

collections, the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) will publish periodic summaries of proposed data collections.

Comments Are Invited On

(a) Whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the RRB's estimate of the burden of the collection of the information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden related to the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Title and Purpose of Information Collection

Nonresident Questionnaire; OMB 3220-0145

Under Public Laws 98-21 and 98-76, benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act payable to annuitants living outside the United States may be subject to taxation under United States income tax laws.

Whether the social security equivalent and non-social security equivalent portions of Tier I, Tier II, vested dual benefit, or supplemental annuity payments are subject to tax withholding, and whether the same or different rates are applied to each payment, depends on a beneficiary's citizenship and legal residence status, and whether exemption under a tax treaty between the United States and the country in which the beneficiary is a legal resident has been claimed. To effect the required tax withholding, the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) needs to know a nonresidents citizenship and legal residence status.

To secure the required information, the RRB-1001, Nonresident Questionnaire, as a supplement to an application as part of the initial application process, and as an independent vehicle for obtaining the needed information when an annuitant's residence or tax treaty status changes. Completion is voluntary. One response is requested of each respondent.

The RRB estimates that 1,500 Form RRB-1001's are completed annually. The completion time for Form RRB-1001 is estimated at 30 minutes. No change are proposed to Form RRB-1001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information or to obtain a copy of the information collection justification, forms, and/or supporting

material, please call the RRB Clearance Officer at (312) 751-3363. Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Ronald J. Hodapp, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 N. Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Chuck Mierzwa,

Clearance Officer.

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RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Agency Forms Submitted for OMB Review

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) has submitted the following proposal(s) for the collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for review and approval.

Summary of Proposals

(1) *Collection title:* Employer's Quarterly Report of Contributions Under the RUIA.

(2) *Form(s) submitted:* DC-1.

(3) *OMB Number:* 3220-0012.

(4) *Expiration date of current OMB clearance:* 3/31/2000.

(5) *Type of request:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

(6) *Respondents:* Business or other for-profit.

(7) *Estimated annual number of respondents:* 550

(8) *Total annual responses:* 2,200.

(9) *Total annual reporting hours:* 917.

(10) *Collection description:* Railroad employers are required to make contributions to the Railroad Unemployment Insurance fund quarterly or annually equal to a percentage of the creditable compensation paid to each employee. The information furnished on the report accompanying the remittance is used to determine correctness of the amount paid.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Copies of the forms and supporting documents can be obtained from Chuck Mierzwa, the agency clearance officer (312-751-3363). Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Ronald J. Hodapp, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60611-2092 and the OMB reviewer, Wendy Taylor (202-395-7316), Office of Management and Budget, Room 10230, New

Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Chuck Mierzwa,

Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-1202 Filed 1-18-00; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-42328; File No. SR-OPRA-00-01]

Options Price Reporting Authority; Notice of Filing and Order Granting Accelerated Effectiveness of Amendment to OPRA Plan Adopting a Temporary Capacity Allocation Plan

Pursuant to Rule 11Aa3-2 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),¹ notice is hereby given that on January 7, 2000, the Options Price Reporting Authority ("OPRA")² submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") an amendment to the Plan for Reporting of Consolidated Options Last Sale Reports and Quotation Information ("Plan"). The amendment proposes to allocate the message handling capacity of OPRA's processor among the participant exchanges for a temporary period ending January 30, 2000, to minimize the likelihood that during this period the total number of messages generated by the participants will exceed the processor's (*i.e.*, Securities Industry Automation Corporation) aggregate message handling capacity.³ The Commission is publishing this notice and order to solicit comments from interested persons on the proposed Plan amendment, and to grant accelerated

¹ 17 CFR 240.11Aa3-2.

² OPRA is a National Market System Plan approved by the Commission pursuant to Section 11A of the Act and Rule 11Aa3-2 thereunder. *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 17638 (Mar. 18, 1981).

The Plan provides for the collection and dissemination of last sale and quotation information on options that are traded on the member exchanges. The five exchanges which agreed to the OPRA Plan are the American Stock Exchange ("AMEX"); the Chicago Board Options Exchange ("CBOE"); the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE"); the Pacific Exchange ("PCX"); and the Philadelphia Stock Exchange ("PHLX").

³ OPRA has determined to treat this proposed capacity allocation as an amendment to its national market system plan and, accordingly, to file the proposed capacity allocation for Commission review and approval pursuant to paragraph (b) of Rule 11Aa3-2. Any determination made by OPRA to continue the effectiveness of the proposed capacity allocations or any revised capacity allocations beyond January 30, 2000 will be the subject of a separate filing under the same Rule.

approval to the proposed Plan amendment through January 30, 2000.

I. Description and Purpose of the Amendment

As discussed above, OPRA proposes to allocate the message handling capacity of its processor among the participant exchanges for a temporary period ending January 30, 2000, to minimize the likelihood that during this period the total number of messages generated by the participants will exceed the processor's aggregate message handling capacity. During this period, the processor's aggregate message-handling capacity, which is estimated by the processor to be 3,000 messages per second, will be allocated among the participants by automatically limiting the number of messages that each participant may input to the processor as follows:

American Stock Exchange: 870 messages per second

Chicago Board Options Exchange: 1,200 messages per second

Pacific Exchange: 525 messages per second

Philadelphia Stock Exchange: 405 messages per second⁴

OPRA proposes to allocate the message handling capacity of its processor in response to significant increases in the number of options quotations that have recently been experienced by all of the participant exchanges as a result of the greater number of options series being traded on the exchanges and the heightened volatility in the underlying securities. Although the aggregate amount of options market information messages is generally still within the capacity of the OPRA processor, the aggregate options message traffic is now so close to reaching the processor's maximum message-handling capacity that some short-term solution to the problem is necessary to avoid risking unacceptable delays and queuing in the dissemination of real-time options market information. Although some long-term solutions have been proposed in the course of the Options Capacity Planning and Quote Mitigation Program that has been taking place over the past several months, these may not be in place soon enough to deal with the current expansion of message traffic.⁵ Accordingly, as part of

⁴ Due to its cut-over to a TCP/IP system, which is scheduled to occur in the coming days, the PHLX anticipates requiring additional messages per second. To evaluate whether there should be any future adjustments to the proposed allocations, on January 24 and 25, 2000, PHLX will be permitted to input up to 500 messages per second.

⁵ See Exchange Act Release No. 41843 (September 8, 1999) in which the Commission issued an order

that Program, OPRA's participant exchanges, in the presence of Commission staff pursuant to the September 1999 Order, have agreed upon the capacity allocation that is proposed in this filing. Because this allocation is based upon an assumed maximum processor capacity of 3,000 messages per second, which the processor advises is a realistic number, OPRA believes that it should serve the intended purpose of avoiding delays and queues in OPRA's real-time stream of market information. To retain sufficient flexibility to deal with changed circumstances within and among the options markets, including the planned commencement of options trading by the International Securities Exchange, the proposed allocations will remain in effect only until January 30, 2000, unless OPRA decides that the proposed allocation or some revised allocation should be continued beyond that date.⁶

II. Implementation of the Plan Amendment

OPRA believes the temporary implementation of the proposed capacity allocation program is essential to avoid delays and queues in the dissemination of options market information, which in turn is necessary to achieve the objective of Section 11A(a)(1)(C)(iii),⁷ including to assure the availability to brokers, dealers and investors of information with respect to quotations for and transactions in securities. Accordingly, OPRA requests the Commission to permit the proposed allocation program to be put into effect summarily upon publication of notice of this filing, on a temporary basis, pursuant to paragraph (c)(4) of Rule 11Aa3-2,⁸ based on a finding by the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors or the maintenance of fair and orderly markets, to remove impediments to, and perfect the mechanisms of, a national market system, or is otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

III. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and

authorizing the options exchanges, OPRA, OPRA's processor and other parties to act jointly in planning, developing and discussing approaches and strategies with respect to options quote message traffic and related matters ("September 1999 Order").

⁶ Any such continued allocation of OPRA capacity that might be approved by OPRA would be the subject of a separate filing under Rule 11Aa3-2. 17 CFR 240.11Aa3-2. See note 3, *supra*.

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78k-1(a)(1)(C)(iii).

⁸ 17 CFR 240.11Aa3-2(c)(4).

arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed Plan amendment is consistent with the Act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549-0609. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, and 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 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 the filing also will be available at the principal offices of OPRA. All submissions should refer to file number SR-OPRA-00-01 and should be submitted by February 9, 2000.

IV. Commission's Findings and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of Proposed Plan Amendment

After careful review, the Commission finds that the proposed amendment is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder.⁹ Specifically, the Commission believes that the proposed amendment, which allocates the limited capacity of the OPRA system among the options markets, is consistent with Rule 11Aa3-2 in that it will contribute to the maintenance of fair and orderly markets and remove impediments to and perfect the mechanisms of a national market system. The Commission notes that the aggregate message traffic generated by the options exchanges is rapidly approaching the outside limit of OPRA's systems capacity. OPRA's processor has informed the Commission that current plans to enhance OPRA's systems are not expected to be completed before the end of the first quarter of this year, at the earliest. Consequently, the Commission is concerned that, absent an agreed-to program to allocate systems capacity among the options markets that is put in place immediately, systems queuing of options quotes may be the norm, to the detriment of all investors and other participants in the options markets. The Commission believes that the agreed-upon allocation proposal is a reasonable means for addressing potential strains on capacity that may

⁹ In approving this proposed Plan amendment, the Commission has considered the proposal's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

occur between now and January 30, 2000.

The Commission finds good cause to accelerate the proposed Plan amendment prior to the thirtieth day after the day of publication in the **Federal Register**. The Commission notes that the proposed Plan amendment is intended to allocate OPRA system capacity for a short period of time to mitigate potential disruption to the orderly dissemination of options market information caused by the inability of the OPRA system to handle the anticipated quote message traffic. The Commission believes that approving the proposed capacity allocation will provide the options exchanges and OPRA with an immediate, short-term solution to a pressing problem, while giving the Commission and the options markets additional time to evaluate and possibly, implement, other quote mitigation strategies. In addition, the limited time frame of the applicability of the capacity allocation program should provide the Commission and the options exchanges with greater flexibility to modify the program, as necessary, to ensure the fairness of the allocation process to all of the options markets going forward. The Commission finds, therefore, the granting accelerated approval of the proposed Plan amendment is appropriate and consistent with Section 11A of the Act.¹⁰

V. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Rule 11Aa3-2 of the Act,¹¹ that the proposed Plan amendment (SR-OPRA-00-010 is approved on an accelerated basis through January 30, 2000.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹²

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-1170 File 1-18-00; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-42329; File No. SR-CHX-99-29]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by the Chicago Stock Exchange, Incorporated Restating and Amending Membership Dues and Fees Schedule

January 11, 2000.

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 December 27, 1999, the Chicago Stock Exchange, Incorporated ("CHX" or "Exchange") 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 Exchange. The Exchange has designated this proposal as one establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the CHX under Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act,³ which renders the proposal effective upon filing with the Commission. 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 Exchange proposes to restate and amend its membership dues and fees schedule ("Schedule") to better organize and define the charges included in the Schedule; delete references to obsolete charges and confirm specific charges rebilled to members and member firms; and continue, through March 1, 2000, the waiver of all transaction, order processing and floor broker fees for transactions that occur during the Exchange's after-hours trading session ("E-Session"). The text of the proposed rule change is available upon request from the CHX or the Commission.

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 Exchange 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 Exchange 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 proposed rule change restates and amends the Schedule. The proposal primarily reorganizes individual items by grouping them under more descriptive and more appropriate headings, and changes descriptions to better define the charges assessed or rebilled by the Exchange. The proposed changes to the Schedule also delete references to obsolete charges and identify specific charges rebilled to members and member firms by the Exchange. Finally, the proposal includes provisions to eliminate, through March 1, 2000, order processing, transaction and floor broker fees for transactions that occur during the E-Session.⁴ This last portion of the proposal is designed to allow CHX members to participate in the E-Session without incurring the fees normally associated with their CHX transactions.⁵

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with section 6(b)(4) of the Act⁶ in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among its members.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any inappropriate burden on competition.

⁴ The Commission approved, on a pilot basis, the implementation of the Exchange's E-Session. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 42004 (October 13, 1999), 64 FR 56548 (October 20, 1999), (SR-CHX-99-16). The E-Session takes place from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Central Time, Monday through Friday. The E-Session is approved to continue through March 1, 2000.

⁵ According to the Exchange, the vast majority of the vast majority of the securities that trade during the E-Session are already subject to order processing and transaction fee waivers under the current fee schedule because they are either NASDAQ/NMS issues or issues within the S&P 500. Waiving fees on the very few remaining securities and on floor broker transactions in all securities simplifies the Exchange's fee-related communications with its members.

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78k-1.

¹¹ 17 CFR 240.11Aa3-2.

¹² 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(29).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).