

11. Promptly provide NRC with all information applicable to an assessment of a perpetrator's operational capability to carry out a threat.

12. At the scene of a nuclear threat incident, provide the necessary support, as may be needed by NRC personnel, in carrying out assigned operations and actions to protect the public from radiological hazards.

13. Request Department of Defense (DOD)/ Civil Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) resources, as appropriate.

B. The NRC

NRC shall provide, to the extent compatible with its primary mission to protect the public's health and safety, as required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, and the Omnibus Diplomatic Security Act and Anti-Terrorism Act of 1986, scientific and technical support to the FBI upon notification of the existence of a nuclear threat incident.

It is therefore understood that NRC shall:

1. Review and correlate intelligence information on possible criminal acts received from the FBI; evaluate potential adversary capabilities and trends as a basis for rulemaking, evaluations, and systems design.

2. When informed of an FBI investigation involving an NRC-licensed nuclear facility or activity, will promptly provide to the FBI investigating office a list of all positions considered critical to the safety and security of that facility or activity.

3. Establish liaison with FBI Headquarters staff and field office personnel to ensure effective information exchange, threat evaluation, and contingency response planning.

4. Support joint operational readiness planning between licensees and associated local law enforcement agencies for prompt law enforcement response assistance when needed at licensed facilities or activities.

5. Notify the FBI of threats involving NRC-licensed nuclear facilities, materials, or activities; assist the FBI in evaluating the nuclear aspects and the credibility of such threats, as appropriate.

6. Disseminate, with the approval of the FBI, to the affected licensees, alert and warning information received from the FBI about specific nuclear-related threats.

In the event of a nuclear threat incident, NRC shall:

7. Plan for and manage the public health and safety aspects of the response to a nuclear threat incident involving NRC-licensed facilities, materials, or activities.

8. Provide NRC field liaison and technical assistance to the FBI at the scene of an incident.

9. Evaluate the radiological hazards of the particular incident and provide technical assessment of any potential or actual impact upon the public health and safety.

10. Ensure that all reasonable measures are provided for the health and safety of all FBI personnel and equipment involved in the support of the incident.

11. Provide for the health and safety of the public from radiological hazards.

C. Joint

The FBI and NRC shall:

1. Coordinate all proposed press releases related to nuclear threat incidents involving NRC-licensed facilities, materials, or activities.

2. Identify individuals assigned to fulfill the positions and responsibilities outlined in Section III of this agreement.

3. Handle all threat incident information with adequate security and confidentiality commensurate with national security guidelines and the standards for the preservation of criminal evidence.

4. Review and evaluate the events leading to and occurring during a nuclear threat incident for the purpose of improving upon future joint responses.

5. Exercise and test nuclear threat incident management procedures, equipment, and personnel.

IV. Standard Procedures

A. Initial Notification

1. Nuclear threat incidents involving NRC-licensed facilities, materials, or activities may be reported to either the FBI, NRC, or others. Upon receipt of a reported threat, the agency informed shall immediately notify the other concerned agencies about the situation and exact information known.

2. The FBI and NRC will notify appropriate individuals and offices of any nuclear emergency in accordance with current procedures and agreements.

B. Points of Contact

1. The FBI Special Agent in Charge of the responding FBI field office will take command of the field operations in a nuclear threat incident involving NRC-licensed facilities, materials, or activities. At the Headquarters level, a Special Agent may be designated to act as a liaison officer with the NRC Executive Team (ET).

2. The NRC Headquarters ET will convene and during the initial stage of the response will direct NRC activities. The Director may transfer authority for managing the NRC emergency response to the Director of Site Operations.

3. The FBI and NRC field representatives will coordinate and cooperate with each other in carrying out their respective responsibilities. The FBI and NRC representatives will report on the situation and make recommendations to their respective agencies regarding the need for additional assistance at the scene.

4. The FBI and NRC will maintain points of contact with the other Federal agencies involved in responding to a nuclear threat incident involving NRC-licensed facilities, materials, or activities.

V. Threat Assessment

1. NRC will provide scientific and technical advice for determining the credibility of specific nuclear threats and potential hazards associated with those threats.

2. NRC will endeavor to verify, with the cooperation of the Department of Energy and/or the Department of Defense, whether any source material, special nuclear material, or radioactive by-products, are missing or unaccounted for.

VI. Funding Responsibilities

Interested parties will each fund for the cost incurred in providing the necessary assistance required to meet the responsibilities defined in this MOU.

VII. Terms of Agreement

1. This Agreement will become effective immediately upon signature by all parties and shall continue in effect unless terminated by any party upon 120 days notice in writing to all other parties.

2. Amendments or modifications to this Agreement may be made upon written notice by all parties to the Agreement.

For the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Dated: May 29, 1991.

William S. Sessions,
Director.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Dated: March 13, 1991.

Kenneth M. Carr,
Chairman.

[FR Doc. 00-12300 Filed 5-15-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirement of Section 3506 (c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 which provides opportunity for public comment on new or revised data 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: Lag Service Reports; OMB 3220-005.

Under Section 9 of the Railroad Retirement Act (RRA), railroad employers are required to submit reports of employee service and compensation to the RRB as needed for administering the RRA. To pay benefits due on a deceased employee's earnings records or determine entitlements to, and amount of an annuity applied for, it is necessary at times to obtain from railroad employers current (lag) service

and compensation information not yet reported to the RRB through the annual reporting process. The reporting requirements are specified in 20 CFR 209.4 and 209.5.

The RRB currently utilizes Form G-88A, *Employer's Supplemental Report of Service and Compensation* and Form AA-12, *Notice of Death and Statement of Compensation*, to obtain the required lag service and compensation and related information from railroad employers.

The RRB proposes to obsolete Form G-88a. Form G-88a will be replaced by two forms, Form G-88a.1, Notice of Retirement and Request for Verification of Date Last Worked, and G-88a.2, Notice of Retirement and Request for Service Needed for Eligibility. Form G-88a.1 will be sent by the RRB to railroad employers and used for the specific purpose of verifying information previously provided to the RRB regarding the date last worked by the employee. If the information is correct, the employer need not reply. If the information is incorrect, the employer is asked to provide corrected information. Form G-88a.2 will be used by the RRB to secure lag service and compensation information when it is needed to determine benefit eligibility. Both proposed forms will direct the railroad employers to fax the information directly to the RRB. It is expected that the proposed new forms will be easier for railroad employers to complete and encourage a speedier reply, allowing the RRB to pay applicants in a more timely and accurate manner. A minor editorial change is proposed to Form AA-12.

The completion time for proposed forms G-88a.1 and G-88a.2 is estimated at 5 minutes per response. The estimated completion time for Form AA-12 is estimated at 6½ minutes per response. The RRB estimates that approximately 800 Form AA-12's, 2,300 Form G-88a.1's and 1,200 G-88.2's will be completed annually.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: 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 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Chuck Mierzwa,

Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-12199 Filed 5-15-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7905-01-M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-42770; File No. SR-NYSE-99-31]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; New York Stock Exchange, Inc.; Order Granting Approval to Proposed Rule Change Amending Exchange Rules 902, 903 and 906

May 10, 2000.

I. Introduction

On June 30, 1999, the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. ("NYSE" or "Exchange") submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission"), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² a proposed rule change to amend Exchange Rules 902, 903 and 906.

The proposed rule change was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on September 1, 1999. No comments were received on the proposal. This order approves the proposal.

II. Description of the Proposal

The Exchange proposes to amend NYSE Rules 902, 903 and 906 to permit coupled orders to be submitted after the official closing of the 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. trading session until 5:00 p.m. (the period after the 4:00 p.m. close until 5:00 p.m. hereafter referred to as "Crossing Session 1") where both sides represent member or member organization interest, in circumstances in which a specialist has included another member's or member organization's interest in offsetting the imbalance when setting a closing price.

In 1991, the Exchange established its "Off-Hours Trading Facility."³ In connection with its implementation, the Exchange adopted its "900" series of rules to govern trading, order eligibility, order entry and record keeping requirements.⁴

At 4:00 p.m. each day, the Exchange completes its normal procedure for the close of trading of the 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. trading session. After 4:00 p.m., a common message switch broadcast message is published announcing the commencement of Crossing Session 1, which runs until 5:00 p.m.

During Crossing Session 1, the Off-Hours Trading Facility permits members

and member organizations to enter orders to be executed at the NYSE closing price, that is, the price established by the last regular way sale in a security at the official closing of the 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. trading session. Orders may be entered for any Exchange listed issue, other than a security that is subject to a trading halt at the close of the regular trading session (including a Rule 80B trading halt) or is halted after 4:00 p.m.

The Exchange proposes to modify certain rules pertaining to Crossing Session 1 in an effort to reduce volatility and price dislocations at the 4:00 p.m. close by enabling the specialist to reflect legitimate market interest that was willing to participate in the close, but could not enter a timely order.

In circumstances in which a stock has an imbalance of market-on-close or limit-on-close orders, or when the closing price will elect a significant volume of stop orders, there may be little time to attract offsetting orders. A member, member organization or a customer may be willing to offset the imbalance, but be unable to enter an order before 4:00 p.m. The specialist may then have to acquire a substantial position or halt trading.

Under NYSE Rule 902, coupled orders to buy and sell the same amount of the same security may be entered into Crossing Session 1. However, such coupled orders may not be entered if they are both for an account of a member or member organization, or for an account in which an "associated person" of a member or member organization has an interest.

Therefore, while a specialist member organization may enter an order coupled with a contra-side order from a non-member in Crossing Session 1, it may not enter an order coupled with an order for a member's or member organization's account.

The Exchange proposes to amend NYSE Rule 902 to permit coupled orders to be submitted to Crossing Session 1 where both sides represent member or member organization interest, in circumstances in which a specialist has included another member's or member organization's interest in offsetting the imbalance when setting a closing price. Thus, the specialist may increase his or her participation at the close in anticipation of trading with a member or member organization in Crossing Session 1 and the closing price should reflect less of an imbalance.

Under NYSE Rule 903, orders entered in Crossing Session 1, including coupled orders, are executed at the 5:00 p.m. close of the session. Under NYSE

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 29237 (May 24, 1991), 56 FR 24853 (May 31, 1991) (Files No. SR-NYSE-90-52 and SR-NYSE-90-53).

⁴ See *id.*