

offer for its own securities. Also, persons other than the reporting company making a tender offer for equity securities registered under section 12 of the Exchange Act (which offer, if consummated, would cause that person to own over 5 percent of that class of the securities) must file Schedule TO. The purpose Schedule TO is to improve communications between public companies and investors before companies file registration statements involving tender offer statements. Approximately 3,038 issuers annually file Schedule TO and it takes 43.5 hours to prepare for a total of 132,153 annual burden hours. It is estimated that 50% of the 132,153 total burden hours (66,077 burden hours) is prepared by the company.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether these collections of information are necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collections of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information 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.

Please direct your written comments to Michael E. Bartell, Associate Executive Director, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549.

Dated: October 25, 2001.

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

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

Extension:

Rule 10b-18—SEC File No. 270-416, OMB Control No. 3235-0474

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) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget a request for extension of the previously approved collection of information discussed below.

Rule 10b-18 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Exchange Act) provides that the issuer or any affiliated purchaser of the issuer will not incur liability under section 9(a)(2) of the Exchange Act or Rule 10b-5 under the Exchange Act if its purchases are effected in compliance with the manner, timing, price, and volume limitations of the safe harbor. The Rule further provides that purchases falling outside of the Rule's conditions shall not give rise to a presumption of manipulation. An issuer or an affiliated purchaser seeking to avail itself of the safe harbor, however, must collect information regarding the manner, time, price, and volume of its purchases of the issuer's common stock in order to verify compliance with the Rule's conditions and application of the safe harbor.

Each year there are approximately 1,179 share repurchase programs conducted in accordance with Rule 10b-18. For each such repurchase program, an average of approximately 8 hours are spent collecting the requisite information. If approximately 1,179 issuers engage in repurchases following a market-wide trading suspension and comply with the safe harbor then, collectively, these issuers would incur an additional 1,179 burden hours. Thus, the total compliance burden per year is approximately 10,611 burden hours.

Compliance with Rule 10b-18 does not involve the collection of confidential information. Please note that an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

General comments regarding the above information should be directed to the following persons: (i) Desk Office for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10102, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503; and (ii) Michael E. Bartell, Associate Executive Director, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: October 30, 2001.

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-27710 Filed 11-02-01; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 35-27460]

Filings Under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, as Amended ("Act")

October 30, 2001.

Notice is hereby given that the following filing(s) has/have been made with the Commission pursuant to provisions of the Act and rules promulgated under the Act. All interested persons are referred to the application(s) and/or declaration(s) for complete statements of the proposed transaction(s) summarized below. The 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 26, 2001**, 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 26, 2001**, the application(s) and/or declaration(s), as filed or as amended, may be granted and/or permitted to become effective.

National Grid Group plc, et al. (70-9849)

National Grid Group plc ("National Grid"), a registered public-utility holding company, its nonutility direct subsidiary, New National Grid plc ("New National Grid"), both located at 15 Marylebone Road, London, NW15JD, United Kingdom, certain registered public-utility holding company subsidiaries of National Grid ("Intermediate Holding Companies")—namely, National Grid (US) Holdings Limited, National Grid (US) Investments, both located at 15 Marylebone Road, London, NW15JD,