

that a gross negligence standard of care is appropriate for OCC.¹⁰

OCC believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of section 17A of the Act¹¹ and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to OCC because it will permit the resources of OCC to be appropriately utilized for promoting the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of options transactions and for providing for the safeguarding of securities and funds in its custody or control or for which it is responsible.

(B) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

OCC does not believe that the proposed rule change would impose any burden on competition.

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

Written comments were not and are not intended to be solicited with respect to the proposed rule change, and none have been received.

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

Within thirty-five days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to ninety days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or

(ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

(A) By order approve such proposed rule change or

(B) Institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

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. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-OCC-2003-13 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Jonathan G. Katz, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549-9303.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-OCC-2003-13. 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, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet Web site (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). 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 Section, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of OCC and on OCC's Web site at <http://www.theocc.com>. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-OCC-

2003-13 and should be submitted on or before December 14, 2005.

For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹²

Jonathan G. Katz,
Secretary.

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Wisconsin District Advisory Council; Public Meeting

The U.S. Small Business Administration, Wisconsin District Advisory Council will be hosting a public meeting to discuss such matters that may be presented by members, and staff of the U.S. Small Business Administration, or others present. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2005 starting at 1:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the U.S. Small Business Administration, Wisconsin-Milwaukee District Office, 310 West Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 400, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Anyone wishing to attend must contact Cindy Merrigan in writing or by fax. Cindy Merrigan, Computer Specialist, U.S. Small Business Administration, 740 Regent Street, Suite 100, Madison, Wisconsin 53715, phone (608) 441-5560, fax (202) 481-0815, e-mail: cindy.merrigan@sba.gov.

Matthew K. Becker,

Committee Management Officer.

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Trade Policy Staff Committee; Notice of Availability and Request for Public Comment on Interim Environmental Review of United States-Thailand Free Trade Agreement

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), on behalf of the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC), seeks comment on the interim environmental review of the proposed United States-Thailand Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The interim environmental review is available at

¹⁰ Specifically, OCC is proposing to amend Article VI of its By-Laws, "Clearance of Exchange Transactions," by adding new section 25, "Limitation of Liability," which would state:

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision in the By-Laws and Rules, the Corporation will not be liable for any action taken, or any delay or failure to take any action, under the By-Laws and Rules or otherwise, to fulfill the Corporation's obligations to its Clearing Members, other than for losses caused directly by the Corporation's gross negligence, willful misconduct, or violation of federal securities laws for which there is a private right of action. Under no circumstances will the Corporation be liable for the acts, delays, omissions, bankruptcy, or insolvency of any third party, including, without limitation, any bank or other depository, custodian, sub-custodian, clearing or settlement system, data communication service, or other third party, unless the Corporation was grossly negligent, engaged in willful misconduct, or was in violation of federal securities laws for which there is a private right of action, in selecting such third party; and

(b) Under no circumstances will the Corporation be liable for any indirect, consequential, incidental, special, punitive or exemplary loss or damage (including, but not limited to, loss of business, loss of profits, trading losses, loss of opportunity and loss of use) however suffered or incurred, regardless of whether the Corporation has been advised of the possibility of such damages or whether such damages otherwise could have been foreseen or prevented.

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78q-1.

¹² 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).