

CFR parts 1500–1508, the Postal Service regulations for implementing NEPA, 32 CFR part 775, and the Postal Service Facilities Environmental Guide (Handbook RE–6, November 2004).

The proposed project will improve regional mail handling logistics, expand delivery point processing capabilities and provide more efficient mail delivery services in southern Orange County.

The proposed facility would be approximately 342,726 square feet and would contain state-of-the-art automated mail processing systems. The facility would be constructed over an 18-month period during normal daytime hours Monday through Saturday. It would include a workroom, administrative space, and employee facilities, such as restrooms and break rooms. Grading of the site would be required to achieve a uniform site elevation. In addition to the facility, the site would include two gated access roads and parking areas for tractor/trailers and employee vehicles. Other site improvements include a retaining wall along the northern edge of the site, fencing, sidewalks and curbs, outdoor lighting, a facility sign, and landscaping. Existing trees and other vegetation on the western and northern edges would remain, as would vegetation along the steeply graded eastern and southern parts of the site.

An estimated 561 full-time employees spread over three work shifts would staff the facility. Typical facility activities would include unloading unsorted mail from delivery tractor/trailers, automated mail processing, loading delivery-sequenced mail onto delivery tractor/trailers, and general administration. The facility would operate continuously, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It would generate an estimated 74 tractor/trailer round trips during each 24-hour period.

Alternatives that will be evaluated by the Postal Service in the EIS include the above-described proposed action and a “No Action” alternative. Under the “No Action” alternative, the mail processing facility would not be constructed. The Postal Service may consider other alternatives in the EIS, including variations on the size or functions of the proposed facility, alternate locations for the proposed facility, and other reasonable alternatives identified during the public scoping process.

The Postal Service is seeking public input on the scope of environmental issues and the range of alternatives to be addressed in the EIS. To assist with this scoping effort, copies of an environmental assessment and draft supplemental environmental assessment previously prepared for this project are

available at the Aliso Viejo Library, 1 Journey (949–360–1730). Those documents are also available electronically at <http://www.alisoviejois.com>. All comments previously received on the environmental assessment are being considered during development of the EIS.

Neva R. Watson,

Attorney, Legislative.

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BILLING CODE 7710–12–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Investment Company Act Release No. 28144; 812–13427]

Pioneer Bond Fund, et al.; Notice of Application

February 5, 2008.

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”).

ACTION: Notice of an application for an order pursuant to (a) section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the “Act”) for an exemption from sections 18(f) and 21(b) of the Act; (b) section 12(d)(1)(j) of the Act for an exemption from section 12(d)(1) of the Act; (c) sections 6(c) and 17(b) of the Act for an exemption from sections 17(a)(1) and 17(a)(3) of the Act; and (d) section 17(d) of the Act and rule 17d–1 thereunder to permit certain joint transactions.

Summary of the Application:

Applicants request an order that would permit certain registered open-end management investment companies to participate in a joint lending and borrowing facility.

Applicants: Pioneer Bond Fund, Pioneer Diversified High Income Trust, Pioneer Emerging Markets Fund, Pioneer Equity Income Fund, Pioneer Equity Opportunity Fund, Pioneer Europe Select Equity Fund, Pioneer Floating Rate Trust, Pioneer Fund, Pioneer Fundamental Growth Fund, Pioneer High Income Trust, Pioneer High Yield Fund, Pioneer Ibbotson Asset Allocation Series, Pioneer Independence Fund, Pioneer International Equity Fund, Pioneer International Value Fund, Pioneer Mid Cap Growth Fund, Pioneer Mid Cap Value Fund, Pioneer Money Market Trust, Pioneer Municipal High Income Trust, Pioneer Municipal High Income Advantage Trust, Pioneer Principal Protected Trust, Pioneer Real Estate Shares, Pioneer Research Fund, Pioneer Select Growth Fund, Pioneer Select Value Fund, Pioneer Series Trust I,

Pioneer Series Trust II, Pioneer Series Trust III, Pioneer Series Trust IV, Pioneer Series Trust V, Pioneer Series Trust VI, Pioneer Series Trust VII, Pioneer Short Term Income Fund, Pioneer Small Cap Value Fund, Pioneer Strategic Income Fund, Pioneer Municipal and Equity Income Trust, Pioneer Tax Free Income Fund, Pioneer Value Fund, and Pioneer Variable Contracts Trust (each, a “Trust” and collectively, the “Trusts”), and Pioneer Investment Management, Inc. (“PIM”).

Filing Dates: The application was filed on September 24, 2007, and amended on January 16, 2008.

Hearing or Notification of Hearing: An order granting the application will be issued unless the Commission orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the Commission’s Secretary and serving applicants with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the Commission by 5:30 p.m. on March 3, 2008 and should be accompanied by proof of service on applicants, in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Hearing requests should state the nature of the writer’s interest, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons who wish to be notified of a hearing may request by writing to the Commission’s Secretary.

ADDRESSES: Secretary, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549–1090. Applicants, 60 State Street, Boston, MA 02109–1820.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lewis B. Reich, Senior Counsel, at (202) 551–6919, or, Nadya Roytblat, Assistant Director, at (202) 551–6821 (Office of Investment Company Regulation, Division of Investment Management).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following is a summary of the application. The complete application may be obtained for a fee at the Commission’s Public Reference Branch, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549–0102 (telephone (202) 551–5850).

Applicants’ Representations

1. Each Trust is organized as a Delaware statutory trust or Massachusetts business trust and is either an open-end or closed-end management investment company registered under the Act.¹ Each Trust

¹ Applicants request that the order also apply to any existing or future registered management investment company that is part of the same “group of investment companies” as the Trusts, as defined in section 12(d)(1)(G)(ii) of the Act (included in the term “Trusts”). All entities that currently intend to

consists of one or more series ("Funds"). PIM, a Delaware corporation and an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of UniCredito Italiano S.p.A., is registered as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended, and serves as the investment adviser and administrator of each Fund.

2. At any particular time, while some Funds are lending money to banks or other entities by entering into repurchase agreements or purchasing other short-term instruments, other Funds may need to borrow money from the same or similar banks for temporary purposes to satisfy redemption requests, to cover unanticipated cash shortfalls such as a trade "fail" in which cash payment for a security sold by a Fund has been delayed, or for other temporary purposes.

3. Currently, certain Funds have access to bank lines of credit for temporary borrowing purposes. If Funds borrow under those lines of credit, they pay interest on the loan at a rate that is significantly higher than the rate that is earned by other (non-borrowing) Funds on investments in repurchase agreements and other short term instruments of the same maturity as the loan. Applicants assert that this differential represents the profit earned by the lender on loans made under the lines of credit and is not attributable to any material difference in the credit quality or risk of such transactions.

4. Applicants request an order that would permit the Trusts seek to enter into master interfund lending agreements ("Interfund Lending Agreements") with each other on behalf of the Funds that would permit each Fund to lend money directly to and borrow directly from other Funds through a credit facility for temporary purposes ("Interfund Loan"). Applicants state that the proposed credit facility would substantially reduce the Funds' potential borrowing costs and enhance the ability of the lending Funds to earn higher rates of interest on their short-term lendings. Although the proposed credit facility would substantially reduce the Funds' need to borrow from banks, the Funds would be free to establish committed lines of credit or other borrowing arrangements with unaffiliated banks. Closed-end Funds and money market Funds will not participate as borrowers in the proposed credit facility.

5. Applicants anticipate that the proposed credit facility would provide a borrowing Fund with significant savings at times when the cash position of the borrowing Fund is insufficient to meet temporary cash requirements. This situation could arise when shareholder redemptions exceed anticipated volumes and certain Funds have insufficient cash on hand to satisfy such redemptions. When the Funds liquidate portfolio securities to meet redemption requests, they often do not receive payment in settlement for up to three days (or longer for certain foreign transactions). However, redemption requests normally are effected immediately. The proposed credit facility would provide a source of immediate, short-term liquidity pending settlement of the sale of portfolio securities.

6. Applicants also propose that a Fund could use the proposed credit facility when a sale of securities "fails" due to circumstances beyond the Fund's control, such as a delay in the delivery of cash to the Fund's custodian or improper delivery instructions by the broker effecting the transaction. "Sales fails" may present a cash shortfall if the Fund has undertaken to purchase a security using the proceeds from securities sold. Alternatively, the Fund could either "fail" on its intended purchase due to lack of funds from the previous sale, resulting in additional cost to the Fund or sell a security on a same-day settlement basis, earning a lower return on the investment. Use of the proposed credit facility under these circumstances would enable the Fund to have access to immediate short-term liquidity without the Fund incurring custodian overdraft or other changes.

7. While bank borrowings generally could supply needed cash to cover unanticipated redemptions and sales fails, under the proposed credit facility, a borrowing Fund would pay lower interest rates than those that would be payable under short-term loans offered by banks. In addition, Funds making short-term cash loans directly to other Funds would earn interest at a rate higher than they otherwise could obtain from investing their cash in repurchase agreements or purchasing shares of a money market Fund. Thus, the proposed credit facility would benefit both borrowing and lending Funds.

8. The interest rate to be charged to the Funds on any Interfund Loan (the "Interfund Loan Rate") would be the average of the "Repo Rate" and the "Bank Loan Rate," both as defined below. The Repo Rate for any day would be the highest or best (after giving effect to factors such as the credit quality of

the issuer) rate available to a lending Fund from investment in overnight repurchase agreements. The Bank Loan Rate for any day would be calculated by PIM each day an Interfund Loan is made according to a formula established by each Trust's board of trustees ("Trustees") intended to approximate the lowest interest rate at which bank short-term loans would be available to the Funds. The formula would be based upon a publicly available rate (e.g., federal funds plus 50 basis points) and would vary with this rate so as to reflect changing bank loan rates. The initial formula and any subsequent modifications to the formula would be subject to the approval of each Trust's Trustees. Each Trust's Trustees would periodically review the continuing appropriateness of using the formula to determine the Bank Loan Rate, as well as the relationship between the Bank Loan Rate and current bank loan rates that would be available to the Funds. The initial formula and any subsequent modifications to it would subject to the approval of each Trust's Trustees.

9. The proposed credit facility would be administered by PIM's fund accounting department, an investment professional within PIM who serves as a portfolio manager of money market Funds and a compliance professional within PIM (collectively, the "Credit Facility Team"). Under the proposed credit facility, the portfolio managers for each participating Fund could provide standing instructions to participate daily as a borrower or lender. The Credit Facility Team on each business day would collect data on the uninvested cash and borrowing requirements of all participating Funds. Once it determined the aggregate amount of cash available for loans and borrowing demand, the Credit Facility Team would allocate loans among borrowing Funds without any further communication from the portfolio managers of the Funds (other than the money market Fund portfolio manager acting in his or her capacity as a member of the Credit Facility Team). After the allocating cash for Interfund Loans, the Credit Facility Team would invest any remaining cash in accordance with the standing instructions of the portfolio managers or such remaining amounts will be invested directly by the portfolio managers of the Funds.

10. The Credit Facility Team would allocate borrowing demand and cash available for lending among the Funds on what the Credit Facility Team believes to be an equitable basis, subject to certain administrative procedures applicable to all Funds, such as the time of filing requests to participate, minimum loan lot sizes and the need to

rely on the requested order have been named as applicants. Any other entity that relies on the requested order in the future will comply with the terms and conditions set forth in the application.

minimize the number of transactions and associated administrative costs. To reduce transaction costs, each loan normally would be allocated in a manner intended to minimize the number of participants necessary to complete the loan transaction. The method of allocation and related administrative procedures would be approved by each Trust's Trustees, including a majority of Trustees who are not "interested persons" of the Trust, as that term is defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the Act ("Independent Trustees"), to ensure that both borrowing and lending Funds participate on an equitable basis.

11. PIM, through the Credit Facility Team, would administer the proposed credit facility as part of its duties under the relevant management, advisory or administrative contract with each Fund and would receive no additional fee as compensation for its services in connection with the administration of the proposed credit facility. PIM would: (i) Monitor the Interfund Loan Rate and the other terms and conditions of the loans; (ii) limit the borrowings and loans entered into by each Fund to ensure that they comply with the Fund's investment policies and limitations; (iii) ensure equitable treatment of each Fund; and (iv) make quarterly reports to the Trustees concerning any transactions by the Funds under the proposed credit facility and the Interfund Loan Rate charged.

12. No Fund may participate in the proposed credit facility unless: (i) The Fund has obtained shareholder approval for its participation, if such approval is required by law; (ii) the Fund has fully disclosed all material information concerning the credit facility in its prospectus and/or statement of additional information; and (iii) the Fund's participation in the credit facility is consistent with its investment objectives, limitations and organizational documents.

13. In connection with the credit facility, applicants request an order under (a) section 6(c) of the Act granting relief from sections 18(f) and 21(b) of the Act; (b) section 12(d)(1)(j) of the Act granting relief from section 12(d)(1) of the Act; (c) sections 6(c) and 17(b) of the Act granting relief from sections 17(a)(1) and 17(a)(3) of the Act; and (d) under section 17(d) of the Act and rule 17d-1 under the Act to permit certain joint arrangements.

Applicants' Legal Analysis

1. Section 17(a)(3) of the Act generally prohibits any affiliated person, or affiliated person of an affiliated person, from borrowing money or other property from a registered investment company.

Section 21(b) of the Act generally prohibits any registered management company from lending money or other property to any person, directly or indirectly, if that person controls or is under common control with that company. Section 2(a)(3)(C) of the Act defines an "affiliated person" of another person, in part, to be any person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by, or under common control with, such other person. Section 2(a)(9) of the Act defines "control" as the "power to exercise a controlling influence over the management or policies of a company," but excludes circumstances in which "such power is solely the result of an official position with such company." Applicants state that the Funds could be deemed to be under common control by virtue of having PIM as their common investment adviser and/or by reason of having common officers and Trustees.

2. Section 6(c) of the Act provides that an exemptive order may be granted where an exemption is necessary or appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the Act. Section 17(b) of the Act authorizes the Commission to exempt a proposed transaction from the provisions of Section 17(a) of the Act provided that the terms of the transaction, including the consideration to be paid or received, are fair and reasonable and do not involve overreaching on the part of any person concerned, and the transaction is consistent with the policy of the investment company as recited in its registration statement and with the general purposes of the Act. Applicants assert that the proposed arrangements satisfy these standards for the reasons discussed below.

3. Applicants assert that sections 17(a)(3) and 21(b) were intended to prevent a person with strong potential adverse interests to, and some influence over the investment decisions of, a registered investment company from causing or inducing the investment company to engage in lending transactions that unfairly inure to the benefit of such person and that are detrimental to the best interests of the investment company and its shareholders. Applicants assert that the proposed credit facility transactions do not raise these concerns because: (a) PIM, through the Credit Facility Team, would administer the program as a disinterested fiduciary; (b) all Interfund Loans would consist only of uninvested cash reserves that a Fund otherwise would invest in short-term repurchase agreements or other short-term

instruments; (c) the Interfund Loans would not involve a greater risk than such other investments; (d) the lending Fund would receive interest at a rate higher than it could obtain through such other investments; and (e) the borrowing Fund would pay interest at a rate lower than otherwise available to it under its bank loan agreements and avoid the quarterly commitment fees associated with committed lines of credit. Moreover, applicants believe that the other conditions in the application would effectively preclude the possibility of any Fund obtaining an undue advantage over any other Fund.

4. Section 17(a)(1) of the Act generally prohibits any affiliated person of a registered investment company, or any affiliated person of such a person, from selling securities or other property to the investment company. Section 12(d)(1) of the Act generally makes it unlawful for a registered investment company to purchasing or otherwise acquire any security issued by any other investment company except in accordance with the limitations set forth in that Section. Applicants state that the obligation of a borrowing Fund to repay an Interfund Loan may constitute a security under sections 17(a)(1) and 12(d)(1). Section 12(d)(1)(j) provides that the Commission may exempt persons or transactions from any provision of section 12(d)(1) if and to the extent that such exemption is consistent with the public interest and the protection of investors. Applicants contend that the standards under sections 6(c), 17(b), and 12(d)(1)(j) are satisfied for all the reasons set forth above in support of their request for relief from sections 17(a)(3) and 21(b) and for the reasons discussed below.

5. Applicants state that section 12(d)(1) was intended to prevent the pyramiding of investment companies in order to avoid imposing on investors additional and duplicative costs and fees attendant upon multiple layers of investment companies. Applicants assert that the proposed credit facility does not involve these abuses. Applicants note that there will be no duplicative costs or fees to the Funds or to the Funds' shareholders and that PIM will receive no additional compensation for its services in administering the credit facility. Applicants also note that the purpose of the proposed credit facility is to provide economic benefits for all of the participating Funds.

6. Section 18(f)(1) of the Act prohibits registered open-end investment companies from issuing any senior security except that a company is permitted to borrow from any bank, if immediately after the borrowing, there

is asset coverage of at least 300 per centum for all borrowings of the company. Under section 18(g) of the Act, the term "senior security" includes any bond, debenture, note or similar obligation or instrument constituting a security and evidencing indebtedness. Applicants request relief from section 18(f)(1) to the limited extent necessary to implement the credit facility (because the lending Funds are not banks).

7. Applicants assert that granting relief under section 6(c) of the Act is appropriate because the Funds would remain subject to the requirement of section 18(f)(1) of the Act that all borrowings of a Fund, including combined Interfund Loans and bank borrowings, have at least 300 per centum asset coverage. Based on the conditions and safeguards described in the application, applicants also assert that to allow the Funds to borrow from other Funds pursuant to the proposed credit facility is consistent with the purposes and policies of section 18(f)(1) of the Act.

8. Section 17(d) and rule 17d-1 generally prohibit any affiliated person of a registered investment company, or any affiliated person of an affiliated person, when acting as principal, from effecting any joint transaction in which the company participates unless the transaction is approved by the Commission. Rule 17d-1(b) provides that in passing upon applications filed under the rule, the Commission will consider whether the participation of a registered investment company in a joint enterprise on the basis proposed is consistent with the provisions, policies, and purposes of the Act and the extent to which the company's participation is on a basis different from or less advantageous than that of other participants.

9. Applicants assert that the purpose of section 17(d) is to avoid overreaching by and unfair advantage to investment company insiders. Applicants believe that the credit facility is consistent with the provisions, policies and purposes of the Act in that it offers both reduced borrowing costs and enhanced returns on loaned funds to all participating Funds and their shareholders. Applicants note that each Fund would have an equal opportunity to borrow and lend on equal terms consistent with its investment policies and fundamental investment limitations. Applicants therefore believe that each Fund's participation in the credit facility will be on terms that are no different from or less advantageous than that of other participating Funds.

Applicants' Conditions

Applicants agree that any order of the Commission granting the requested relief will be subject to the following conditions:

1. The Interfund Loan Rate will be the average of the Repo Rate and the Bank Loan Rate.

2. On each business day, the Credit Facility Team will compare the Bank Loan Rate with the Repo Rate and will make cash available for Interfund Loans only if the Interfund Loan Rate is: (i) More favorable to the lending Fund than the Repo Rate and the yield of any money market Fund in which the lending Fund could otherwise invest; and (ii) more favorable to the borrowing Fund than the Bank Loan Rate.

3. If a Fund has outstanding borrowings, any Interfund Loans to the Fund: (i) Will be at an interest rate equal to or lower than any outstanding bank loan; (ii) will be secured at least on an equal priority basis with at least an equivalent percentage of collateral to loan value as any outstanding bank loan that requires collateral; (iii) will have a maturity no longer than any outstanding bank loan (and in any event not over seven days); and (iv) will provide that, if an event of default by the Fund occurs under any agreement evidencing an outstanding bank loan to the Fund, that event of default will automatically (without need for action or notice by the lending Fund) constitute an immediate event of default under the Interfund Lending Agreement entitling the lending Fund to call the Interfund Loan (and exercise all rights with respect to any collateral) and that such call will be made if the lending bank exercises its right to call its loan under its agreement with the borrowing Fund.

4. A Fund may make an unsecured borrowing through the proposed credit facility if its outstanding borrowings from all sources immediately after the interfund borrowing, total 10% or less of its total assets, provided that if the Fund has a secured loan outstanding from any other lender, including but not limited to another Fund, the Fund's interfund borrowing will be secured on at least an equal priority basis with at least an equivalent percentage of collateral to loan value as any outstanding loan that requires collateral. If a Fund's total outstanding borrowings immediately after an interfund borrowing would be greater than 10% of its total assets, the Fund may borrow through the proposed credit facility only on a secured basis. A Fund may not borrow through the proposed credit facility or from any other source if its total outstanding borrowings

immediately after such borrowing would be more than 33⅓% of its total assets.

5. Before any Fund that has outstanding interfund borrowings may, through additional borrowings, cause its outstanding borrowings from all sources to exceed 10% of its total assets, the Fund must first secure each outstanding Interfund Loan by the pledge of collateral with a market value at least equal to 102% of the outstanding principal value of the loan. If the total outstanding borrowings of a Fund with outstanding Interfund Loans exceed 10% of its total assets for any other reason (such as a decline in net asset value or because of shareholder redemptions), the Fund will within one business day thereafter: (i) Repay all its outstanding Interfund Loans; (ii) reduce its outstanding indebtedness to 10% or less of its total assets; or (iii) secure each outstanding Interfund Loan by the pledge of segregated collateral with a market value at least equal to 102% of the outstanding principal value of the loan until the Fund's total outstanding borrowings cease to exceed 10% of its total assets, at which time the collateral called for by this condition (5) shall no longer be required. Until each Interfund Loan that is outstanding at any time that a Fund's total outstanding borrowings exceed 10% is repaid or the Fund's total outstanding borrowings cease to exceed 10% of its total assets, the Fund will mark the value of the collateral to market each day and will pledge such additional collateral as is necessary to maintain the market value of the collateral that secures each outstanding Interfund Loan at least equal to 102% of the outstanding principal value of the Interfund Loan.

6. No Fund may lend to another Fund through the proposed credit facility if the loan would cause its aggregate outstanding loans through the proposed credit facility to exceed 15% of the lending Fund's current net assets at the time of the loan.

7. A Fund's Interfund Loans to any one Fund shall not exceed 5% of the lending Fund's net assets.

8. The duration of Interfund Loans will be limited to the time required to receive payment for securities sold, but in no event more than seven days. Loans effected within seven days of each other will be treated as separate loan transactions for purposes of this condition.

9. A Fund's borrowings through the proposed credit facility, as measured on the day when the most recent loan was made, will not exceed the greater of 125% of the Fund's total net cash redemptions for the preceding seven

calendar days or 102% of the Fund's sales fails for the preceding seven calendar days.

10. Each Interfund Loan may be called on one business day's notice by a lending Fund and may be repaid on any day by a borrowing Fund.

11. A Fund's participation in the proposed credit facility must be consistent with its investment objectives, and limitations and organizational documents.

12. The Credit Facility Team will calculate total Fund borrowing and lending demand through the proposed credit facility, and allocate loans on an equitable basis among the Funds, without the intervention of any portfolio manager of the Funds (other than the money market Fund portfolio manager acting in his or her capacity as a member of the Credit Facility Team). All allocations will require the approval of at least one member of the Credit Facility Team who is not the money market Fund portfolio manager. The Credit Facility Team will not solicit cash for the proposed credit facility from any Fund or prospectively publish or disseminate loan demand data to portfolio managers (except to the extent that the money market Fund portfolio manager on the Credit Facility Team has access to loan demand data). The Credit Facility Team will invest any amounts remaining after satisfaction of borrowing demand in accordance with the standing instructions of the portfolio managers or such remaining amounts will be invested directly by the portfolio managers of the Funds.

13. PIM will monitor the Interfund Loan Rate and the other terms and conditions of the Interfund Loans and will make a quarterly report to the Trustees of each Trust concerning the participation of the Funds in the proposed credit facility and the terms and other conditions of any extensions of credit under the credit facility.

14. The Trustees of each Trust, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, will: (i) Review, no less frequently than quarterly, each Fund's participation in the proposed credit facility during the preceding quarter for compliance with the conditions of any order permitting such transactions; (ii) establish the Bank Loan Rate formula used to determine the interest rate on Interfund Loans and review, no less frequently than annually, the continuing appropriateness of the Bank Loan Rate formula; and (iii) review, no less frequently than annually, the continuing appropriateness of each Fund's participation in the proposed credit facility.

15. In the event an Interfund Loan is not paid according to its terms and such default is not cured within two business days from its maturity or from the time the lending Fund makes a demand for payment under the provisions of the Interfund Lending Agreement, PIM will promptly refer such loan for arbitration to an independent arbitrator selected by the Trustees of each Fund involved in the loan who will serve as arbitrator of disputes concerning Interfund Loans.² The arbitrator will resolve any problem promptly, and the arbitrator's decision will be binding on both Funds. The arbitrator will submit, at least annually, a written report to the Trustees setting forth a description of the nature of any dispute and the actions taken by the Funds to resolve the dispute.

16. Each Fund will maintain and preserve for a period of not less than six years from the end of the fiscal year in which any transaction by it under the proposed credit facility occurred, the first two years in an easily accessible place, written records of all such transactions setting forth a description of the terms of the transactions, including the amount, the maturity and the Interfund Loan Rate, the rate of interest available at the time on overnight repurchase agreements and commercial bank borrowings, the yield of any money market Fund in which the lending Fund could otherwise invest, and such other information presented to the Fund's Trustees in connection with the review required by conditions 13 and 14.

17. PIM will prepare and submit to the Trustees for review an initial report describing the operations of the proposed credit facility and the procedures to be implemented to ensure that all Funds are treated fairly. After the commencement of the proposed credit facility, PIM will report on the operations of the proposed credit facility at the Trustees' quarterly meetings.

In addition, for two years following the commencement of the credit facility, the independent public accountant for each Fund shall prepare an annual report that evaluates PIM's assertion that it has established procedures reasonably designed to achieve compliance with the terms and conditions of the order. The report will be prepared in accordance with the Statements on Standards for Attestation Engagements No. 10 and it shall be filed pursuant to Item 77Q3 of Form N-SAR

² If the dispute involves Funds with different Trustees, the respective Trustees of each Fund will select an independent arbitrator that is satisfactory to each Fund.

as such Statements or Form may be revised, amended or superseded from time to time. In particular, the report shall address procedures designed to achieve the following objectives: (i) That the Interfund Loan Rate will be higher than the Repo Rate, and, if applicable, the yield of the money market Funds, but lower than the Bank Loan Rate; (ii) compliance with the collateral requirements as set forth in the Application; (iii) compliance with the percentage limitations on interfund borrowing and lending; (iv) allocation of interfund borrowing and lending demand in an equitable manner and in accordance with procedures established by the Board; and (v) that the Interfund Loan Rate does not exceed the interest rate on any third party borrowings of a borrowing Fund at the time of the Interfund Loan.

After the final report is filed, each Fund's independent auditors, in connection with their audit examination of the Funds, will continue to review the operation of the proposed credit facility for compliance with the conditions of the Application and their review will form the basis, in part, of the auditor's report on internal accounting controls in Form N-SAR.

18. No Fund will participate in the proposed credit facility upon receipt of requisite regulatory approval unless it has fully disclosed in its prospectus and/or statement of additional information all material facts about its intended participation.

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

Florence E. Harmon,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. E8-2472 Filed 2-11-08; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-57281; File No. SR-FICC-2007-08]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Fixed Income Clearing Corporation; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change as Amended by Amendment No. 1 To Resume Interbank Clearing for the GCF Repo Service

February 6, 2008.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),¹ notice is hereby given that on July 11, 2007, the Fixed Income Clearing Corporation ("FICC") filed with the

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).