

factors should not be viewed as estimates of expected inflation rates for major long-term procurement items or as an estimate of inflation for any particular agency's non-pay purchases mix.

| Federal pay raise assumptions | Military/civilian (percent) |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Effective Date: | |
| January 2000 | 4.8 |
| January 2001 | 3.7 |
| January 2002 | 3.6 |
| January 2003 | 3.9 |
| January 2004 | 3.9 |
| January 2005 | 3.9 |
| January 2006 | 3.9 |
| Non-Pay Categories (Supplies and Equipment, etc.): | |
| FY 2000 | 1.9 |
| FY 2001 | 2.1 |
| FY 2002 | 2.1 |
| FY 2003 | 2.1 |
| FY 2004 | 2.1 |
| FY 2005 | 2.1 |
| FY 2006 | 2.1 |

The pay rate (including geographic pay differentials) that are in effect for 2001 shall be included for the development of in-house personnel costs. The pay raise factors provided for 2002 and beyond shall be applied to all employees, with no assumption being made as to how they will be distributed between possible locality and ECI-based increases.

Agencies are reminded that OMB Circular No. A-76, Transmittal Memoranda 1 through Transmittal Memorandum 14 are canceled. Transmittal Memorandum No. 15 provides the Revised Supplemental Handbook, and is dated March 27, 1996 (**Federal Register**, April 1, 1996, pages 14338-14346). Transmittal Memoranda No. 16, 17, 18, and 19 (to the extent it provided Circular A-76 Federal pay raise and inflation factors) are canceled. Transmittal Memorandum No. 20 provided changes to the Revised Supplemental Handbook to implement the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act of 1998 (P.L. 105.270). Transmittal Memorandum No. 21, which provided last year's Circular A-76 Federal pay raise and inflation factor assumptions is hereby canceled. Transmittal Memorandum No. 22 made additional technical changes to the Revised Supplemental Handbook regarding the implementation of the FAIR Act, A-76 administrative appeals, and the participation of directly affected employees on A-76 Source Selection Boards and their evaluation teams.

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.,

Director.

[FR Doc. 01-6253 Filed 3-13-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3110-03-P

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: Withholding Certificate for Railroad Retirement Monthly Annuity Payments; OMB 3220-0149.

The Internal Revenue Code requires all payers of tax liable private pensions to U.S. citizens to: (1) Notify each recipient at least concurrent with initial withholding that the payer is, in fact, withholding benefits for tax liability and that the recipient has the option of electing not to have the payer withhold, or to withhold at a specific rate; (2) withhold benefits for tax purposes (in the absence of the recipient's election not to withhold benefits); and (3) notify all beneficiaries, at least annually, that they have the option of changing their withholding status or elect not to have benefits withheld.

The Railroad Retirement Board provides Form RRB-W4P, Withholding Certificate for Railroad Retirement Payments, to its annuitants to exercise their withholding options. Completion of the form is required to obtain or retain a benefit. One response is requested of each respondent.

No changes are being proposed to the current version of Form RRB W-4P used by the RRB. The RRB estimates that 25,000 annuitants utilize Form RRB W-4P annually. The completion time for Form RRB W-4P varies depending on individual circumstances. The average completion time for Form RRB W-4P is estimated at 40 minutes for recordkeeping, 20 minutes for learning about the law or the form, and 49 minutes for preparing the form.

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.

[FR Doc. 01-6346 Filed 3-13-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7905-01-M

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Sunshine Act Meeting; Notice of Public Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Railroad Retirement Board will hold a meeting on March 20, 2001, 10:00 a.m., at the Board's meeting room on the 8th floor of its headquarters building, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60611. The agenda for this meeting follows:

(1) Director of Administration Position.

The entire meeting will be closed to the public. The person to contact for more information is Beatrice Ezerski, Secretary to the Board, Phone No. 312-751-4920.

Dated: March 9, 2001.

Beatrice Ezerski,

Secretary to the Board.

[FR Doc. 01-6402 Filed 3-12-01; 10:06 am]

BILLING CODE 7905-01-M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. IC-24888; 812-12450]

Harris & Harris Group, Inc.; Notice of Application

March 8, 2001.

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC").

ACTION: Issuance of certification pursuant to section 851(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended ("Code").

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION: The SEC is issuing a certification pursuant to section 851(e) of the Code that applicant Harris & Harris Group, Inc. ("Harris") was, for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000, principally engaged in the furnishing of capital to other

corporations which are principally engaged in the development or exploitation of inventions, technological improvements, new processes or products not previously generally available.

FILING DATES: The application was filed on February 16, 2001, and amended on March 8, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Secretary, SEC, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609; Applicant, One Rockefeller Plaza, 14 West 49th Street, New York, New York 10020.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paula L. Kashtan, Senior Counsel, at (202) 942-0615, or Mary Kay Frech, Branch Chief, at (202) 942-0564 (Division of Investment Management, Office of Investment Company Regulation).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following is a summary of the application and a certification. The complete application may be obtained for a fee at the SEC's Public Reference Branch, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0102 (telephone (202) 942-8090).

Applicant's Representations

1. Harris is a New York corporation. On July 26, 1995, Harris elected to become regulated as a business development company pursuant to section 54(a) of the Investment Company Act of 1940.

2. Harris proposes to qualify as a "regulated investment company" under section 851(a) of the Code pursuant to section 851(e) of the Code. Section 851(b) of the Code imposes certain portfolio diversification requirements on investment companies that seek to qualify as a regulated investment company. Section 851(e) of the Code provides an exemption from these diversification requirements if the investment company, among other things, obtains a certification from the SEC that the investment company is principally engaged in the furnishing of capital to other corporations which are principally engaged in the development or exploitation of inventions, technological improvements, new processes or products not previously generally available (collectively, "Development Corporations").

3. Harris has filed an application seeking a certification pursuant to section 851(e) of the Code for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000. The application describes certain companies in Harris' portfolio during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000, that Harris believes to be Development Corporations. Harris states that, in making this determination, it relied upon information provided by the portfolio companies to Harris and to others, including but not limited to, offering circulars, prospectuses, analyst reports, internal company memoranda, patent applications and similar documents. In addition, Harris generally is represented on the boards of directors of its portfolio companies through member or observer status, and also has direct access to senior management of the companies.

4. The following table shows the composition of the total assets of Harris as of each of the calendar quarters ended March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31, 2000, as set forth in the application.

| Assets (at value) | Mar. 31, 2000 | June 30, 2000 | Sept. 30, 2000 | Dec. 31, 2000 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Investments representing capital furnished to corporations believed to be Development Corporations | \$51,017,259 | \$36,296,794 | \$40,120,025 | \$26,513,426 |
| Other Investments, Cash and Cash Equivalents ¹ | 5,319,554 | 8,042,797 | 15,019,980 | 16,283,802 |
| Other Assets | 536,887 | 475,704 | 523,247 | 546,195 |
| Total Assets | 56,873,700 | 44,815,295 | 55,663,252 | 43,343,423 |

¹ In this category, the value of "Other Investments" was \$25,000 at the end of each calendar quarter of 2000.

As reflected in the table above, Development Companies comprised the following percentages of the total assets less cash and cash equivalents of Harris at the end of each calendar quarter of 2000: March 31, 98.9%; June 30, 98.6%; September 30, 95.1%; and December 31, 96.3. %.

Certification

On the basis of the information set forth in the application, it appears that Harris was principally engaged in the furnishing of capital to Development Corporations within the meaning of section 851(e) of the Code in the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000. It is therefore certified to the Secretary of the Treasury, or his delegate, pursuant to section 851(e) of the Code, that Harris was, for the twelve months ended December 31, 2000, principally engaged in the furnishing of capital to other corporations which are principally engaged in the development or exploitation of inventions, technological improvements, new processes or

products not previously generally available.

For the SEC, by the Division of Investment Management, pursuant to delegated authority.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-6321 Filed 3-31-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-44048; File No. SR-Amex-01-08]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change by the American Stock Exchange LLC Relating to Restrictions on Specialist Affiliates

March 7, 2001.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4² thereunder, notice is hereby given that on February 14, 2001, the American Stock Exchange LLC ("Amex" 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 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 amend Amex Rule 193 to make technical corrections and to provide an exemption to Amex Rules 186(a) and 950(i) to approved persons of Amex specialists that established, and obtain Exchange approval for, an information barrier

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.