

general, to protect investors and the public interest.

The proposed rule change is intended to clarify the types of front running trading activity that FINRA believes are inconsistent with just and equitable principles of trade while also ensuring that members may continue to engage in transactions that do not present the risk of abusive trading practices that the rule is intended to prevent. The Commission finds that expanding the rule beyond options and security futures could enhance the protection of investors by further prohibiting the potential misuse of information from customer orders. Expanding the front running prohibition is reasonably designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, promote just and equitable principles of trade, and better protect investors and the public interest, while protecting imminent block transactions.

Moreover, the proposed rule change also would include three exceptions to the Front Running Policy: (1) Transactions that the member can demonstrate are unrelated to the customer block order; (2) transactions that are undertaken to fulfill or facilitate the execution of the customer block order; and (3) transactions that are executed, in whole or in part, on a national securities exchange and comply with the marketplace rules of that exchange. The Commission finds that these exceptions should not unnecessarily restrict legitimate trading activities of members and are consistent with just and equitable principles of trade and the protection of investors and the public interest, and should not result in fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices. Specifically, transactions that the member can demonstrate are unrelated to the customer block order do not present the potential for abusive trading practices that can disadvantage a customer's order in violation of the rule, since such transactions would not be using the information from the customer's order. Moreover, transactions that are undertaken to fulfill or facilitate the execution of the customer block order similarly do not present the potential for abuse, as such transactions would be seeking to ensure the execution of a customer block order. Finally, permitting transactions that are executed, in whole or in part, on a national securities exchange and comply with the marketplace rules of that exchange would remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system,³⁵ as it

would help ensure that members would not unknowingly violate FINRA rules when such members rely on the rules of a particular national securities exchange.

For the foregoing reasons, the Commission believes that the proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment No. 1, is consistent with the requirements of the Act.

V. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,³⁶ that the proposed rule change (SR-FINRA-2012-025), as modified by Amendment No. 1, be, and hereby is, approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.³⁷

Kevin M. O'Neill,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2012-22139 Filed 9-7-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Disaster Declaration #13252 and #13253]

New Mexico Disaster #NM-00029

AGENCY: U.S. Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is a Notice of the Presidential declaration of a major disaster for Public Assistance Only for the State of New Mexico (FEMA-4079-DR), dated 08/24/2012.

Incident: Flooding.

Incident Period: 06/22/2012 through 07/12/2012.

Effective Date: 08/24/2012.

Physical Loan Application Deadline Date: 10/23/2012.

Economic Injury (EIDL) Loan Application Deadline Date: 05/24/2013.

ADDRESSES: Submit completed loan applications to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A. Escobar, Office of Disaster Assistance, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street SW., Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that as a result of the President's major disaster declaration on 08/24/2012, Private Non-Profit organizations that provide essential services of governmental nature may file disaster loan applications at the address

listed above or other locally announced locations.

The following areas have been determined to be adversely affected by the disaster:

Primary Counties: Lincoln, Sandoval, and the Santa Clara Pueblo.

The Interest Rates are:

	Percent
<i>For Physical Damage:</i>	
Non-Profit Organizations With Credit Available Elsewhere	3.125
Non-Profit Organizations Without Credit Available Elsewhere	3.000
<i>For Economic Injury:</i>	
Non-Profit Organizations Without Credit Available Elsewhere	3.000

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 132526 and for economic injury is 132536.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers 59002 and 59008)

James E. Rivera,

Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

[FR Doc. 2012-22199 Filed 9-7-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 8017]

60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Application for Employment as a Locally Employed Staff or Family Member

ACTION: Notice of request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of State is seeking Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for the information collection described below. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we are requesting comments on this collection from all interested individuals and organizations. The purpose of this notice is to allow 60 days for public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

DATES: The Department will accept comments from the public up to November 9, 2012.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Web:* Persons with access to the Internet may use the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) to comment on this notice by going to www.Regulations.gov. You can search for the document by entering "Public

³⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(b)(6).

³⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

³⁷ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).