

to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: November 26, 2012.

Kevin M. O'Neill,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2012-28948 Filed 11-29-12; 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: Rule 17a-12/Form X-17A-5IIB. OMB Control No. 3235-0498, SEC File No. 270-442.

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 17a-12 (17 CFR 240.17a-12) and Part IIB of Form X-17A-5 (17 CFR 249.617) 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.

Rule 17a-12 is the reporting rule tailored specifically for over-the-counter ("OTC") derivatives dealers registered with the Commission, and Part IIB of Form X-17A-5, the Financial and Operational Combined Uniform Single ("FOCUS") Report, is the basic document for reporting the financial and operational condition of OTC derivatives dealers. Rule 17a-12 requires registered OTC derivatives dealers to file Part IIB of the FOCUS Report quarterly. Rule 17a-12 also requires that OTC derivatives dealers file audited financial statements annually.

There are currently four registered OTC derivatives dealers. The staff expects that one additional firm will register as an OTC derivatives dealer within the next three years. The staff estimates that the average amount of time necessary to prepare and file the quarterly reports required by the rule is eighty hours per OTC derivatives dealer¹ and that the average amount of

time to prepare and file the annual audit report is 100 hours per OTC derivatives dealer per year, for a total reporting burden of 180 hours per OTC derivatives dealer annually. Thus the staff estimates that the total industry-wide reporting burden to comply with the requirements of Rule 17a-12 is 900 hours per year (180 x 5). Further, the Commission estimates that the total internal compliance cost associated with this requirement is approximately \$250,000 per year.² The Commission previously estimated that there were no external annualized costs associated with Rule 17a-12. However, the cost associated with an independent accountant's examination of the financial statements OTC derivatives dealers file with the Commission should have been included in prior submissions. For purposes of the reporting burden for Rule 17a-5 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.17a-5), the Commission estimated that the average annual reporting cost per broker-dealer for an independent public accountant to examine the financial statements was approximately \$46,300 per broker-dealer. Based on this estimate, the total industry-wide annual reporting cost would be approximately \$231,500 (\$46,300 x 5).

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

² Based on staff experience, an OTC derivatives dealer likely would have a Compliance Manager gather the necessary information and prepare and file the quarterly reports and annual audit report and supporting schedules. According to the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association Report on Management and Professional Earnings in the Securities Industry dated October 2011, which provides base salary and bonus information for middle-management and professional positions within the securities industry, the hourly cost of a compliance manager, which the Commission staff has modified to account for an 1800-hour work year and multiplied by 5.35 to account for bonuses, firm size, employee benefits, and overhead, is approximately \$279/hour. \$279 times 900 hours = \$251,100.

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: November 26, 2012.

Kevin M. O'Neill,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2012-28946 Filed 11-29-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Investment Company Act Release No. 30280; 812-14026]

Blackstone Alternative Alpha Fund, et al.; Notice of Application

November 26, 2012.

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission").

ACTION: Notice of an application under section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Act") for an exemption from sections 18(c) and 18(i) of the Act and for an order pursuant to section 17(d) of the Act and rule 17d-1 under the Act.

SUMMARY: *Summary of Application:* Applicants request an order to permit certain registered closed-end management investment companies to issue multiple classes of shares of beneficial interest ("Shares") and to impose asset-based service and/or distribution fees and contingent deferred sales loads ("CDSCs").

APPLICANTS: Blackstone Alternative Alpha Fund (the "Feeder Fund"), Blackstone Alternative Alpha Master Fund (the "Master Fund"), Blackstone Alternative Asset Management L.P. (the "Adviser") and Blackstone Advisory Partners L.P. (the "Distributor").

DATES: *Filing Dates:* The application was filed on April 13, 2012, and amended on September 19, 2012.

HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING: An order granting the requested relief 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

¹ Based upon an average of 4 responses per year and an average of 20 hours spent preparing each response.