

III. Commission Action

The Commission establishes Docket No. CP2013–27 for consideration of matters raised in the Notice. Interested persons may submit comments on whether the Agreement is consistent with the requirements of 39 CFR 3015.5 and the policies of 39 U.S.C. 3632 and 3633. Comments are due no later than December 26, 2012. The public portions of the Postal Service's filing can be accessed via the Commission's Web site at <http://www.prc.gov>. Information on how to obtain access to nonpublic material appears at 39 CFR 3007.40.

The Commission appoints James F. Callow to represent the interest of the general public (Public Representative) in this case.

IV. Ordering Paragraphs

It is ordered:

1. The Commission establishes Docket No. CP2013–27 for consideration of matters raised in the Postal Service's Notice.

2. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505, the Commission designates James F. Callow to serve as an officer of the Commission (Public Representative) to represent the interests of the general public in this proceeding.

3. Comments are due no later than December 26, 2012.

4. The Secretary shall arrange for publication of this order in the **Federal Register**.

By the Commission.

Shoshana M. Grove,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2012–30822 Filed 12–20–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710–FW–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon Written Request Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Investor Education and Advocacy, Washington, DC 20549–0213.

Extension:

Rule 17Ad–13; SEC File No. 270–263; OMB Control No. 3235–0275.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) (“PRA”), the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”) a request for approval of extension of the previously approved collection of information provided for in

Rule 17Ad–13 (17 CFR 240.17Ad–13), under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*).

Rule 17Ad–13 requires an annual study and evaluation of internal accounting controls under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*). It requires approximately 150 registered transfer agents to obtain an annual report on the adequacy of their internal accounting controls from an independent accountant. In addition, transfer agents must maintain copies of any reports prepared pursuant to Rule 17Ad–13 plus any documents prepared to notify the Commission and appropriate regulatory agencies in the event that the transfer agent is required to take any corrective action. These recordkeeping requirements assist the Commission and other regulatory agencies with monitoring transfer agents and ensuring compliance with the rule. Small transfer agents are exempt from Rule 17Ad–13 as are transfer agents that service only their own companies' securities.

Approximately 150 independent, professional transfer agents must file the independent accountant's report annually. We estimate that the annual internal time burden for each transfer agent to comply with Rule 17Ad–13 by submitting the report prepared by the independent accountant to the Commission is minimal. The time required for the independent accountant to prepare the accountant's report varies with each transfer agent depending on the size and nature of the transfer agent's operations. The Commission estimates that, on average, each report can be completed by the independent accountant in 120 hours, resulting in a total of 18,000 external hours annually (120 hours × 150 reports). The burden was estimated using Commission review of filed Rule 17Ad–13 reports and Commission conversations with transfer agents and accountants. The Commission estimates that, on average, 120 hours are needed to perform the study, prepare the report, and retain the required records on an annual basis. Assuming an average hourly rate of an independent accountant of \$60, the average total annual cost of the report is \$7,200. The total annual cost for the approximate 150 respondents is approximately \$1,080,000.

The retention period for the recordkeeping requirement under Rule 17Ad–13 is three years following the date of a report prepared pursuant to the rule. The recordkeeping requirement under Rule 17Ad–13 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.

The Commission may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the PRA that does not display a valid OMB control number.

Background documentation for this information collection may be viewed at the following Web site, <http://www.reginfo.gov>. Comments should be directed to: (i) Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10102, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or by sending an email to: shagufta_ahmed@omb.eop.gov; and (ii) Thomas Bayer, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Remi Pavlik-Simon, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, VA 22312 or send an email to PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov. Comments must be submitted within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: December 17, 2012.

Kevin M. O'Neill,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2012–30790 Filed 12–20–12; 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 Investor Education and Advocacy, Washington, DC 20549–0213.

Extension:

Appendix F to Rule 15c3–1; SEC File No. 270–440; OMB Control No. 3235–0496.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) (“PRA”), the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) is soliciting comments on the existing collection of information provided for in Appendix F to Rule 15c3–1 (“Appendix F” or “Rule 15c3–1f”) (17 CFR 240.15c3–1f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*). The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”) for extension and approval.

Appendix F requires a broker-dealer choosing to register, upon Commission approval, as an OTC derivatives dealer to develop and maintain an internal risk management system based on Value-at-Risk ("VaR") models. It is anticipated that a total of four (4) broker-dealers registering as OTC derivatives dealers will spend 1,000 hours on a one-time basis complying with the system development requirements of Rule 15c3-1f, for an estimated one-time initial startup burden of approximately 4,000 hours. Appendix F also requires the OTC derivatives dealer to maintain its system model according to certain prescribed standards. It is anticipated that a total of eight (8) broker-dealers will spend 1,000 hours per year maintaining the system model required by Rule 15c3-1f, for an estimated recurring annual burden of approximately 8,000 hours. Thus, the total industry-wide burden is estimated to be approximately 12,000 hours (4,000 hours + 8,000 hours) for the first year and 8,000 hours for each subsequent year.¹

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's estimates of the burden of the proposed 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.

The Commission may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the PRA that does not display a valid OMB control number.

Please direct your written comments to: Thomas Bayer, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Remi Pavlik-Simon, 6432 General Green Way,

Alexandria, Virginia 22312 or send an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.

Dated: December 17, 2012.

Kevin M. O'Neill,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2012-30791 Filed 12-20-12; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request Copies Available
From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Investor Education and Advocacy, Washington, DC 20549-0213.

Extension:

Rule 17g-4; SEC File No. 270-566; OMB Control No. 3235-0627.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) ("PRA"), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is soliciting comments on the existing collection of information provided for in Rule 17g-4 (17 CFR 240.17g-4) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*) ("Exchange Act"). The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") for extension and approval.

The Credit Rating Agency Reform Act of 2006 added a new section 15E, "Registration of Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations,"¹ to the Exchange Act. Pursuant to the authority granted under section 15E of the Exchange Act, the Commission adopted Rule 17g-4, which requires that a nationally recognized statistical rating organization ("NRSRO") establish, maintain, and enforce written policies and procedures to prevent the misuse of material nonpublic information, including policies and procedures reasonably designed to prevent: (a) The inappropriate dissemination of material nonpublic information obtained in connection with the performance of credit rating services; (b) a person within the NRSRO from trading on material nonpublic information; and (c) the inappropriate dissemination of a pending credit rating action.²

There are 10 credit rating agencies registered with the Commission as NRSROs under section 15E of the

Exchange Act, which have already established the policies and procedures required by Rule 17g-4. Based on staff experience, an NRSRO is estimated to spend an average of approximately 10 hours per year reviewing its policies and procedures regarding material nonpublic information and updating them (if necessary), resulting in an average industry-wide annual hour burden of approximately 100 hours.³

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's estimates of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information on respondents; 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.

The Commission may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the PRA that does not display a valid OMB control number.

Please direct your written comments to: Thomas Bayer, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Remi Pavlik-Simon, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, Virginia 22312 or send an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.

Dated: December 17, 2012.

Kevin M. O'Neill,

Deputy Secretary.

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¹ The Commission estimates that a total of eight entities will be registered as OTC derivatives dealers at the end of the next three years, consisting of the four current OTC derivatives dealers and four anticipated registrants. This is in contrast with the prior estimate of five OTC derivatives dealers, consisting of four current OTC derivatives dealers and one anticipated registrant.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78o-7.

² See 17 CFR 240.17g-4; Release No. 34-55231 (Feb. 2, 2007), 72 FR 6378 (Feb. 9, 2007); Release No. 34-55857 (June 5, 2007), 72 FR 33564 (June 18, 2007).

³ 10 currently registered NRSROs × 10 hours = 100 hours.