

DATES: The meeting will be held on February 21, 2001 from 8:30 am–5 pm; February 22, 2001 from 8:30 am–12 noon. Registration will begin at 8 am each day. To facilitate maximum participation and information sharing, the meeting will be open to the public.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the NRC’s Region IV Office, 611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400, Arlington, Texas 76011–8064.

Members of the public who are unable to attend the meeting can send comments to the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, Attention: National Materials Program Working Group.

A notice about this meeting is also published at the NRC web site, News and Information, Public Meetings, Other Meetings (<http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/PUBLIC/meet.html#OTHER>).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Myers, Project Manager, Office of State and Tribal Programs, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555; Telephone: 301–415–2328; E-mail: jhm@nrc.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 32 Agreement States (AS) regulate about 70 percent of the total number of radioactive materials licensees. NRC is forecasting three more AS by FY 2003. This will bring the percentage of licensees regulated by AS to more than 80 percent. With a declining number of licensees, NRC believes that its activities that support the national program infrastructure (rulemaking, guidance development, information technology systems, technical support, event follow up and the Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program) will have a significant impact on an increasingly smaller number of NRC licensees.

The NRC staff determined that the following issues were key to defining and implementing State and Federal roles under a national program: delineate the scope of activities to be covered by the program and need for statutory changes at the State and Federal levels; establish formal program coordination mechanisms; establish performance indicators, a program assessment process to measure performance and ensure program evolution; and provisioning and budgeting of both State and Federal resources for the program. Additionally, it was directed that the project be completed by May 1, 2001.

To assure adequate coordination and sharing of information with OAS, CRCPD and the public, it is the intention of the working group to place

information at the Office of State and Tribal Programs web site <http://www.hsr.d.ornl.gov/nrc/home.html>. Notices of future meetings will be posted at the NRC web site’s Public Meeting Notice area: <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/PUBLIC/meet.html#OTHER>. To facilitate maximum participation and information sharing, the working group’s meetings will be open to the public. Future meeting notices will be published at the NRC web site, News and Information, Public Meetings, Other Meetings.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 8th day of February, 2001.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Frederick C. Combs,
Deputy Director, Office of State and Tribal Programs.

[FR Doc. 01–3826 Filed 2–14–01; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Correction to Biweekly Notice Applications and Amendments to Operating Licenses Involving No Significant Hazards Consideration

On February 7, 2001 (66 FR 9377), the **Federal Register** published the “Biweekly Notice of Applications and Amendments to Operating Licenses Involving No Significant Hazards Considerations.” On page 9377, column 3, second paragraph, “January 29, 2001, through February 9, 2001” should read “January 16, 2001 through January 26, 2001.”

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 9th day of February 2001.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John A. Zwolinski,
Director, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 01–3827 Filed 2–14–01; 8:45 am]

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PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

Interest Assumption for Determining Variable-Rate Premium; Interest Assumptions for Multiemployer Plan Valuations Following Mass Withdrawal

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

ACTION: Notice of interest rates and assumptions.

SUMMARY: This notice informs the public of the interest rates and assumptions to be used under certain Pension Benefit

Guaranty Corporation regulations. These rates and assumptions are published elsewhere (or are derivable from rates published elsewhere), but are collected and published in this notice for the convenience of the public. Interest rates are also published on the PBGC’s web site (<http://www.pbgc.gov>).

DATES: The interest rate for determining the variable-rate premium under part 4006 applies to premium payment years beginning in February 2001. The interest assumptions for performing multiemployer plan valuations following mass withdrawal under part 4281 apply to valuation dates occurring in March 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Harold J. Ashner, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 1200 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005, 202–326–4024. (For TTY/TDD users, call the Federal relay service toll-free at 1–800–877–8339 and ask to be connected to 202–326–4024.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Variable-Rate Premiums

Section 4006(a)(3)(E)(iii)(II) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and § 4006.4(b)(1) of the PBGC’s regulation on Premium Rates (29 CFR part 4006) prescribe use of an assumed interest rate in determining a single-employer plan’s variable-rate premium. The rate is the “applicable percentage” (currently 85 percent) of the annual yield on 30-year Treasury securities for the month preceding the beginning of the plan year for which premiums are being paid (the “premium payment year”). The yield figure is reported in Federal Reserve Statistical Releases G.13 and H.15.

The assumed interest rate to be used in determining variable-rate premiums for premium payment years beginning in February 2001 is 4.71 percent (*i.e.*, 85 percent of the 5.54 percent yield figure for January 2001).

The following table lists the assumed interest rates to be used in determining variable-rate premiums for premium payment years beginning between March 2000 and February 2001.

For premium payment years beginning in	The assumed interest rate is
March 2000	5.30
April 2000	5.14
May 2000	4.97
June 2000	5.23
July 2000	5.04
August 2000	4.97
September 2000	4.86
October 2000	4.96
November 2000	4.93
December 2000	4.91

For premium payment years beginning in	The assumed interest rate is
January 2001	4.67
February 2001	4.71

Multiemployer Plan Valuations Following Mass Withdrawal

The PBGC's regulation on Duties of Plan Sponsor Following Mass Withdrawal (29 CFR part 4281) prescribes the use of interest assumptions under the PBGC's regulation on Allocation of Assets in Single-employer Plans (29 CFR part 4044). The interest assumptions applicable to valuation dates in March 2001 under part 4044 are contained in an amendment to part 4044 published elsewhere in today's **Federal Register**. Tables showing the assumptions applicable to prior periods are codified in appendix B to 29 CFR part 4044.

Issued in Washington, DC, on this 12th day of February 2001.

John Seal,

Acting Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

[FR Doc. 01-3882 Filed 2-14-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7708-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-43938; File No. SR-Amex-01-03]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by the American Stock Exchange LLC Relating to the Prohibition Against Members Functioning as Market Makers and the Entry of Electronically Generated Orders Into the Exchange's Order Routing System

February 7, 2001.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934¹ (the "Act") and Rule 19b-4 thereunder², notice is hereby given that on February 1, 2001, the American Stock Exchange LLC ("Amex" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "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 the proposed rule change as constituting a "non-controversial" rule change under paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 under the Act,³ which renders the proposal

effective upon receipt of this filing by 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 Amex proposes to adopt new Rule 934, which restricts the entry of certain option limit orders and prohibits the entry of orders that are created and communicated electronically without manual input into the Exchange's order routing and execution systems. The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Office of the Secretary, Amex and at 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 Amex 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 Amex 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 the Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to adopt new Rule 934 restricting the entry of certain option limit orders and of orders that are created and communicated electronically without manual input into the Exchange's electronic order routing and delivery system (Amex Order File—AOF), which routes orders of up to 250 option contracts to the Exchange's electronic order execution and processing systems (*i.e.*, Auto-Ex and the Amex Options Display Book or AODB).

The proposed new rule provides that members, acting as either principal or agent, may not permit the entry of orders into the electronic order routing system if the orders are limit orders for the account or accounts of the same or related beneficial owners and the limit orders are entered in such a manner that the member of the beneficial owner(s) effectively is operating as a market maker by holding itself out as willing to buy and sell such securities on a regular or continuous basis. In determining whether a member or beneficial owner

effectively is operating as a market maker, the Exchange will consider, among other things, the simultaneous or near-simultaneous entry of limit orders to buy and sell the same security; the multiple acquisition and liquidation of positions in the security during the same day; and the entry of multiple limit orders at different prices in the same security.⁴

The proposed rule would also prohibit members from entering orders that are created and communicated electronically without manual input and if such orders are eligible for execution through the Exchange's Automatic Execution System ("Auto-Ex").⁵ Orders entered by customers or associated persons of members will be deemed to involve manual input if the terms of the order are entered into an order-entry screen or there is a manual selection of a displayed order against which an off-setting order should be sent. It should be noted that members shall not be prohibited from electronically communicating to the Exchange orders entered by customers into front-end communication systems (*e.g.*, Internet gateways, online networks, etc.).

The Exchange states that its business model depends upon specialists and registered options traders for competition and liquidity. To encourage participation by these market makers, the Exchange needs to limit the ability of non-specialists/registered traders to compete on preferential terms within its automated systems. In addition, customer orders are provided with certain benefits such as automatic execution, priority of bids and offers and firm quote guarantees, and thus should not be allowed to act as market makers. The proposed rule will prevent non-specialist/registered trader members and their customers from reaping the benefits of market making activities without any of the concomitant obligations such as providing continuous quotations during

⁴ Since the proposal rule change was filed with the Commission, the Exchange made a technical change to the text of proposed Amex Rule 934(a) to insert the word "and." The change does not affect the substance of the rule. Telephone conversation between Claire McGrath, Vice President and Special Counsel, Amex, and Jennifer Colihan, Special Counsel, Division of Market Regulation, Commission, on February 6, 2001.

⁵ Currently, only market and marketable limit orders up to specifically established sizes are eligible for execution through Auto-Ex; however, the Exchange has a proposal pending before the Commission that would allow the automatic execution of non-marketable limit orders that improve the best price available on the Exchange by automatically executing such limit order if the current best bid/offer quote on another market is better than the Amex quote by a predefined number of ticks. (See SR-Amex 00-29.)

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1)

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4

³ 17 CFR 240.19b(f)(6).