

## 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:

Form 18, OMB Control No. 3235-0121, SEC File No. 270-105.  
Form F-80, OMB Control No. 3235-0404, SEC File No. 270-357.

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 requests for extension of the previously approved collections of information discussed below.

Form 18 is used for the registration of securities of any foreign government or political subdivision on a U.S. Exchange. The information collected is intended to ensure that the information required to be filed by the Commission permits verification of compliance with securities law requirements and assures the public availability. The information provided is mandatory and all information is made available to the public upon request. Form 18 takes approximately 8 hours per response and is filed by approximately 5 respondents for a total burden of 40 annual burden hours. It is estimated that 100% of the total reporting burden is prepared by the company. Also, persons who respond to the collection of information contained in Form 18 are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid control number.

Form F-80 is used by large publicly traded Canadian foreign private issuers registering securities offered in business combinations and exchange offers. The information collected is intended to ensure that the information required to be filed by the Commission permits verification of compliance with securities law requirements and assures the public availability. The information provided is mandatory and all information is made available to the public upon request. Form F-80 takes approximately 2 hours per response and is filed by 4 issuers for a total annual burden of 8 hours. The estimated burden of 2 hours per response was based upon the amount of time necessary to compile the registration statement using the existing Canadian prospectus plus any additional information required by the

Commission. Also, persons who respond to the collection of information contained in Form F-80 are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid control number.

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 regarding the above information should be directed to the following persons: (i) Desk Officer 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) Kenneth A. Fogash, Acting Associate Executive Director/CIO, 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.

August 5, 2003.

**Margaret H. McFarland,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

*Upon Written Request, Copies Available From:* Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549.

*Extension:* Rule 17f-6 (17 CFR 270.17f-6), SEC File No. 270-392, OMB Control No. 3235-0447.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Rule 17f-6 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (17 CFR 270.17f-6) permits registered investment companies ("funds") to maintain assets (*i.e.*, margin) with futures commission merchants ("FCMs") in connection with commodity transactions effected on both domestic and foreign exchanges.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Custody of Investment Company Assets With Futures Commission Merchants and Commodity

Prior to the rule's adoption, funds generally were required to maintain these assets in special accounts with a custodian bank.

The rule requires a written contract that contains certain provisions to ensure important safeguards and other benefits relating to the custody of fund assets by FCMs. The requirement that FCMs comply with the segregation or secured amount requirements of the Commodity Exchange Act ("CEA") and the rules under that statute is designed to protect fund assets held by FCMs. The contract requirement that an FCM obtain an acknowledgment from an entity that clears fund transactions that the fund's assets are held on behalf of the FCM's customers according to CEA provisions seeks to accommodate the legitimate needs of the participants in the commodity settlement process, consistent with the protection of fund assets. Finally, FCMs are required to furnish to the Commission or its staff on request information concerning the fund's assets in order to facilitate Commission inspections of funds.

The Commission estimates that approximately 2,154 funds effect commodities transactions and could deposit margin with FCMs under rule 17f-6 in connection with those transactions. Commission staff estimates that each fund uses and deposits margin with 2 different FCMs in connection with its commodity transactions.<sup>2</sup> Approximately 179 FCMs are eligible to hold fund margin under the rule.<sup>3</sup> The Commission estimates that each of the 2,154 funds spend an average of 1 hour annually complying with the contract requirements of the rule (*e.g.*, executing contracts that contain the requisite provisions with additional FCMs), for a total of 2,154 burden hours. The estimate does not include the time required by an FCM to comply with the rule's contract requirements because, to the extent that complying with the contract provisions could be considered "collections of information," the burden hours for compliance are already included in other PRA submissions or are *de minimis*.<sup>4</sup> The estimate of average

Clearing Organizations, Investment Company Act Release No. 22389 (Dec. 11, 1996) [61 FR 66207 (Dec. 17, 1996)].

<sup>2</sup> This estimate is based on information conversations with representatives of the fund industry.

<sup>3</sup> Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Annual Report (2002).

<sup>4</sup> The rule requires a contract with the FCM to contain three provisions. Two of the provisions require the FCM to comply with existing requirements under the CEA and rules adopted under that Act. Thus, to the extent these provisions could be considered collections of information, the