions under which a registered transfer agent loses its exempt status. Once the conditions for exemption no longer exist, the transfer agent, to keep the appropriate regulatory authority ("ARA" apprised of its current status, must prepare, and file if the ARA for the transfer agent is the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System ("BGFRS") or the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC"), a notice of loss of exempt status under paragraph (c). The transfer agent then cannot claim exempt status under Rule 17Ad-4(b) again until it remains subject to the minimum performance standards for non-exempt transfer agents for six consecutive months. The ARAs use the information contained in the notice to determine whether a registered transfer agent qualifies for the exemption, to determine when a registered transfer agent no longer qualifies for the exemption, and to determine the extent to which the transfer agent is subject to regulation.

The BGFRS receives approximately twelve notices of exempt status and six notices of loss of exempt status annually. The FDIC receives approximately eighteen notices of exempt status and three notices of loss of exempt status annually. The Commission and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency ("OCC") do not require transfer agents to file notice of exempt status or loss of exempt status. Instead, transfer agents whose ARA is the Commission or OCC need only to prepare and maintain these notices. The Commission estimates that approximately sixteen notices of exempt status and loss of exempt status are prepared annually by transfer agents whose ARA is the Commission. Similarly, the OCC estimates that the transfer agents for which it is the ARA, prepare and maintain approximately fifteen notices of exempt status and loss of exempt status annually. Thus, a total of approximately seventy notices of exempt status and loss of exempt status are prepared and maintained by transfer agents annually. Of these seventy notices, approximately forty are filed with an ARA. Any additional costs associated with filing such notices

would be limited primarily to postage, which would be minimal. Since the Commission estimates that no more than one-half hour is required to prepare each notice, the total annual burden to transfer agents is approximately thirty-five hours. The average cost per hour is approximately \$30. Therefore, the total cost of compliance to the transfer agent community is \$1,050.

#### **Rule 17Ad-15 Signature Guarantees**

Rule 17Ad-15 requires approximately 1,093 transfer agents to establish written standards for accepting and rejecting guarantees of securities transfers from eligible guarantor institutions. Transfer agents are also required to establish procedures to ensure that those standards are used by the transfer agent to determine whether to accept or reject guarantees from eligible guarantor institutions. Transfer agents must maintain, for a period of three years following the date of a rejection of transfer, a record of all transfers rejected, along with the reason for the rejection, identification of the guarantor, and whether the guarantor filed to meet the transfer agent's guaranteed standard. These recordkeeping requirements assist the Commission and other regulatory agencies with monitoring transfer agents and ensuring compliance with the rule.

There are approximately 1,093 registered transfer agents. Of the 1,093 registered transfer agents, approximately 120 will receive fewer than 100 items for transfer. The staff expects that more small transfer agents will have few, if any, rejections. The average number of hours necessary for every transfer agent to comply with the Rule 17Ad-15 is about forty hours annually. The total burden is 43,720 hours for all transfer agents. The average cost per hour is approximately \$30. Therefore, the total cost of compliance for all transfer agents is about \$1,311,600.

The retention period for the recordkeeping requirement under Rule 17Ad-15 is three years following the date of a rejection of transfer. The recordkeeping requirement under the rule is mandatory to assist the Commission and other regulatory agencies with monitoring transfer agents and ensuring compliance with the rule. This rule does not involve the collection of confidential information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

General comments regarding the estimated burden hours should be directed to the following persons: (i)

Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 3208, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503. and (ii) Micheal E. Bartell, Associate Executive Director, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, Washington, D.C. 20549. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: July 10, 2000.

**Margaret H. McFarland,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 00-18006 Filed 7-14-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8010-01-M**

## **SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

[Release No. 34-43021; File No. SR-NASD-99-41]

### **Self-Regulatory Organizations; National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc.; Order Approving Proposed Rule Change and Amendment No. 1 and Notice of Filing and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of Amendment No. 2 Relating to the Opening of Day-Trading Accounts**

July 10, 2000.

#### **I. Introduction**

On August 20, 1999, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD" or "Association"), through its wholly owned subsidiary, NASD Regulation, Inc. ("NASD Regulation"), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission"), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> a proposed rule change relating to the opening of day-trading accounts.

The proposed rule change was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on September 21, 1999.<sup>3</sup> The Commission received three comment letters on the proposed rule change.<sup>4</sup> On

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

<sup>3</sup> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 41432 (September 14, 1999), 64 FR 51165.

<sup>4</sup> See Letters from James H. Lee, President, Electronic Traders Association ("ETA"), to Jonathan G. Katz, Secretary, SEC, dated October 11, 1999; Bradley W. Skolnik, President, Indiana Securities Commissioner, North American Securities Administrators Association ("NASAA"), to Jonathan G. Katz, Secretary, SEC, dated October 12, 1999; and Lee B. Spencer, Jr., Chairman, Federal Regulation Committee, Everett Lang, Co-Chairman, Discount Brokerage Committee, Michael L. Michael, Chairman, Ad-Hoc Committee on Technology and