

doing business as Granite Investments ("respondent").

The proposed consent order has been placed on the public record for thirty (30) days for receipt of comments by interested persons. Comments received during this period will become part of the public record. After thirty (30) days, the Commission will again review the agreement and the comments received, and will decide whether it should withdraw from the agreement or make final the agreement's proposed order.

Respondent sells and distributes various computer software programs and training for buying and selling S&P futures contracts on a daily basis. Respondent advertises on his Internet Web site, *www.choicedaytrades.com*. This matter concerns allegedly deceptive representations of the earnings and profit potential, as well as the extent of risk involved in using respondent's trading methods.

The Commission's proposed complaint alleges that respondent made unsubstantiated claims that users of his S&P futures trading programs can reasonably expect to achieve substantial profits on a consistent basis (*e.g.*, \$25,000 per futures contract); that specific trades or investments enumerated in respondent's advertisements were actually made and resulted in the substantial profits stated in the advertisements; and that testimonials appearing in the advertisements for respondent's S&P futures trading programs reflect the typical or ordinary experience of members of the public who use the programs.

In addition, the complaint alleges that respondent misrepresented that users of his S&P futures trading programs can reasonably expect to trade profitably with little financial risk; that testimonials appearing in the advertisements for his S&P futures trading programs reflect the actual experiences of consumers who have used the programs; that he personally uses his S&P futures trading programs to trade profitably on his own behalf; and that the trades recommended by his S&P futures trading programs, as enumerated in the advertisements, were actually made in many cases.

The proposed consent order contains provisions designed to prevent respondent from engaging in similar acts and practices in the future.

Part I of the proposed order requires respondent to have a reasonable basis substantiating any representation that users of his S&P futures trading programs can reasonably expect to achieve substantial profits on a consistent basis; that specific trades or

investments were actually made and resulted in substantial profits; about the amount of earnings, income, profit or the rate of return that a prospective user of any trading program could reasonably expect to attain; about the percentage, ratio, or number of trades that a prospective user of respondent's S&P futures trading programs could reasonably expect to be profitable; or about any financial benefit or other benefit from any trading programs offered by respondent.

Part II of the proposed order prohibits respondent from misrepresenting that users of any trading program can reasonably expect to trade profitably with little or no financial risk; that respondent personally uses his trading programs to trade on his own behalf; whether trades recommended by respondent's trading programs were actually made or were hypothetical; that any testimonial or endorsement of respondent's trading programs or training reflects the testimonialist's or endorser's actual experience and current opinions, findings, beliefs, or experiences; or from misrepresenting the extent of risk to which users of any trading program are exposed.

Part III of the proposed order requires respondent to disclose, clearly and conspicuously, "FUTURES TRADING [or STOCK, CURRENCY, OPTIONS, ETC., as applicable] TRADING involves high risks and YOU can LOSE a lot of money," in close proximity to any representation he makes about the financial benefits of any trading program. This disclosure is in addition to, and not instead of, any other disclosure that respondent may be required to make.

Part IV of the proposed order prohibits respondent from representing without a reasonable basis that the experience represented by any user, testimonial or endorsement of any trading program represents the typical or ordinary experience of members of the public who use the program; or respondent must disclose either what the generally expected results would be for users of the trading program, or the limited applicability of the endorser's experience to what users may generally expect to achieve, that is, that users should not expect to experience similar results.

Parts V–XI of the proposed order require respondent to keep copies of relevant advertisements and materials substantiating claims made in the advertisements; to provide copies of the order to certain personnel; to notify the Commission of changes in Granite Investments that may affect the order; to notify the Commission of changes in

respondent's employment status for a period of ten years; and to file compliance reports with the Commission. Part X provides that the order will terminate after twenty (20) years under certain circumstances.

The purpose of this analysis is to facilitate public comment on the proposed order. It is not intended to constitute an official interpretation of the agreement and proposed order or to modify in any way their terms.

By direction of the Commission.

**Donald S. Clark,**

*Secretary.*

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## FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

[File No. 002 3085]

### CompuTrade LLC, et al.; Analysis To Aid Public Comment

**AGENCY:** Federal Trade Commission.

**ACTION:** Proposed consent agreement.

**SUMMARY:** The consent agreement in this matter settles alleged violations of federal law prohibiting unfair or deceptive acts or practices or unfair methods of competition. The attached Analysis to Aid Public Comment describes both the allegations in the draft complaint that accompanies the consent agreement and the terms of the consent order—embodied in the consent agreement—that would settle these allegations.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before May 30, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be directed to: FTC/Office of the Secretary, Room 159, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20580.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Stephen Gurwitz or Michael Ostheimer, FTC/H–238, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. (202) 326–3272 or 326–2699.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to Section 6(f) of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 38 Stat. 721, 15 U.S.C. 46 and § 2.34 of the Commission's Rules of Practice (16 CFR 2.34), notice is hereby given that the above-captioned consent agreement containing a consent order to cease and desist, having been filed with and accepted, subject to final approval, by the Commission, has been placed on the public record for a period of thirty (30) days. The following Analysis to Aid Public Comment describes the terms of the consent agreement, and the allegations in the complaint. An electronic copy of the

full text of the consent agreement package can be obtained from the FTC Home Page (for May 1, 2000), on the World Wide Web, at "http://www.ftc.gov/ftc/formal.htm." A paper copy can be obtained from the FTC Public Reference Room, Room H-130, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20580, either in person or by calling (202) 326-3627.

Public comment is invited. Comments should be directed to: FTC/Office of the Secretary, Room 159, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20580. Two paper copies of each comment should be filed, and should be accompanied, if possible, by a 3½ inch diskette containing an electronic copy of the comment. Such comments or views will be considered by the Commission and will be available for inspection and copying at its principal office in accordance with § 4.9(b)(6)(ii) of the Commission's Rules of Practice (16 CFR 4.9(b)(6)(ii)).

#### **Analysis of Proposed Consent Order To Aid Public Comment**

The Federal Trade Commission has accepted, subject to final approval, an agreement containing a consent order from CompuTrade LLC, a corporation, and Bernard Lewis, individually and as an officer of the corporation (together, "respondents").

The proposed consent order has been placed on the public record for thirty (30) days for receipt of comments by interested persons. Comments received during this period will become part of the public record. After thirty (30) days, the Commission will again review the agreement and the comments received, and will decide whether it should withdraw from the agreement or make final the agreement's proposed order.

Respondents sell and distribute computer software and training for buying and selling foreign currencies on a daily basis. They advertise on their Internet Web sites, [www.computrades.com](http://www.computrades.com) and [www.computrader.net](http://www.computrader.net). This matter concerns allegedly deceptive representations of the earnings and profit potential, as well as the extent of risk involved in using respondent's trading methods.

The Commission's proposed complaint alleges that respondents made unsubstantiated claims that users of respondents' currency trading program could reasonably expect to earn large profits of \$500 to \$750 or more per day, and as much as six or seven figures annually (*i.e.*, more than \$1,000,000); that users could reasonably expect to earn huge profits even if they had no previous experience in currency trading;

and that testimonials appearing in the advertisements for respondents' currency trading program reflected the typical or ordinary experience of members of the public who use the program. In addition, the complaint alleges that respondents misrepresented that users of their currency trading program could reasonably expect to trade with little financial risk.

The proposed consent order contains provisions designed to prevent respondents from engaging in similar acts and practices in the future.

Part I of the proposed order requires respondents to have a reasonable basis substantiating any representation that users of respondents' currency trading program can reasonably expect to earn large profits: (1) of \$500 to \$750 or more per day; (2) of as much as six or even seven figures annually (*i.e.*, more than \$1,000,000); or (3) even if they have no previous experience in currency trading. Part I also requires respondents to possess a reasonable basis substantiating claims about the amount of earnings, income, or profit that a prospective user of any trading program could reasonably expect to attain, or about any financial benefit or other benefit from any trading program offered by respondents.

Part II of the proposed order prohibits respondents from misrepresenting that users of any trading program can reasonably expect to trade with little or no financial risk and from misrepresenting the extent of risk to which users of any such program are exposed.

Part III of the proposed order requires respondents to disclose, clearly and conspicuously, "CURRENCY [or STOCK, COMMODITY FUTURES, OPTIONS, ETC., as applicable] TRADING involves high risks and YOU can LOSE a lot of money," in close proximity to any representation they make about the financial benefits of any trading program. This disclosure is in addition to, and not instead of, any other disclosure that respondents may be required to make.

Part IV of the proposed order prohibits respondents from representing without a reasonable basis that the experience represented by any user, testimonial or endorsement of any trading program represents the typical or ordinary experience of members of the public who use the program; or respondents must disclose either what the generally expected results would be for users of the trading program, or the limited applicability of the endorser's experience to what users may generally expect to achieve, that is, that users should not expect to experience similar results.

Parts V and VI of the proposed order require respondents to keep copies of relevant advertisements and materials substantiating claims made in the advertisements and to provide copies of the order to certain personnel. Part VII requires CompuTrade to notify the Commission of any changes in the corporate structure that might affect compliance with the order. Part VIII requires that the individual respondent notify the Commission of changes in his employment status for a period of ten years. Part IX requires CompuTrade to file compliance reports with the Commission. Part X provides that the order will terminate after twenty (20) years under certain circumstances.

The purpose of this analysis is to facilitate public comment on the proposed order. It is not intended to constitute an official interpretation of the agreement and proposed order or to modify in any way their terms.

By direction of the Commission.

**Donald S. Clark,**

*Secretary.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

#### **Advisory Council for the Elimination of Tuberculosis: Meeting**

In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the following council meeting.

*Name:* Advisory Council for the Elimination of Tuberculosis (ACET).

*Times and Dates:* 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., June 7, 2000 and 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m., June 8, 2000.

*Place:* Marriott Atlanta Century Center, 2000 Century Boulevard NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30345.

*Status:* Open to the public, limited only by the space available. The meeting room accommodates approximately 100 people.

*Purpose:* This council advises and makes recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Assistant Secretary for Health, and the Director, CDC, regarding the elimination of tuberculosis. Specifically, the Council makes recommendations regarding policies, strategies, objectives, and priorities; addresses the development and application of new technologies; and