

• Foster growth by increasing the value of postal products and services to our customers;
 • Improve operational efficiency; and
 • Enhance the performance-based culture.”

In their opening message Mr. Rider and Mr. Potter recognize their responsibility “to take definitive action to offer the citizens of America a clear and compelling view of current and planned actions and our vision of where we are headed. At the same time we want to encourage all our stakeholders to remain actively engaged in discussions about postal issues and the Postal Service’s future.”

It is in this spirit, as the Postal Service develops the 2004–2008 Five-Year Strategic Plan, that we ask stakeholders to once again share their views on its future.

Solicitation of Comments

The United States Postal Service solicits identification of and comment on the key factors external to the Postal Service and beyond its control which could significantly affect the achievement of its mission, vision, and goals. During development of the Transformation Plan and during subsequent Postal Service testimony before the President’s Commission on the Postal Service the following fundamental changes were identified as those reshaping the delivery services marketplace:

• *Changing customer needs.* With access to more information and options than ever before, customers have a broad range of choices for delivery of messages, money, and merchandise—our three businesses. Customer requirements for postal services and entrenched network structures and service patterns may be changing.
 • *Eroding mail volumes.* Electronic alternatives, particularly bill presentment and payment, pose a definite and substantial risk to First-Class Mail® volume and revenue within the next 5–10 years. This could, in turn, have a negative impact on First-Class Mail rates.

• *Rising costs.* Despite major gains in efficiency and productivity through letter mail automation, the costs of maintaining an ever-expanding postal network are rising faster than revenue, especially costs outside the direct control of the Postal Service, such as retirement and health benefit liabilities.

• *Fixed costs.* Universal service requires a significant infrastructure to deliver postal services. Almost half of current Postal Service costs are spent on these resources, and that level does not change when volume or productivity

increases or decreases. This makes cost containment challenging.

• *Merging of public and private operators into global networks.* Former national foreign postal services, some privatized, have entered the U.S. domestic market; giant private firms that dominate global parcel and express markets are entering an increasing portion of the postal value chain.

• *Increasing security concerns.* Rising security concerns will require expensive and sophisticated countermeasures.

Are these factors still relevant? Which ones are relevant and which are not? Are some more important than others? Is the rate of change for each factor increasing or decreasing? Are there other factors that warrant consideration? What are they? In developing the 2004–2008 Five-Year Strategic Plan, the Postal Service would like to receive stakeholders’ views and comments on these and other long-term external changes, issues, and trends.

Finally, stakeholders should include their comments that were made to the President’s Commission on the Postal Service regarding the United States Postal Service if reviewing such comments would help the Postal Service in developing its 2004–2008 Five-Year Strategic Plan.

The Postal Service also invites comment on its long-range organizational goals, or objectives, published most recently in the Preliminary Annual Performance Plan for 2004 as part of the FY 2002 Comprehensive Statement on Postal Operations. The Postal Service has employed long-range goals, or objectives, as part of a strategic planning process for over two decades, along with systematic performance assessments. The Postal Service has developed a disciplined process to establish the goals, objectives, indicators, and targets; assign resources to programs that support achievement of the targets; implement the programs; and review performance. Stakeholder input will support and enhance both the performance process and the new 2004–2008 Five-Year Strategic Plan.

Specifically, the Postal Service solicits stakeholder comment on the following long-range organizational goals and objectives:

Goal	FY 2004 preliminary performance objective (sub-goals)
Growth	• Timeliness and consistency. • Priority Mail® (Air) On Time. • Priority Mail (Surface) On Time.

Goal	FY 2004 preliminary performance objective (sub-goals)
Motivated, productive and inclusive workforce.	• Express Mail® On Time. • Overnight First-Class Mail On Time. • Two-Day First-Class Mail On Time. • Three-Day First-Class Mail On Time. • Minimize impacts from accidents and absences.
Affordability	• Employees committed to Postal Service success. • Improve productivity to control costs, improve contribution levels, and grow the business.

Any comments pertaining to the means by which the Postal Service can best achieve these goals are welcome. Comments on other aspects of strategic planning, goal-definition, and performance measurement are also welcome.

This request for comments initiates a formal process for the development of the 2004–2008 Five-Year Strategic Plan, and offers an opportunity for stakeholder comments to be given careful consideration in the development of the plan’s goals, targets, and strategies. While its July 18 deadline corresponds with a need and requirement for formality in the development of this plan, the strategic planning process itself is continuous and welcomes ongoing input from all stakeholders in the development of annual business environmental assessments, and annual performance plans and reports.

Stanley F. Mires,

Chief Counsel, Legislative.

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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, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549.

Extension:

Rule 489 and Form F–N; SEC File No. 270–361; OMB Control No. 3235–0411.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

("Act") (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") a request for extension of the previously approved collection of information discussed below.

Rule 489 under the Securities Act of 1933, Filing of Form by Foreign Banks and Certain of their Holding Companies and Finance Subsidiaries; and Form F-N, Appointment of Agent for Service of Process by Foreign Banks and Foreign Insurance Companies and Certain of Their Holding Companies and Finance Subsidiaries Making Public Offerings of Securities in the United States.

Rule 489 under the Securities Act of 1933 requires foreign banks and foreign insurance companies and holding companies and finance subsidiaries of foreign banks and foreign insurance companies that are excepted from the definition of "investment company" by virtue of rules 3a-1, 3a-5, and 3a-6 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 to file Form F-N to appoint an agent for service of process United States when making a public offering of securities. Approximately four entities are required by rule 489 to file Form F-N, which is estimated to require an average of one hour to complete. The estimated annual burden of complying with the rule's filing requirement is approximately five hours, as one of the entities has submitted multiple filings.

The estimates of average burden hours are made solely for the purposes of the Act and are not derived from a comprehensive or even representative survey or study of the cost of Commission rules and forms.

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 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.

Dated: June 9, 2003.

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 17a-6, SEC File No. 270-433, OMB Control No. 3235-0489.

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 request for extension of the previously approved collection of information discussed below.

Rule 17a-6 (17 CFR 240.17a-6) permits national securities exchanges, national securities associations, registered clearing agencies, and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (collectively, "SROs") to destroy or convert to microfilm or other recording media records maintained under Rule 17a-1, if they have filed a record destruction plan with the Commission and the Commission has declared such plan effective.

There are 26 SROs: 9 national securities exchanges, 1 national securities association, 15 registered clearing agencies, and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board. These respondents file no more than one record destruction plan per year, which requires approximately 160 hours for each plan. However, we are discounting that figure by a factor of 20 given our experience to date with the number of plans that have been filed. Thus, the total annual compliance burden is estimated to be 8 hours. The approximate cost per hour is \$200, resulting in a total cost of compliance for these respondents of \$1,600 per year (8 hours @ \$200 per hour).

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 estimated burden hours should be directed to the Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission at

the address below. Any comments concerning the accuracy of the estimated average burden hours for compliance with Commission rules and forms should be directed to Kenneth A. Fogash, Acting Associate Executive Director/CIO, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549 and 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. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: June 5, 2003.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-48000; File No. SR-Amex-2003-55]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by the American Stock Exchange LLC Relating to Auxiliary Opening Procedures for Nasdaq National Market Securities

June 6, 2003.

Pursuant to section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on May 30, 2003, the American Stock Exchange LLC ("Amex" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by Amex.³ Amex filed the proposed rule change pursuant to section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act⁴ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder,⁵ which renders the proposal effective upon filing with the Commission. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ Commission staff made non-substance typographical changes to the text of the proposed rule change with the permission of Amex. Telephone conversation between Michael Cavalier, Associate General Counsel, Amex, and Andrew Shipe, Special Counsel, Division of Market Regulation, Commission, June 6, 2003.

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁵ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).