

existence, substance and effect of any order granted pursuant to the application. In addition, each Sub-Advised Fund will hold itself out to the public as employing the multi-manager structure described in the application. The prospectus will prominently disclose that the Adviser has the ultimate responsibility, subject to oversight by the Board, to oversee the Sub-Advisers and recommend their hiring, termination, and replacement.

3. The Adviser will provide general management services to each Sub-Advised Fund, including overall supervisory responsibility for the general management and investment of the Sub-Advised Fund's assets, and subject to review and oversight of the Board, will (i) set the Sub-Advised Fund's overall investment strategies, (ii) evaluate, select, and recommend Sub-Advisers for all or a portion of the Sub-Advised Fund's assets, (iii) allocate and, when appropriate, reallocate the Sub-Advised Fund's assets among Sub-Advisers, (iv) monitor and evaluate the Sub-Advisers' performance, and (v) implement procedures reasonably designed to ensure that Sub-Advisers comply with the Sub-Advised Fund's investment objective, policies and restrictions.

4. Sub-Advised Funds will inform shareholders of the hiring of a new Sub-Adviser within 90 days after the hiring of the new Sub-Adviser pursuant to the Modified Notice and Access Procedures.

5. At all times, at least a majority of the Board will be Independent Trustees, and the selection and nomination of new or additional Independent Trustees will be placed within the discretion of the then-existing Independent Trustees.

6. Independent Legal Counsel, as defined in Rule 0-1(a)(6) under the Act, will be engaged to represent the Independent Trustees. The selection of such counsel will be within the discretion of the then-existing Independent Trustees.

7. Whenever a Sub-Adviser is hired or terminated, the Adviser will provide the Board with information showing the expected impact on the profitability of the Adviser.

8. The Board must evaluate any material conflicts that may be present in a sub-advisory arrangement. Specifically, whenever a sub-adviser change is proposed for a Sub-Advised Fund ("Sub-Adviser Change") or the Board considers an existing Sub-Advisory Agreement as part of its annual review process ("Sub-Adviser Review"):

(a) The Adviser will provide the Board, to the extent not already being provided pursuant to Section 15(c) of

the Act, with all relevant information concerning:

(i) Any material interest in the proposed new Sub-Adviser, in the case of a Sub-Adviser Change, or the Sub-Adviser in the case of a Sub-Adviser Review, held directly or indirectly by the Adviser or a parent or sister company of the Adviser, and any material impact the proposed Sub-Advisory Agreement may have on that interest;

(ii) any arrangement or understanding in which the Adviser or any parent or sister company of the Adviser is a participant that (A) may have had a material effect on the proposed Sub-Adviser Change or Sub-Adviser Review, or (B) may be materially affected by the proposed Sub-Adviser Change or Sub-Adviser Review;

(iii) any material interest in a Sub-Adviser held directly or indirectly by an officer or Trustee of the Sub-Advised Fund, or an officer or board member of the Adviser (other than through a pooled investment vehicle not controlled by such person); and

(iv) any other information that may be relevant to the Board in evaluating any potential material conflicts of interest in the proposed Sub-Adviser Change or Sub-Adviser Review.

(b) the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, will make a separate finding, reflected in the Board minutes, that the Sub-Adviser Change or continuation after Sub-Adviser Review is in the best interests of the Sub-Advised Fund and its shareholders and, based on the information provided to the Board, does not involve a conflict of interest from which the Adviser, a Sub-Adviser, any officer or Trustee of the Sub-Advised Fund, or any officer or board member of the Adviser derives an inappropriate advantage.

9. Each Sub-Advised Fund will disclose in its registration statement the Aggregate Fee Disclosure.

10. In the event that the Commission adopts a rule under the Act providing substantially similar relief to that in the order requested in the application, the requested order will expire on the effective date of that rule.

11. Any new Sub-Advisory Agreement or any amendment to an existing Investment Advisory Agreement or Sub-Advisory Agreement that directly or indirectly results in an increase in the aggregate advisory fee rate payable by the Sub-Advised Fund will be submitted to the Sub-Advised Fund's shareholders for approval.

For the Commission, by the Division of Investment Management, under delegated authority.

**J. Matthew DeLesDernier,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2020-28688 Filed 12-28-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8011-01-P**

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

*Upon Written Request Copies Available From:* Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of FOIA Services, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-2736

#### Extension:

Rule 17f-1; SEC File No. 270-236, OMB Control No. 3235-0222

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 (the "Commission") is soliciting comments on the collections of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit these existing collections of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Rule 17f-1 (17 CFR 270.17f-1) under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Act") (15 U.S.C. 80a) is entitled: "Custody of Securities with Members of National Securities Exchanges." Rule 17f-1 provides that any registered management investment company ("fund") that wishes to place its assets in the custody of a national securities exchange member may do so only under a written contract that must be ratified initially and approved annually by a majority of the fund's board of directors. The written contract also must contain certain specified provisions. In addition, the rule requires an independent public accountant to examine the fund's assets in the custody of the exchange member at least three times during the fund's fiscal year. The rule requires the written contract and the certificate of each examination to be transmitted to the Commission. The purpose of the rule is to ensure the safekeeping of fund assets.

Commission staff estimates that each fund makes 1 response and spends an average of 3.5 hours annually in complying with the rule's requirements. Commission staff estimates that on an annual basis it takes: (i) 0.5 Hours for the board of directors<sup>1</sup> to review and

<sup>1</sup> Estimates of the number of hours are based on conversations with representatives of mutual funds

ratify the custodial contracts; and (ii) 3 hours for the fund's controller to assist the fund's independent public auditors in verifying the fund's assets.

Approximately 6 funds rely on the rule annually, with a total of 6 responses.<sup>2</sup> Thus, the total annual hour burden for rule 17f-1 is approximately 21 hours.<sup>3</sup>

Funds that rely on rule 17f-1 generally use outside counsel to prepare the custodial contract for the board's review and to transmit the contract to the Commission. Commission staff estimates the cost of outside counsel to perform these tasks for a fund each year is \$978.<sup>4</sup> Funds also must have an independent public accountant verify the fund's assets three times each year and prepare the certificate of examination. Commission staff estimates the annual cost for an independent public accountant to perform this service is \$9,050.<sup>5</sup> Therefore, the total annual cost burden for a fund that relies on rule 17f-1 would be approximately \$10,028.<sup>6</sup> As noted above, the staff estimates that 6 funds rely on rule 17f-1 each year, for an estimated total annualized cost burden of \$60,168.<sup>7</sup>

The estimate of average burden hours is made solely for the purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act, and is not derived from a comprehensive or even a representative survey or study of the costs of Commission rules. Compliance with the collections of information required by rule 17f-1 is mandatory for funds that place their assets in the custody of a national securities exchange member. Responses will not be kept confidential. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not

that comply with the rule. The actual number of hours may vary significantly depending on individual fund assets. The hour burden for rule 17f-1 does not include preparing the custody contract because that would be part of customary and usual business practice.

<sup>2</sup> Based on a review of Form N-17f-1 filings over the last three years the Commission staff estimates that an average of 6 funds rely on rule 17f-1 each year.

<sup>3</sup> This estimate is based on the following calculation: (6 Respondents × 3.5 hours = 21 hours). The annual burden for rule 17f-1 does not include time spent preparing Form N-17f-1. The burden for Form N-17f-1 is included in a separate collection of information.

<sup>4</sup> This estimate is based on the following calculation: (2 hours of outside counsel time × \$489 = \$978). The staff has estimated the average cost of outside counsel at \$489 per hour, based on information received from funds and their counsel.

<sup>5</sup> This estimate is based on information received from fund representatives estimating the aggregate annual cost of an independent public accountant's periodic verification of assets and preparation of the certificate of examination.

<sup>6</sup> This estimate is based on the following calculation: (\$978 + \$9,050 = \$10,028).

<sup>7</sup> This estimate is based on the following calculation: (6 funds × \$10,028 = \$60,168).

required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

The Commission requests written comments on: (a) Whether the collections of information are necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's estimate of the burdens of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

Please direct your written comments to David Bottom, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, C/O Cynthia Roscoe, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549; or send an email to: [PRA\\_Mailbox@sec.gov](mailto:PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov).

Dated: December 22, 2020.

**Eduardo A. Aleman,**  
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2020-28768 Filed 12-28-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8011-01-P**

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-90766; File No. S7-22-20]

### Notice of Substituted Compliance Application Submitted by the French Autorité des Marchés Financiers and the Autorité de Contrôle Prudential et de Résolution in Connection With Certain Requirements Applicable to Non-U.S. Security-Based Swap Dealers and Major Security-Based Swap Participants Subject to Regulation in the French Republic; Proposed Order

**AGENCY:** Securities and Exchange Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of application for substituted compliance determination; proposed order.

**SUMMARY:** The Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission" or "SEC") is soliciting public comment on an application by the French Autorité des Marchés Financiers ("AMF") and the Autorité de Contrôle Prudential et de Résolution ("ACPR") requesting that, pursuant to rule 3a71-6 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act"), the Commission

determine that registered security-based swap dealers and registered major security-based swap participants ("SBS Entities") that are not U.S. persons and that are subject to certain regulation in the French Republic ("France") may comply with certain requirements under the Exchange Act via compliance with corresponding requirements of France and the European Union. The Commission also is soliciting comment on a proposed Order providing for conditional substituted compliance in connection with the application.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before January 25, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

#### Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission's internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/proposed.shtml>); or
- Send an email to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number S7-22-20 on the subject line.

#### Paper Comments

• Send paper comments to Vanessa A. Countryman, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090. All submissions should refer to File Number S7-22-20. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's internet website (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/proposed.shtml>). Comments are also available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. All comments received will be posted without change. Persons submitting comments are cautioned that the Commission does not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make publicly available.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Carol M. McGee, Assistant Director or Laura Compton, Senior Special Counsel at 202-551-5870, Office of Derivatives Policy, Division of Trading and Markets, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-7010.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Commission is soliciting public comment on an application by the AMF