

NLS orders and quotations would be fully transparent to all market participants, including the public. Orders and quotations displayed in the NLS would be accorded strict price/time priority. Market makers could execute transactions as principal only if they provided price improvement over the trading interest reflected in the NLS. Trading interest in the NLS could be executed automatically; however, the NLS would not be a market center itself: executions would continue to occur at the level of individual market centers. Public access to the NLS would be provided through self-regulatory organizations, alternative trading systems, and broker-dealers. The NLS could be administered and operated by a governing board made up of representatives from the public and relevant parts of the securities industry.

What is the advisability and practicality of this option? Would it effectively address the problems presented by market fragmentation?

Has advancing technology and increased trading volume created more favorable conditions for the establishment of a national market linkage system at the current time than at any time in the past? What would be the respective benefits and costs of such a system?

Would a national market linkage system with strict price/time priority and automatic execution provide the most efficient trading mechanism? If so, why have competitive forces failed to produce such a system without the necessity for Commission action? Are there any regulatory rules or industry practices blocking competitive forces that otherwise would produce such a system? If so, what are they and how should they be addressed?

Would a mandated national market linkage system substantially reduce the opportunity for competition among market centers to provide trading services? If so, would the costs of reduced market center competition outweigh the benefits of greater interaction of trading interest?

Would implementation of a comprehensive national market linkage system effectively require the creation of a single industry utility? How should a national market linkage system be governed?

Should there be any exceptions from the requirement that all orders yield price/time priority to trading interest reflected in a national market linkage system? For example, should there be an exception for block transactions or for intra-market agency crosses at the NBBO?

Should a national market linkage system incorporate a reserve size function to facilitate the submission of large orders?

**V. Solicitation of Comments**

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the NYSE's proposed rule change and the Commission's request for comment on market fragmentation, including whether the NYSE's proposed rule change is consistent with the Exchange Act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549-0609. 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 the NYSE's proposal also will be available for inspection and copying at its principal office. All submissions should refer File No. SR-NYSE-99-48. Comments on the NYSE's proposed rescission of Rule 390 should be submitted by March 20, 2000. Comments responding to the Commission's request for comments on market fragmentation (including the NYSE's request for rulemaking action) should be submitted by April 28, 2000.

By the Commission.

**Jonathan G. Katz,**  
*Secretary.*

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**SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

**[Declaration of Disaster #3237]**

**State of Georgia**

As a result of the President's major disaster declaration on February 15, 2000, I find that Colquitt, Grady, Mitchell, and Tift Counties in the State of Georgia constitute a disaster area due to damages caused by severe storms and tornadoes that occurred on February 14, 2000. Applications for loans for physical damage as a result of this disaster may be filed until the close of business on April 15, 2000 and for

economic injury until the close of business on November 15, 2000 at the address listed below or other locally announced locations: U.S. Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 2 Office, One Baltimore Place, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30308.

In addition, applications for economic injury loans from small businesses located in the following contiguous counties may be filed until the specified date at the above location: Baker, Berrien, Brooks, Cook, Decatur, Dougherty, Irwin, Thomas, Turner, and Worth Counties in Georgia, and Gadsden and Leon Counties in Florida.

The interest rates are:

	Percent
<b>For Physical Damage:</b>	
Homeowners with credit available elsewhere .....	7.625
Homeowners without credit available elsewhere .....	3.812
Businesses with credit available elsewhere .....	8.000
Businesses and non-profit organizations without credit available elsewhere .....	4.000
Others (including non-profit organizations) with credit available elsewhere .....	6.750
<b>For Economic Injury:</b>	
Businesses and small agricultural cooperatives without credit available elsewhere .....	4.000

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 323712, and for economic injury the numbers are 9G7000 for Georgia and 9G7100 for Florida.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008.)

Dated: February 18, 2000.

**Bernard Kulik,**

*Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.*

[FR Doc. 00-4599 Filed 2-25-00; 8:45 am]

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**SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

**[Declaration of Disaster #3212; Amendment #6]**

**State of North Carolina**

In accordance with information received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency dated February 17, 2000, the above-numbered Declaration is hereby amended to extend the deadline for filing applications for physical damage as a result of this disaster from February 17, 2000 to February 29, 2000.

All other information remains the same, *i.e.*, the deadline for filing

applications for economic injury is June 16, 2000.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008.)

Dated: February 18, 2000.

**Bernard Kulik,**

*Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.*

[FR Doc. 00-4600 Filed 2-25-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8025-01-P**

## SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Request and Comment Request

In compliance with Public Law 104-13, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, SSA is providing notice of its information collections that require submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). SSA is soliciting comments on the accuracy of the agency's burden estimate; the need for the information; its practical utility; ways to enhance its quality, utility and clarity; and on ways to minimize burden on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

I. The information collections listed below will be submitted to OMB within 60 days from the date of this notice. Therefore, comments and recommendations regarding the information collections would be most useful if received by the Agency within 60 days from the date of this publication. Comments should be directed to the SSA Reports Clearance Officer at the address listed at the end of this publication. You can obtain a copy of the collection instruments by calling the SSA Reports Clearance Officer on (410) 965-4145, or by writing to him at the address listed at the end of this publication.

1. Application for Social Security Disability Benefits—0960-0060. The Social Security Administration (SSA) uses the information collected on form SSA-16 to determine eligibility for Social Security disability benefits. The respondents are applicants for such benefits.

*Number of Respondents:* 1,185,942.

*Frequency of Response:* 1.

*Average Burden Per Response:* 20 minutes.

*Estimated Average Burden:* 395,314 hours.

2. Appointment of Representative-0960-0527. The information on Form SSA-1696 is used by SSA to verify the applicant's appointment of a representative. The form allows SSA to

inform the representative of issues that affect the applicant's claim. The respondents are applicants who notify SSA that they have appointed a person to represent them.

*Number of Respondents:* 412,653.

*Frequency of Response:* 1.

*Average Burden Per Response:* 10 minutes.

*Estimated Average Burden:* 68,776 hours.

3. Request to be Selected as Payee—0960-0014. The information collected on Form SSA-11-BK is used to determine the proper payee for a Social Security beneficiary, and it is designed to aid in the investigation of a payee applicant. The form will establish the applicant's relationship to the beneficiary, the justification, the concern for the beneficiary and the manner in which the benefits will be used. The respondents are applicants for selection as representative payee for Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Black Lung benefits and title-VIII Special Veterans Benefits.

*Number of Respondents:* 2,121,686.

*Frequency of Response:* 1.

*Average Burden Per Response:* 10.5 minutes.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 371,295 hours.

4. Application for Special Benefits for World War II Veterans-0960-0615. The information collected on Form SSA-2000 will be used by the Social Security Administration to elicit the information necessary to determine entitlement of an individual to benefits under title VIII of the Social Security Act. Respondents are certain World War II Veterans as identified under title VIII.

*Number of Respondents:* 12,000.

*Frequency of Response:* 1.

*Average Burden Per Response:* 20 minutes.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 4,000 hours.

5. Claim for Amount Due in the Case of a Deceased Beneficiary-0960-0101. Section 204 (d) of the Social Security Act provides that if a beneficiary dies before payment of Social Security benefits has been completed, the amount due will be paid to the persons meeting specified qualifications. The information collected on Form SSA-1724 is used by the Social Security Administration to determine whether an individual is entitled to the underpayment. The respondents are applicants for the underpayment of a deceased beneficiary.

*Number of Respondents:* 300,000.

*Frequency of Response:* 1.

*Average Burden Per Response:* 10 minutes.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 50,000 hours.

6. Third party Liability Information Statement-0960-0323. Form SSA-8019 is used by the Social Security Administration to gather information or to make changes in existing information about third party insurance (excluding Medicare or Medicaid), which could be responsible for payment for a beneficiary's medical care. The respondents are third-party insurers other than Medicare or Medicaid.

*Number of Respondents:* 95,000.

*Frequency of Response:* 1.

*Average Burden Per Response:* 5 minutes.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 7,917 hours.

II. The information collection listed below has been submitted to OMB for clearance. Written comments and recommendations on the information collection would be most useful if received within 30 days from the date of this publication. Comments should be directed to the SSA Reports Clearance Officer and the OMB Desk Officer at the addresses listed at the end of this publication. You can obtain a copy of the OMB clearance package by calling the SSA Reports Clearance Officer on (410) 965-4145, or by writing to him.

Letter to Employer Requesting Wage Information-0960-0138. The information collected on form SSA-L4201 is used by SSA to determine eligibility and proper benefit payments for SSI applicants/recipients. The respondents are employers of applicants for and recipients of SSI payments.

*Number of Respondents:* 133,000.

*Frequency of Response:* 1.

*Average Burden Per Response:* 30 minutes.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 66,500 hours.

(SSA Address)

Social Security Administration,  
DCFAM, Attn: Frederick W.  
Brickenkamp, 6401 Security Blvd., 1-  
A-21 Operations Bldg., Baltimore, MD  
21235.

(OMB Address)

Office of Management and Budget,  
OIRA, Attn: Desk Officer for SSA, New  
Executive Office Building, Room 10230,  
725 17th St., NW, Washington, D.C.  
20503.

Dated: February 22, 2000.

**Frederick W. Brickenkamp,**

*Reports Clearance Officer, Social Security Administration.*

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