

advocate (OCA), to represent the interests of the general public in this proceeding. Pursuant to this designation, Mr. Gerarden will direct the activities of Commission personnel assigned to assist him and, upon request, will supply their names for the record. Neither Mr. Gerarden nor any of the assigned personnel will participate in or provide advice on any Commission decision in this proceeding. The OCA shall be separately served with three copies of all filings, in addition to and at the same time as, service on the Commission of the 24 copies required by Commission rule 10(d) [39 CFR 3001.10(d)].

Prehearing Conference

A prehearing conference will be held Friday, April 6, 2001, at 10 a.m. in the Commission's hearing room.

C. Ordering Paragraphs

It is ordered:

1. The Commission establishes docket no. MC2001-1, preliminarily designated as Experimental Presorted Priority Mail Rate Categories, to consider the request referred to in the body of this order.

2. The Commission will sit en banc in this proceeding.

3. The deadline for filing notices of intervention is Tuesday, April 3, 2001.

4. Answers to the Service's motion for waiver of certain filing requirements are due no later than April 5, 2001.

5. Written discovery pursuant to rules 26-28 may be undertaken upon intervention.

6. The Service shall respond to discovery requests within 10 days.

7. A prehearing conference will be held Friday, April 6, 2001, at 10 a.m. in the Commission's hearing room.

8. Ted P. Gerarden, director of the Commission's office of the consumer advocate, is designated to represent the interests of the general public.

9. The acting secretary shall arrange for publication of this notice and order in the **Federal Register**.

By the Commission.

Steven W. Williams,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-6890 Filed 3-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710-FW-P

POSTAL SERVICE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Sunshine Act Meeting

TIMES AND DATES: 10:30 am, Monday, April 2, 2001; 8:30 am, Tuesday, April 3, 2001; and 10 am, Tuesday, April 3, 2001.

PLACE: Washington, DC, at U.S. Postal Service Headquarters, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., in the Benjamin Franklin Room.

STATUS: April 2 (Closed); April 3—8:30 am (Open); 10 am (Closed).

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Monday, April 2—10:30 am (Closed)

1. Financial Performance.
2. Recovery of Prior Years' Losses.
3. FedEx Alliance.
4. Strategic Planning/Postal Reform.
5. Compensation Issues.
6. Personnel Matters.

Tuesday, April 3—8:30 am (Open)

1. Minutes of the Previous Meetings, March 1, and March 5-7, 2001.
2. Remarks of the Postmaster General/Chief Executive Officer.
3. Fiscal Year 2000 Comprehensive Statement on Postal Operations.
4. Quarterly Report on Financial Results.
5. Borrowing Resolution.
6. Quarterly Report on Service Performance.
7. Remote Encoding Center Closings.
8. Tentative Agenda for the May 7-8, 2001, meeting in Washington, DC.

Tuesday, April 3—10 am (Closed)

1. Continuation of Monday's Closed Agenda.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: David G. Hunter, Secretary of the Board, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Washington, DC 20260-1000. Telephone (202) 268-4800.

David G. Hunter,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-7054 Filed 3-16-01; 3:16 pm]

BILLING CODE 7710-12-M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-44061A; File No. SR-Phlx-01-16]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of Proposed Rule Change by the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. Relating to Providing Compensation to Hearing Panelist

March 14, 2001.

Correction

In Release No. 34-44061, issued on March 9, 2001, the title described the filing incorrectly. The title is corrected to read as set forth above.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-6802 Filed 3-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-44070; International Series Release No. 1248; File No. SR-Phlx-01-06]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Order Approving a Proposed Rule Change by the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. to Amend Rule 1063(a) and Options Floor Procedure Advices A-10 and C-1, Relating to Trading in Foreign Currency Options

March 13, 2001.

I. Introduction

On January 11, 2001, pursuant to section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. ("Phlx") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") a proposed rule change to provide an exception, limited only to foreign currency options ("FOCs"), from the requirement that a Registered Options Trader ("ROT") be present at the trading post in certain circumstances. The proposed rule change was published for comment and appeared in the **Federal Register** on January 26, 2001.³ The Commission received no comments on the proposal. This order approves the Phlx's proposed rule change.

II. Description of the Proposal

The Phlx is seeking approval of amendments to Phlx Rule 1063(a) ("Responsibilities of Floor Brokers"), Phlx Options Floor Procedure Advice A-10 ("Specialist Trading With Book"), and Phlx Options Floor Procedure Advice C-1 ("Ascertaining the Presence of ROTs in a Trading Crowd"). Phlx Rule 1063(a) provides that Options Floor Brokers shall ascertain that at least one ROT is present at the trading post before representing an order for execution. Phlx Options Floor Procedure Advice A-10 provides that in any instance where a Specialist wishes to participate as principal in a trade with an order placed on that Specialist's

¹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

² 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4

³ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 43864 (January 19, 2001), 66 FR 7947 (January 26, 2001) (SR-Phlx-01-06).

book, the Specialist must ensure that at least one ROT is present in the trading crowd and is aware of the Specialist's intention to trade with the book both at the time of and immediately before the execution. Phlx Options Floor Procedure Advice C-1 provides that a Floor Broker representing an order in options shall, before executing the order, ascertain that at least one ROT is present in the trading crowd at the post where the order is executed.

Each of these rules currently contains a temporary exception that is limited only to FCO transactions. Pursuant to the temporary exception, which expires on March 31, 2001, an FCO Specialist may trade as principal with an order on the book and an FCO Floor Broker may represent an order or execute a trade when no ROT registered in the FCO is present on the Phlx's FCO trading floor.⁴ The proposed rule change would permanently exempt FCO Specialists and FCO Floor Brokers from the requirements in Phlx Rule 1063(a) and Phlx Options Floor Procedure Advices A-10 and C-1. Specifically, the Phlx proposes to amend Rule 1063(a) and Phlx Options Floor Procedure Advices A-10 and C-1 by deleting from each rule the words "until March 31, 2001," thereby making permanent the temporary exceptions that those rules currently provide.⁵

The proposal would also make certain non-substantive stylistic changes to Floor Procedure Advices A-10 and C-1. The text of the proposed rule change is available at the principal offices of the Phlx and at the Commission.

III. Discussion

The Commission approved the temporary exception on January 3, 2001, on an accelerated basis.⁶ The Phlx requested accelerated approval of the temporary exception after it learned that, as of January 3, 2001, no ROTs would be doing business on a regular basis on the Phlx's FCO floor. The Phlx represented that there very likely would be periods of time when FCO Specialists and FCO Floor Brokers would be on the FCO floor with no FCO ROTs present, and that compliance with Phlx Rule 1063(a) and Phlx Options Floor Procedure Advices A-10 and C-1 would

⁴ The Phlx's FCO trading floor is located in the same building as its equity options trading floor, but is in a different room.

⁵ The proposed rule change also makes non-substantive changes to Phlx Rule 1063(a) and Phlx Options Floor Procedure Advices A-10 and C-1 by replacing the shorthand term "ROT" with the term "Registered Options Trader." The temporary rule change incorporated those same changes.

⁶ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 43799 (January 3, 2001), 66 FR 2469 (January 11, 2001) (File No. SR-Phlx-00-111).

not be possible under those circumstances. In the Commission's view, the exception was necessary in order to enable the Phlx to continue to provide fair and orderly markets in FCOs in the absence of FCO ROTs on the FCO floor.

Like the temporary rule change, the proposed permanent exception would apply only if no ROT is present on the FCO floor when an FCO Specialist trades as principal with an order on the book, or when an FCO Floor Broker represents an order or executes a trade. The Commission believes that the proposed rule change will permit Phlx Specialists to continue to trade as principal with orders on the book, and will allow Phlx Floor Brokers to continue to represent and execute orders in FCOs in the event that no ROTs are present on the FCO floor. In view of the foregoing, the Commission finds that the Phlx's proposal is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to facilitate transactions in securities, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market, and to protect investors and the public interest, consistent with section 6(b)(5) of the Act.⁷

IV. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act, that the proposed rule change (File No. SR-Phlx-01-06) is approved.⁸

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁹

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-6803 Filed 3-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Economic Injury Disaster #9K98]

State of South Carolina

Beaufort, Charleston, and Georgetown Counties and the contiguous counties of Berkeley, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Marion, and Williamsburg in the State of South Carolina constitute an economic injury disaster loan area as a result of extended cold and severe freezes that occurred between December 17, 2000 and January 7, 2001. Eligible small businesses and

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

⁸ In approving the proposal, the Commission has considered the rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

⁹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

small agricultural cooperatives without credit available elsewhere may file applications for economic injury assistance as a result of this disaster until the close of business on December 14, 2001 at the address listed below or other locally announced locations: U.S. Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 2 Office, One Baltimore Place, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30308.

The interest rate for eligible small businesses and small agricultural cooperatives is 4 percent.

The number assigned for economic injury for the State of South Carolina is 9K9800.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 59002)

Dated: March 13, 2001.

John Whitmore,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 01-6859 Filed 3-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-U

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Region I Hartford District Advisory Council; Public Meeting

The U.S. Small Business Administration, Region I Hartford, Connecticut District Advisory Council, will hold a public meeting on Monday, April 2, 2001, at 8:30 a.m. at the Connecticut District Office, 330 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106, to discuss such matters as may be presented by members, staff of the U.S. Small Business Administration or others present. For further information, write or call Ms. Marie Record, District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration, 330 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut, telephone (860) 240-4700.

Nancyellen Gentile,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 01-6861 Filed 3-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-U

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Region IV North Florida; Jacksonville, Florida District Advisory Council; Public Meeting

The U.S. Small Business Administration, Region IV North Florida District Advisory Council, will hold a public meeting on April 12, 2001, at 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., at the Citrus Club, 1800 Republic Bank Tower (Citrus Center), 255 S. Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida, to discuss such matters as may be presented by members, staff of the U.S. Small Business Administration or