

obligations imposed upon them by the conditions contained in the Application. Such reports, materials, and data shall be submitted more frequently if deemed appropriate by the applicable Boards. The obligations of the Participating Insurance Companies and Qualified Plans to provide these reports, materials, and data to the Boards shall be a contractual obligation of all Participating Insurance Companies and Qualified plans under the agreements governing their participation in the Insurance Products Funds.

13. In the event that a Plan should ever become an owner of 10% or more of the assets of an Insurance Products Fund, such Plan will execute a fund participation agreement including the conditions set forth herein, to the extent applicable, with that Insurance Products Fund. A plan will execute an application containing an acknowledgment of this condition at the time of its initial purchase of shares of the Insurance Products Fund.

Conclusion

For the reasons summarized above, Applicants assert that the requested exemptions are appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the 1940 Act.

For the Commission, by the Division of Investment Management, pursuant to delegated authority.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-22621 Filed 8-30-99; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-41781; File No. SR-MCC-99-01]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Midwest Clearing Corporation; Order Approving a Proposed Rule Change Relating to Sponsored Account Fund Deposits

August 23, 1999.

On February 26, 1999, the Midwest Clearing Corporation ("MCC") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") a proposed rule change (File No. SR-MCC-99-01) pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act").¹ Notice of the proposal was published in the **Federal Register**

on May 26, 1999.² No comment letters were received. For the reasons discussed below, the Commission is approving the proposed rule change.

I. Description

MCC sponsors accounts ("sponsored accounts") at qualified clearing agencies³ for certain eligible Chicago Stock Exchange specialists, floor brokers, and market makers ("sponsored participants") to provide them with access to the clearance, settlement, and depository services of the qualified clearing agencies. To cover any losses that MCC may incur from maintaining the sponsored accounts, MCC requires sponsored participants to contribute to MCC's sponsored account fund. A sponsored participant's required contribution to MCC's sponsored account fund currently is the greater of \$15,000 ("minimum contribution") or 110% of the amount calculated pursuant to the formula of NSCC and DTC ("alternative contribution"). According to MCC, both NSCC and DTC require a minimum deposit of \$10,000.⁴ Therefore, the current minimum amount a sponsored participant must contribute to the sponsored account fund is \$22,000, which is based on the alternative contribution formula.⁵

The proposed rule change increases the minimum contribution from \$15,000 to \$150,000. The increase will be phased-in over a twelve month period. To announce the actual phase-in dates, MCC will issue an administrative bulletin no later than thirty days after the Commission's order approving the proposal. The first phase-in date will be no more than 60 days from the date the bulletin is published and will increase the minimum contribution to \$50,000. The second and third phase-in dates will be six months and twelve months from the initial phase-in date and increase the minimum contribution to \$10,000 and \$150,000, respectively.

II. Discussion

Section 17A(b)(3)(F)⁶ of the Act requires that the rules of a clearing agency be designed to assure the safeguarding of securities and funds

² Securities Exchange Act Release No. 41427 (May 19, 1999), 64 FR 28542.

³ MCC uses the services of two qualified clearing agencies on behalf of its sponsored participants: the National Securities Clearing Corporation ("NSCC") and The Depository Trust Company ("DTC")

⁴ Letter from Paul B. O'Kelly, Executive Vice President, Market Regulation and Legal, Chicago Stock Exchange (March 19, 1999).

⁵ Using NSCC's and DTC's minimum deposit of \$10,000 each, MCC's alternative contribution formula is as follows: 110% of \$10,000 + 110% of \$100,000 = \$22,000.

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78q-1(b)(3)(F).

which are in the custody or control of the clearing agency or for which it is responsible. The Commission finds that increasing the sponsored account fund deposit is consistent with MCC's obligations under Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Act because the additional funds should increase the likelihood that MCC will have sufficient funds to settle the securities transactions of a sponsored participant that becomes insolvent.

III. Conclusion

On the basis of the foregoing, the Commission finds that the proposal is consistent with the requirements of the Act and in particular with the requirements of Section 17A of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder.

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act, that the proposed rule change (File No. SR-MCC-99-01) be, and hereby is, approved.

For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁷

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-22552 Filed 8-30-99; 8:45 am]

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Data Collection Available for Public Comments and Recommendations

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Small Business Administration's intentions to request approval on a new, and/or currently approved information collection.

DATES: Submit comments on or before November 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send all comments regarding whether this information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the function of the agency, whether the burden estimate is accurate, and if there are ways to minimize the estimated burden and enhance the quality of the collection, to James E. Rivera, Senior Loan Officer, Office of Disaster Assistance, Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street, S.W. Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James E. Rivera, Senior Loan Officer, 202-205-6734 or Curtis B. Rich, Management Analyst, 202-205-7030.

⁷ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).