

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Regulatory Guide; Issuance, Availability

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a new guide in its Regulatory Guide Series. This series has been developed to describe and make available to the public such information as methods acceptable to the NRC staff for implementing specific parts of the Commission's regulations, techniques used by the staff in evaluating specific problems or postulated accidents, and data needed by the staff in its review of applications for permits and licenses.

Regulatory Guide 1.180, "Guidelines for Evaluating Electromagnetic and Radio-Frequency Interference in Safety-Related Instrumentation and Control Systems," endorses design, installation, and testing practices acceptable to the NRC staff for addressing the effects of electromagnetic interference, radio-frequency interference, and power surges on safety-related instrumentation and control systems in a nuclear power plant. The guide endorses, with certain conditions, the design and installation practices described in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers standard, IEEE Std 1050-1996, "IEEE Guide for Instrumentation and Control Equipment Grounding in Generating Stations." Electromagnetic compatibility testing practices from military and commercial standards are endorsed to address electromagnetic emissions, electromagnetic and radio-frequency interference immunity, and power surge withstand capability.

Comments and suggestions in connection with items for inclusion in guides currently being developed or improvements in all published guides are encouraged at any time. Written comments may be submitted to the Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555.

Regulatory guides are available for inspection or downloading at the NRC's Public Electronic Reading Room at <www.nrc.gov>. Single copies of regulatory guides may be obtained free of charge by writing the Reproduction and Distribution Services Section, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by fax to (301) 415-2289, or by email to <DISTRIBUTION@NRC.GOV>. Issued guides may also be purchased from the National Technical Information Service on a standing order basis. Details on this service may be obtained by writing NTIS, 5285 Port Royal Road,

Springfield, VA 22161. Regulatory guides are not copyrighted, and Commission approval is not required to reproduce them.

(5 U.S.C. 552(a))

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 21st day of January 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Ashok C. Thadani,

Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

[FR Doc. 00-3092 Filed 2-9-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirement of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 which provides opportunity for public comment on new or revised data collections, the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) will publish periodic summaries of proposed data collections.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the RRB's estimate of the burden of the collection of the information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden related to the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Title and purpose of information collection: Employee Representative's Status and Compensation Reports; OMB 3220-0014.

Under Section 1(b)(1) of the Railroad Retirement Act (RRA), the term "employee" includes an individual who is an employee representative. As defined in Section 1(c) of the RRA, an employee representative is an officer or official representative of a railway labor organization other than a labor organization included in the term "employer," as defined in the RRA, who before or after August 29, 1935, was in the service of an employer under the RRA and who is duly authorized and designated to represent employees in accordance with the Railway Labor Act, or, any individual who is regularly assigned to or regularly employed by such officer or official representative in connection with the duties of his or her office. The requirements relating to the application for employee representative

status and the periodic reporting of the compensation resulting from such status is contained in 20 CFR 209.10.

The RRB utilizes Forms DC-2a, Employee Representative's Status Report, and DC-2, Employee Representative's Report of Compensation to obtain the information needed to determine employee representative status and to maintain a record of creditable service and compensation resulting from such status. Completion is required to obtain or retain a benefit. One response is requested of each respondent.

Minor editorial changes are proposed to Form DC-2a and Form DC-2. The completion time for Form DC-2 is estimated at 30 minutes per response. The RRB estimates that approximately 65 Form DC-2's are received annually. The RRB estimates that less than 10 Form DC-2a's are received annually.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:

To request more information or to obtain a copy of the information collection justification, forms, and/or supporting material, please call the RRB Clearance Officer at (312) 751-3363. Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Ronald J. Hodapp, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Chuck Mierzwa,

Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-3128 Filed 2-9-00; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Request for Public Comment

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, D.C. 20549.

Extension: Rule 6e-2, SEC File No. 270-177, OMB Control No. 3235-0177.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is publishing the following summary of collection for public comment.

Rule 6e-2 [17 CFR 270.6e-2] under the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("Act") is an exemptive rule which permits separate accounts, formed by life insurance companies, to fund certain variable life insurance products. The rule exempts such separate accounts from the registration

requirements under the Act, among others, on condition that they comply with all but certain designated provisions of the Act and meet the other requirements of the rule. The rule sets forth several information collection requirements.

Rule 6e-2 provides a separate account with an exemption from the registration provisions of section 8 of the Act if the account files with the Commission Form N-6EI-1, a notification of claim of exemption.

The rule also exempts a separate account from a number of other sections of the Act, provided that the separate account makes certain disclosure in its registration statements, reports to contractholders, proxy solicitations, and submissions to state regulatory authorities, as prescribed by the rule.

Paragraph (b)(9) of Rule 6e-2 provides an exemption from the requirements of section 17(f) of the Act and imposes a reporting burden and certain other conditions. Section 17(f) requires that every registered management company meet various custody requirements for its securities and similar investments. Paragraph (b)(9) applies only to management accounts that offer life insurance contracts subject to Rule 6e-2.

Since 1997, there have been no filings under paragraph (b)(9) of Rule 6e-2 by management accounts. Further, all variable life separate accounts that have filed post-effective amendments to their registration statements during this period have been structured as unit investment trusts and thus have not been subject to the requirements of paragraph (b)(9) of the rule. Therefore, since 1997, there has been no cost or burden to the industry regarding the information collection requirements of paragraph (b)(9) of Rule 6e-2.

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.

Direct your written comments to Michael E. Bartell, Associate Executive

Director, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20549.

Dated: February 3, 2000.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-3032 Filed 2-9-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Investment Company Act Release No. 24278; 812-11562]

First American Investment Funds, Inc., et al.; Notice of Application

February 4, 2000.

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

ACTION: Notice of an application under sections 6(c), 10(f), and 17(b) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("Act") for an exemption from sections 10(f) and 17(a)(1) of the Act.

SUMMARY OF THE APPLICATION: The requested order would permit certain registered management investment companies to purchase certain securities from an affiliated underwriter and through group orders placed with an underwriting syndicate that includes the affiliated underwriter.

APPLICANT: First American Investment Funds, Inc. ("FAIF"); Minnesota Municipal Income Portfolio, Inc.; Minnesota Municipal Term Trust, Inc.; Minnesota Municipal Term Trust, Inc.-II; U.S. Bank National Association ("U.S. Bank"); and U.S. Bancorp Piper Jaffray Inc. ("Piper Jaffray").

FILING DATES: The application was filed on April 2, 1999 and was amended on December 22, 1999. Applicants have agreed to file an additional amendment, the substance of which is incorporated in this notice, during the notice period.

HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING: An order granting the application 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 should be received by the Commission by 5:30 p.m. on February 29, 2000 and should be accompanied by proof of service on applicants in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Hearing requests should state the nature of the writer's interest, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons may request

notification by writing to the Commission's Secretary.

ADDRESSES: Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20549-0609. Applicants, c/o James D. Alt, Esq., Dorsey & Whitney LLP, 220 South Sixth Street, Minneapolis, MN 55402.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Rachel H. Graham, Senior Counsel, at (202) 942-0583, or Nadya B. Roytblat, Assistant Director, at (202) 942-0564 (Division of Investment Management, Office of Investment Company Regulation).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following is a summary of the application. The complete application may be obtained for a fee from the Commission's Public Reference Branch, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549-0102 (telephone (202) 942-8090).

Applicants' Representations

1. FAIF is an open-end management investment company registered under the Act. FAIF offers its shares in several series, including the Minnesota Intermediate Tax Free Fund and the Minnesota Tax Free Fund. Minnesota Municipal Income Portfolio, Inc., Minnesota Municipal Term Trust, Inc., and Minnesota Municipal Term Trust, Inc.-II are closed-end management investment companies registered under the Act. The two named series of FAIF, together with the three closed-end investment companies, collectively are referred to in this notice as the "Funds." The Funds invest primarily in debt securities of the State of Minnesota, its political subdivisions, authorities, agencies, instrumentalities and corporations, the interest on which is exempt from federal and Minnesota personal income taxes ("Minnesota Tax-Exempt Securities").

2. U.S. Bank, which is exempt from registration as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 ("Advisers Act") pursuant to section 202(a)(11) of the Advisers Act, serves as investment adviser to each Fund. U.S. Bank is a wholly-owned subsidiary of U.S. Bancorp.

3. Piper Jaffray, a registered broker-dealer and investment banking firm, is a wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of U.S. Bancorp. Applicants state that Piper Jaffray is one of the leading underwriters of most types of Minnesota Tax-Exempt Securities based on both dollar volume and number of new issues. In 1998, Piper Jaffray served as underwriter of approximately \$2.4 billion in principal amount of Minnesota Tax-Exempt Securities. According to applicants, this amount