

application(s) and/or declaration(s) and any amendment(s) is/are available for public inspection through the Commission's Branch of Public Reference.

Interested persons wishing to comment or request a hearing on the application(s) and/or declaration(s) should submit their views in writing by November 30, 2000, to the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, DC 20549-0609, and serve a copy on the relevant applicant(s) and/or declarant(s) at the address(es) specified below. Proof of service (by affidavit or, in the case of an attorney at law, by certificate) should be filed with the request. Any request for hearing should identify specifically the issues of facts or law that are disputed. A person who so requests will be notified of any hearing, if ordered, and will receive a copy of any notice or order issued in the matter. After November 30, 2000, the application(s) and/or declaration(s), as filed or as amended, may be granted and/or permitted to become effective.

#### **The Southern Company (70-8277)**

The Southern Company ("Southern"), 270 Peachtree Street, NW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303, a registered holding company, has filed a post-effective amendment under sections 6(a) and 7 of the Act and rules 53 and 54 under the Act to an application-declaration previously filed under the Act.

By orders dated August 3, 1995 and December 22, 1999 (HCAR Nos. 26349 and 27119), Southern was authorized, among other things, to issue and sell in one or more transactions, through September 30, 2004 ("Authorization Period"), up to 25 million shares of its authorized but unissued common stock, \$5 par value ("Authorized Shares"). The number of Authorized Shares may be adjusted to reflect any share split or distribution authorized by the Commission. Southern now requests that the number of Authorized Shares that may be issued during the Authorization Period be increased from 25 million to 35 million.

For the Commission, by the Division of Investment Management, under delegated authority.

**Margaret H. McFarland,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 00-29022 Filed 11-13-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8010-01-M**

## **SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

[Release No. 34-43520; File No. 4-208]

### **Intermarket Trading System; Order Approving Fifteenth Amendment to the ITS Plan Relating to Remote Specialists, the National Market System Test System, Trade Adjustment Procedures, and Technical Revisions**

November 3, 2000.

On June 6, 2000, the Intermarket Trading System ("ITS") submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") an amendment to the restated ITS Plan pursuant to Section 11A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 11Aa3-2 thereunder.<sup>2</sup> The Participants filed the proposal to recognize the implementation of remote specialists and the National Market Test System. In addition, the Participants proposed to codify procedures for trade adjustment and to make technical revisions. Notice of the proposal appeared in the **Federal Register** on September 8, 2000.<sup>3</sup> The Commission received no comments on the proposal. For the reasons discussed below, the Commission is approving the proposal.

The proposal amends Sections 6(a)(ii)(B) and (E), 7(c) and 8(a) of the ITS Plan to reflect the changed manner in which the BSE and the PCX will interact with ITS, in particular that BSE and PCX specialists carry out their specialist operations off the floors of the BSE and the PCX.<sup>4</sup>

The proposal recognizes the National Market Test System ("NMTS") as a

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78k-1.

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.11Aa3-2. The ITS is a National Market System ("NMS") plan, which was designed to facilitate intermarket trading in exchange-listed equity securities based on current quotation information emanating from the linked markets. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 19456 (January 27, 1983), 48 FR 4938 (February 3, 1983).

The ITS participants include the American Stock Exchange LLC ("Amex"), the Boston Stock Exchange, Inc. ("BSE"), the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Inc. ("CBOE"), the Chicago Stock Exchange, Inc. ("CHX"), the Cincinnati Stock Exchange, Inc. ("CSE"), the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD"), the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. ("NYSE"), the Pacific Exchange, Inc. ("PCX"), and the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. ("PHLX") ("Participants").

<sup>3</sup> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 43240 (September 1, 2000), 65 FR 54571 (September 8, 2000).

<sup>4</sup> The BSE and PCX filed proposed rule changes with the Commission to implement these changes. The Commission approved the BSE's proposal on August 8, 2000. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 43127 (August 8, 2000), 65 FR 49617 (August 14, 2000), (SR-BSE-99-01). The Commission approved the PCX's proposal on May 5, 2000. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 42759 (May 5, 2000), 65 FR 30654 (May 12, 2000), (SR-PCX-99-39).

stand-alone system that supports testing of the Consolidated Tape System, Consolidated Quotation System, ITS, and the Participants interfaced with these systems. The NMTS can be used during normal business hours and ITS will be responsible for one-third of the costs of the NMTS. The ITS Plan provisions for the NMTS equally divide the ITS costs among all Participants.

The proposal adds Section 6(b)(iv) to the ITS Plan, which codifies the trade adjustment process whereby, and circumstances under which, supervisors monitoring Participants' markets may request the ITS Control Center to enter agreed-upon adjustments to system trades (price, size, buy or sell side, cancel or insert trade "as of" a prior day).

The proposal makes several technical amendments dealing with the ITS/CAES Linkage as adopted by the Commission, eliminating the definition of the term "ITS/CAES security (stock)" and making other conforming changes. In addition, the revision reinserts text in the ITS Plan under Section 5(b)(ii) that the Commission inadvertently omitted.<sup>5</sup> According to the Participants, the revisions are otherwise neutral as to their effect on the Commission's adopted amendment. Lastly, the revisions redesignate current Sections 12, 13, and 14 as Sections 13, 14, and 15 respectively, and current Section 15 as Section 12 (with other conforming changes), and amending Section 3(a) to reflect the change in the Amex's corporate name from "American Stock Exchange, Inc." to "American Stock Exchange LLC."

The Commission finds that the proposed amendment is consistent with the Act in general, and in particular, with Sections 11A(a)(1)(C)(ii) and (D),<sup>6</sup> which provide for fair competition among the Participants and their members, and the linking of markets for qualified securities through communications and data processing facilities that foster efficiency, enhance competition, increase the information available to brokers, dealers, and investors, facilitate the offsetting of investors' orders, and contribute to the best execution of such orders. The Commission also finds that the amendment is consistent with Rule 11Aa3-2(c)(2),<sup>7</sup> which requires the Commission to determine that the amendment is necessary and appropriate in the public interest, for

<sup>5</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 42212 (December 9, 1999), 64 FR 70297 (December 16, 1999) (adopting amendments to expand the ITS/CAES linkage to all listed securities).

<sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78k-1(a)(1)(C)(ii) and (D).

<sup>7</sup> 17 CFR 240.11Aa3-2(c)(2).

the protection of investors and the maintenance of fair and orderly markets, to remove impediments to, and perfect the mechanisms of, a national market system or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

The proposal provides for the recognition of the BSE's and the PCX's use of remote specialists to carry out their specialist operations off the floors of the BSE and the PCX. The proposal also provides for the implementation of the National Market Test System, which supports testing of the Consolidated Tape System, Consolidated Quotation System, and ITS. In addition, the proposal provides for the codification of procedures for trade adjustment. The Commission believes that the foregoing measures should improve the efficiency and reliability of ITS. Lastly, the proposal provides additional technical amendments to the ITS Plan consistent with ITS's purpose: to facilitate intermarket trading in exchange-listed equity securities.

For the foregoing reasons, the Commission finds that the proposed amendment is consistent with Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to the ITS and, in particular, Sections 11A(a)(1)(C)(ii) and (D) of the Act<sup>8</sup> and Rule 11Aa3-2(c)(2).<sup>9</sup>

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 11A(a)(3)(B) of the Act,<sup>10</sup> that the proposed amendment be, and hereby is, approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>11</sup>

**Margaret H. McFarland,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 00-29021 Filed 11-13-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

## SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request

In compliance with Public Law 104-13, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, SSA is providing notice of its information collection that requires submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). 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.

The information collection listed below has been submitted to OMB for clearance. Written comments and recommendations on the information collection would be most useful if received within 30 days from the date of this publication. Comments should be directed to the SSA Reports Clearance Officer and the OMB Desk Officer at the addresses listed after this publication. You can obtain a copy of the OMB clearance package by calling the SSA Reports Clearance Officer on (410) 965-4145, or by writing to him.

Waiver of Right to Appear, Disability Hearing—0960-0534. The Social Security Administration uses Form SSA-773-U4 to provide claimants with an effective means of requesting waiver of their right to appear at a disability hearing. The information collected will be used as documentation that claimants understand their right to appear and the effects of the decision to waive this right. The respondents are claimants under Title II (Old-Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) and Title XVI (Supplemental Security Income) of the Social Security Act, who wish to waive their right to appear at a disability hearing.

*Number of Respondents:* 194.

*Frequency of Response:* 1.

*Average Burden Per Response:* 25 minutes.

*Estimated Average Burden:* 81 hours. (SSA Address) Social Security Administration, DCFAM, Attn: Frederick W. Brickenkamp, 6401 Security Blvd., 1-A-21 Operations Bldg., Baltimore, MD 21235

(OMB Address) Office of Management and Budget, OIRA, Attn: Desk Officer for SSA, New Executive Office Building, Room 10230, 725 17th St., NW., Washington, DC 20503

Dated: November 7, 2000.

**Liz Davidson,**

*Acting Reports Clearance Officer, Social Security Administration.*

[FR Doc. 00-29012 Filed 11-13-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4190-29-P

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

### [Public Notice 3472]

#### Culturally Significant Objects Imported for Exhibition Determinations: "Egypt in the Walters Art Gallery"

**AGENCY:** United States Department of State.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of the following determinations: Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Act of October 19, 1965 (79 Stat. 985, 22 U.S.C. 2459), the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2681, *et seq.*), Delegation of Authority No. 234 of October 1, 1999, and Delegation of Authority No. 236 of October 19, 1999, as amended, I hereby determine that the objects to be included in the exhibition "Egypt in the Walters Art Gallery" imported from abroad for the temporary exhibition without profit within the United States, are of cultural significance. These objects are imported pursuant to a loan agreement with a foreign lender. I also determine that the exhibition or display of the exhibit objects at The Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore, Maryland, from January 15, 2001, through January 15, 2004, is in the national interest. Public Notice of these Determinations is ordered to be published in the **Federal Register**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information, including a list of exhibit objects, contact Jacqueline Caldwell, Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State (telephone: 202/619-6982). The address is U.S. Department of State, SA-44, 301 4th Street, S.W., Room 700, Washington, D.C. 20547-0001.

Dated: October 31, 2000.

**William B. Bader,**

*Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 00-29071 Filed 11-13-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-08-P

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

### [Public Notice 3471]

#### Culturally Significant Objects Imported for Exhibition Determinations:

**AGENCY:** "Unseen Treasures: Imperial Russia and the New World" United States Department of State.

**ACTION:** Amendment.

**SUMMARY:** On July 30, 1999, Notice was published on page 41488 of the **Federal Register** (Volume 64, Number 146) by the Department of State pursuant to Pub. L. 89-259 relating to the exhibition "Unseen Treasures: Imperial Russia and the New World." That referenced Notice is hereby amended as follows: after the words "on or about December 31, 2000," insert the following additional language: "and at the Presidio Trust Exhibition Hall, San Francisco, California, from on or about March 16, 2001, to on or about June 15, 2001,".

<sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78k-1(a)(1)(C)(ii) and (D).

<sup>9</sup> 17 CFR 240.11Aa3-2(c)(2).

<sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78k-1(a)(3)(B).

<sup>11</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(29).