

any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

The Exchange has neither solicited nor received written comments on the proposed rule change.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Within 35 days of the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 days of such date if its finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

(A) by order approve the proposed rule change, or

(B) institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. § 552, will be available for inspection and copying at the Commission's Public Reference Section, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the NYSE. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-NYSE-94-46 and should be submitted by January 26, 1995.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

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[Release No. 34-35172; File No. SR-NASD-94-79]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of Proposed Rule Change by the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc., Relating to an Interim Extension of the OTC Bulletin Board® Service Through January 31, 1995

December 28, 1994.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"), 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1), notice is hereby given that on December 23, 1994, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II and III below, which Items have been prepared by the NASD. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons and is simultaneously approving the proposal.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

On June 1, 1990, the NASD, through a subsidiary corporation, initiated operation of the OTC Bulletin Board Service ("OTCBB Service" or "Service") in accord with the Commission's approval of File No. SR-NASD-88-19, as amended.¹ The OTCBB Service provides a real-time quotation medium that NASD member firms can elect to use to enter, update, and retrieve quotation information (including unpriced indications of interest) for securities traded over-the-counter that are neither listed on The Nasdaq Stock MarketSM nor on a primary national securities exchange (collectively referred to as "OTC" Equities).² Essentially, the Service supports NASD members' market making in OTC Equities through authorized Nasdaq Workstation units. Real-time access to quotation information captured in the Service is available to subscribers of Level 2/3 Nasdaq service as well as subscribers of vendor-sponsored services that now carry OTCBB Service data. The Service is currently operating

¹ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 27975 (May 1, 1990), 55 FR 19124 (May 8, 1990).

² With the Commission's January 1994 approval of File No. SR-NASD-93-24, the universe of securities eligible for quotation in the OTCBB now includes certain equities listed on regional stock exchanges that do not qualify for dissemination of transaction reports via the facilities of the Consolidated Tape Association. Securities Exchange Act Release No. 33507 (January 24, 1994), 59 FR 4300 (order approving File No. SR-NASD-93-24).

under interim approval that expires on December 31, 1994.³

The NASD hereby files this proposed rule change, pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Act and Rule 19b-4 thereunder, to obtain authorization for an interim extension of the Service through January 31, 1995. During this interval, there will be no material change in the OTCBB Service's operational features, absent Commission approval of a corresponding Rule 19b-4 filing.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the NASD included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The NASD has prepared summaries, set forth in Sections (A), (B), and (C) below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The purpose of this filing is to ensure continuity in the operation of the OTCBB Service while the Commission considers an earlier NASD rule filing (File No. SR-NASD-92-7) that requested permanent approval of the Service.⁴ For the month ending November 30, 1994, the Service reflected the market making positions of 378 NASD member firms displaying quotations/indications of interest in approximately 5,223 OTC Equities.

During the proposed extension, foreign securities and American Depositary Receipts (collectively, "foreign/ADR issues") will remain subject to the twice-daily, update limitation that traces back to the Commission's original approval of the OTCBB Service's operation. As a result, all priced bids/offers displayed in the Service for foreign/ADR issues will remain indicative.

³ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34613 (August 30, 1994), 59 FR 46278.

⁴ The Commission notes that the NASD has filed with the Commission Amendment Nos. 1 and 2 to File No. SR-NASD-92-07, concerning the eligibility of unregistered foreign securities and American Depositary Receipts for inclusion in the OTCBB. The amendments were published in the **Federal Register** for comment on November 18, 1994. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34956 (November 9, 1994), 59 FR 59808.

In conjunction with the start-up of the Service in 1990, the NASD implemented a filing requirement (under Section 4 of Schedule H to the NASD By-Laws) and review procedures to verify member firms' compliance with Rule 15c2-11 under the Act. During the proposed extensions, this review process will continue to be an important component of the NASD's oversight of broker-dealers' market making in OTC Equities. The NASD also expects to work closely with the Commission staff in developing further enhancements to the Service to fulfill the market structure requirements mandated by the Securities Enforcement Remedies and Penny Stock Reform Act of 1990, particularly Section 17B of the Act.⁵ The NASD notes that implementation of the Reform Act entails Commission rulemaking in several areas, including the development of mechanisms for gathering and disseminating reliable quotation/transaction information for "penny stocks."

2. Statutory Basis

The NASD believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Sections 11A(a)(1), 15A(b) (6) and (11), and Section 17B of the Act. Section 11A(a)(1) sets forth the Congressional findings and policy goals respecting operational enhancements to the securities markets. Basically, the Congress found that new data processing and communications techniques should be applied to improve the efficiency of market operations, broaden the distribution of market information, and foster competition among market participants. Section 15A(b)(6) requires, among other things, that the NASD's rules promote just and equitable principles of trade, facilitate securities transactions, and protect public investors. Subsection (11) thereunder authorizes the NASD to adopt rules governing the form and content of quotations for securities traded over-the-counter for the purposes of producing fair and informative quotations, preventing misleading

quotations, and promoting orderly procedures for collecting and disseminating quotations. Finally, Section 17B contains Congressional findings and directives respecting the collection and distribution of quotation information on low-priced equity securities that are neither Nasdaq nor exchange-listed.

The NASD believes that extension of the Service through January 31, 1995, is fully consistent with the foregoing provisions of the Act.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The NASD believes that the rule change will not result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

The NASD requests that the Commission find good cause, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act, for approving the proposed rule change prior to the 30th day after its publication in the **Federal Register** to avoid any interruption of the Service. The current authorization for the Service extends through December 31, 1994. Hence it is imperative that the Commission approve the instant filing on or before that date. Otherwise, the NASD will be required to suspend operation of the Service pending Commission action on the proposed extension.

The NASD believes that accelerated approval is appropriate to ensure continuity in the Service's operation pending a determination on permanent status for the Service, as requested in File No. SR-NASD-92-7. Continued operation of the Service will ensure the availability of an electronic quotation medium to support member firms' market making in approximately 5,223 OTC Equities and the widespread dissemination of quotation information on these securities. The Service's operation also expedites price discovery and facilitates the execution of customer orders at the best available price. From a regulatory standpoint, the NASD's capture of quotation data from participating market makers supplements the price and volume data reported by member firms pursuant to

Part XII of Schedule D to the NASD By-Laws.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20549. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the NASD. All submissions should refer to the file number in the caption above and should be submitted by [insert date 21 days from the date of publication].

V. Commission's Findings and Order Granting Accelerated Approval

The Commission finds that approval of the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder and, in particular, with the requirements of Section 15A(b)(11) of the Act, which provides that the rules of the NASD relating to quotations must be designed to produce fair and informative quotations, prevent fictitious or misleading quotations, and promote orderly quotations, and promote orderly procedures for collecting, distributing, and publishing quotations.

The Commission finds good cause for approving the proposed rule change prior to the 30th day after the date of publishing notice of the filing thereof. Accelerated approval of the NASD's proposal is appropriate to ensure continuity in the Service's operation as an electronic quotation medium that supports NASD members' market making in these securities and that facilitates price discovery and the execution of customers' orders at the best available price. Additionally, continued operation of the Service will materially assist the NASD's surveillance of its members trading in OTC Equities that are eligible and quoted in the Service, and in non-Tape B securities that are listed on regional

⁵ On November 24, 1992, the NASD filed an application with the Commission for interim designation of the Service as an automated quotation system pursuant to Section 17B(b) of the Act. On December 30, 1992, the Commission granted Qualifying Electronic Quotation System ("QEQS") status for the Service for purposes of certain penny stock rules that became effective on January 1, 1993. On August 26, 1993, the Commission granted the NASD's request for an extension of QEQS status until such time as the OTCBB meets the statutory requirements of Section 17B(b)(2). Finally, on May 13, 1994, the NASD filed an application with the Commission for permanent designation of the Service as an automated quotations system for penny stocks pursuant to Section 17B(b).

exchanges and quoted in the OTCBB by NASD members.

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act, that the proposed rule change be, and hereby is, approved for an interim period through January 31, 1995.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority, 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12)

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

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[Release No. 34-35168; File No. SR-NASD-94-77]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change by National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. Relating To Granting the Director of Arbitration the Authority to Delegate Duties Under the Code of Arbitration Procedure

December 29, 1994.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"), 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1), notice is hereby given that on December 20, 1994, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD" or "Association") 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 the NASD. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The NASD is proposing to amend Section 3 of the Code of Arbitration Procedure¹ to expressly provide that the Director of Arbitration may delegate decision making authority as appropriate. Below is the text of the proposed rule change. Proposed new language is in italics; proposed elections are in brackets.

Code of Arbitration Procedure

Director of Arbitration

Sec. 3. The Board of Governors of the Association shall appoint a Director of Arbitration ("*Director*") who shall be charged with the performance of all administrative duties and functions in connection with matters submitted for arbitration pursuant to this Code. *The Director* [He] shall be directly

responsible to the National Arbitration Committee and shall report to it at periodic intervals established by the Committee and at such other times as called upon by the Committee to do so. *The duties and functions of the Director may be delegated by the Director, as appropriate. In the event of the incapacitation, resignation, removal, or other permanent or indefinite inability of the Director to perform the duties and responsibilities of the Director, the President or an Executive Vice President of the Association may appoint an interim Director.*

* * * * *

II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the NASD included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The NASD has prepared summaries, set forth in Sections (A), (B), and (C) below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

(A) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statements of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

The current provisions of Section 3 of the Code provide for the appointment of a Director of Arbitration by the NASD Board of Governors to perform all administrative duties and functions in connection with matters submitted to the NASD for arbitration. The Director has found it necessary to delegate certain functions of the Director to senior management employees of the NASD's Arbitration Department, especially as a result of the significant growth in the Department's staff and workload. The NASD believes this delegation power is inherent in the authority of the Director to manage the functions of the NASD's Arbitration Department. Nevertheless, the NASD is proposing to amend Section 3 of the Code to expressly provide for such delegation.

The proposed rule change to Section 3 provides that the duties and functions of the Director may be delegated by the Director as appropriate. Further, in the event that the Director is incapacitated, resigns, is removed or is permanently or indefinitely disabled from the performance of the duties and functions of the Director, the proposed rule change provides that the President of

the Association or an Executive Vice President may appoint an interim Director to perform these functions and responsibilities of the Director.

The NASD believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b) of the Act² in that the proposed rule change will protect investors and the public interest by avoiding disruptions and uncertainty about the authority to Act under the Code by permitting the duties and functions of the Director to be delegated by the Director and by permitting certain other NASD officers to appoint an interim Director if certain circumstances render the Director unable to discharge the duties vested in the Director.

(B) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The NASD does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended.

(C) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

The proposed rule change was published for comment by the SEC as part of SR-NASD-93-51 in Securities Exchange Act Release No. 33108 (October 26, 1993), 58 FR 58573 (November 2, 1993). No comments were received by the SEC specifically directed at the proposed amendment to Section 3.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Within 35 days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

- A. by order approve such proposed rule change, or
- B. institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the

¹ NASD Manual, Code of Arbitration Procedure, (CCH) ¶ 3703.

² 15 U.S.C. § 78o-3.