

the Alternative Procedure from 10,000 shares to 5,000 shares. The Exchange believes that the reduction in the minimum share size will permit added flexibility to Phlx market participants in that it will allow use of the Alternative Procedure in a greater number of circumstances.

In proposing the Alternative Procedure, the Exchange based the proposed rule change on CHX Article XX, Rule 23, Interpretations and Policies Section .01¹² and American Stock Exchange ("Amex") Rule 126(g) Commentary .02. The Alternative Procedure is similar to CHX Article XX, Rule 23, Interpretations and Policies Section .01 in that it allows members to cross without¹³ interference from another member following a request for an Updated Quotation.¹⁴ The Exchange also noted that the Alternative Procedure is similar to Amex Rule 126(g) Commentary .02 in that the Alternative Procedure allows members to cross at the Updated Quotation when both sides of the cross transaction are agency orders and the Updated Quotation contains no agency orders.

Both CHX Article XX, Rule 23 Interpretations and Policies Section .01 and Amex Rule 126(g) Commentary .02 require a minimum share size of only 5,000 shares (as opposed to the 10,000 share minimum currently required under the Phlx Alternative Procedure). The instant proposed rule change will bring the Phlx minimum size in line

with the minimum size required under CHX Article XX, Rule 23 Interpretations and Policies Section .01 and Amex Rule 126(g) Commentary .02.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act¹⁵ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act¹⁶ in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to and to perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. Specifically, the proposal will make the choice to use the Alternative Procedure available to market participants in a wider range of circumstances than is currently permitted.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any inappropriate burden on competition.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

No written comments were solicited or received.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not:

(i) Significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest;

(ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and

(iii) become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹⁷ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.¹⁸ At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

¹⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

¹⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁸ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change, as amended, is consistent with the Act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. Comments may also be submitted electronically at the following e-mail address: rule-comments@sec.gov. All comment letters should refer to File No. SR-Phlx-2004-04. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, comments should be sent in hard copy or by e-mail but not by both methods. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Phlx. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-Phlx-2004-04 and should be submitted by March 17, 2004.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁹

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-4120 Filed 2-24-04; 8:45 am]

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster #P020]

State Of South Carolina

As a result of the President's major disaster declaration for Public Assistance on February 13, 2004, the U.S. Small Business Administration is activating its disaster loan program only for private non-profit organizations that provide essential services of a governmental nature. I find that Aiken, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Clarendon, Edgefield, Florence, Horry, Kershaw, Lexington, Marion,

¹⁹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹² When the Exchange originally proposed the Alternative Procedure, the Exchange incorrectly stated that the proposed rule change was based on "Chicago Stock Exchange ("CHX") Rule 23 and American Stock Exchange ("Amex") Rule 126(g) Commentary .02" when the Exchange should have stated that the proposed rule change was based on CHX Article XX Rule 23 and Amex Rule 126(g) Commentary .02. The incorrect text is in the unpublished portion of the Exchange's Form 19b-4 filing relating to Securities Exchange Act Release No. 47140 (January 8, 2003), 68 FR 2098 (January 15, 2003) (SR-Phlx-2002-76), a copy of which is available at the Commission and the Exchange. See telephone conversation among Carla Behnfeldt, Director, New Product Development Group, Legal Department, Phlx; Joseph Morra, Special Counsel, Division, Commission; and David Hsu, Attorney, Division, Commission, on February 17, 2004.

¹³ In Amendment No. 1, the Exchange corrected an error in SR-Phlx-2002-76. In SR-Phlx-2002-76, the Exchange stated that "[t]he Exchange believes that this proposal is similar to CHX Rule 23 in that this proposal allows members to cross with interference from another member following a request for an Updated Quotation" when the Exchange should have stated that the proposal allows members to cross without interference from another member following a request for an Updated Quotation.

¹⁴ See CHX Rule 23 Interpretations and Policies Section .01 and Securities Exchange Act Release No. 46533 (September 23, 2002), 67 FR 61360 (September 30, 2003) (SR-CHX-2002-05) (approval order). See also, Securities Exchange Act Release No. 43203 (August 24, 2000), 65 FR 53067 (August 31, 2000) (SR-CHX-2000-13) (approval order).

McCormick, Newberry, Orangeburg, Richland, Sumter, and Williamsburg Counties in the State of South Carolina constitute a disaster area due to damages caused by a severe ice storm occurring on January 26, 2004, and continuing through January 30, 2004. Applications for loans for physical damage as a result of this disaster may be filed until the close of business on April 13, 2004, at the address listed below or other locally announced locations: U.S. Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 2 Office, One Baltimore Place, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30308.

The interest rates are:

For Physical Damage:

Non-profit organizations without credit available elsewhere: 2.900%.

Non-profit organizations with credit available elsewhere: 4.875%.

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is P02011.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59008)

Dated: February 18, 2004.

S. George Camp,

Acting Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

[FR Doc. E4-376 Filed 2-24-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Request and Comment Request

The Social Security Administration (SSA) publishes a list of information collection packages that will require clearance by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in compliance with Pub. L. 104-13, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, effective October 1, 1995. The information collection packages that may be included in this notice are for new information collections, approval of existing information collections, revisions to OMB-approved information collections, and extensions (no change) of OMB-approved information collections.

SSA is soliciting comments on the accuracy of the agency's burden estimate; the need for the information; its practical utility; ways to enhance its quality, utility, and clarity; and on ways to minimize burden on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Written comments and recommendations regarding the information collection(s) should be submitted to the OMB Desk Officer and the SSA Reports Clearance

Officer. The information can be mailed and/or faxed to the individuals at the addresses and fax numbers listed below:

(OMB), Office of Management and Budget, Attn: Desk Officer for SSA, New Executive Building, Room 10235, 725 17th St., NW., Washington, DC 20503, Fax: 202-395-6974.

(SSA), Social Security Administration, DCFAM, Attn: Reports Clearance Officer, 1338 Annex Building, 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235, Fax: 410-965-6400.

I. The information collections listed below are pending at SSA and will be submitted to OMB within 60 days from the date of this notice. Therefore, your comments should be submitted to SSA within 60 days from the date of this publication. You can obtain copies of the collection instruments by calling the SSA Reports Clearance Officer at 410-965-0454 or by writing to the address listed above.

1. Request for Earnings and Benefit Estimate Statement—20 CFR 404.810—0960-0466. Form SSA-7004 is used by members of the public to request information about their Social Security earnings records and to get an estimate of their potential benefits. SSA provides information, in response to the request, from the individual's personal Social Security record. The respondents are Social Security numberholders who have covered earnings on record.

Type of Request: Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.

Number of Respondents: 800,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 5 minutes.

Estimated Average Burden: 66,667 hours.

2. Subpoena—Disability Hearing—20 CFR 404.916(b)(1) and 416.1416(b)(1)—0960-0428. The information on Form SSA-1272-U4 is used by SSA to subpoena evidence or testimony needed at disability hearings. The respondents are comprised of officers from Federal and State DDSs.

Type of Request: Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.

Number of Respondents: 36.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 30 minutes.

Estimated Average Burden: 18 hours.

3. Employer Verification of Earnings After Death—20 CFR 404.821 and 404.822—0960-0472. The information collected on Form SSA-L4112 is used by SSA to determine whether wages reported by an employer are correct, when SSA records indicate that the wage earner is deceased. The

respondents are employers who report wages for a deceased employee.

Type of Request: Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.

Number of Respondents: 50,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 10 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 8,333 hours.

4. Information about Joint Checking/Savings Account—0960-0461—20 CFR 416.1201 and .1208—Form SSA-2574 is used to collect information from the claimant and the other account holder(s) when a Supplemental Security Income (SSI) applicant/recipient objects to the assumption that he/she owns all or part of the funds in a joint account bearing his or her name. These statements of ownership are required to determine whether the account is a resource of the SSI claimant. The respondents are applicants for and recipients of SSI payments and individuals who are joint owners of financial accounts with SSI applicants.

Type of Request: Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.

Number of Respondents: 200,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 7 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 23,333 hours.

5. Beneficiary Contact Report—20 CFR 404.703 and 404.705—0960-0502. SSA uses the information collected by form SSA-1588-OCR-SM to ensure that eligibility for benefits continues after entitlement. SSA asks parents information about their marital status and children in-care to detect overpayments and to avoid continuing payment to those who are no longer entitled. The respondents are recipients of survivor mother/father Title II (OASDI) benefits.

Type of Request: Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.

Number of Respondents: 133,400.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 5 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 11,117 hours.

6. Earnings Record Information—20 CFR 404.801-.803 and 404.821-.822—0960-0505. The information collected by form SSA-L3231-C1 is used to ensure that the proper person is credited for working when earnings are reported for a minor under age seven years. The respondents are businesses reporting earnings for children under age seven.

Type of Request: Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.

Number of Respondents: 20,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.