

Long-Term Effects of Facility Construction and Operation

The long-term effects of research facilities are considered to be beneficial as a result of the contribution to scientific knowledge and training. Because of the relatively small amount of capital resources involved and the small impact on the environment, very little irreversible and irretrievable commitment is associated with such facilities.

Costs and Benefits of Facility Alternatives

The costs are on the order of several millions of dollars with very little environmental impact. The benefits include, but are not limited to, some combination of the following: conduct of activation analyses, conduct of neutron radiography, training of operating personnel, and education of students. Some of these activities could be conducted using particle accelerators or radioactive sources which would be more costly and less efficient. There is no reasonable alternative to a nuclear research reactor for conducting this spectrum of activities.

Conclusion

The staff concludes that there will be no significant environmental impact associated with the licensing of research reactors or critical facilities designed to operate at power levels of 2 MWt or lower and that no environmental impact statements are required to be written for the issuance of construction permits or operating licenses for such facilities.

[FR Doc. 01-9825 Filed 4-19-01; 8:45 am]

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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: Appeal Under the Railroad Retirement and Railroad Unemployment

Insurance Act; OMB 3220-0007. Under Section 7(b)(3) of the Railroad Retirement Act (RRA), and section 5(c) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (RUIA) any person aggrieved by a decision on his or her application for an annuity or benefit under that Act has the right to appeal to the RRB. This right is prescribed in 20 CFR 260 and 20 CFR 320. The notification letter sent to the individual at the time of the original action on the application informs the applicant of such right. When an individual protests a decision, the concerned bureau reviews the entire file and any additional evidence submitted and sends the applicant a letter explaining the basis of the determination. The applicant is then notified that if he or she wishes to protest further, they can appeal to the RRB's Bureau of Hearings and Appeals. The procedure pertaining to the filing of such an appeal is prescribed in 20 CFR 260.5 and 260.9 and 20 CFR 320.12 and 320.38.

The form prescribed by the RRB for filing an appeal under the RRA or RUIA is form HA-1, Appeal Under the Railroad Retirement Act or Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act. The form asks the applicant to furnish the basis for the appeal and what additional evidence, if any, is to be submitted. Completion is voluntary, however if the information is not provided the RRB cannot process the appeal.

The RRB proposes no changes to Form HA-1. The completion time for the HA-1 is estimated at 20 minutes per response. The RRB estimates that approximately 1,000 Form HA-1's are completed annually.

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 Office 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. 01-9816 Filed 4-19-01; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Extension: Rule 17a-4; SEC File No. 270-198; OMB Control No. 3235-0279]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget a request for extension of the previously approved collection of information discussed below.

Rule 17a-4, Records to be Preserved by Certain Exchange Members, Brokers and Dealers, requires approximately 7,525 active, registered exchange members, brokers and dealers ("broker-dealers") to preserve for prescribed periods of time certain records required to be made by Rule 17a-3 and other Commission rules, and other kinds of records which firms make or receive in the ordinary course of business. Rule 17a-4 also permits broker-dealers to employ, under certain conditions, electronic storage media to maintain these required records. The records required to be maintained under Rule 17a-4 are used by examiners and other representatives of the Commission to determine whether broker-dealers are in compliance with, and to enforce their compliance with, the Commission's rules.

The staff estimates that the average number of hours necessary for each broker-dealer to comply with Rule 17a-4 is 250 hours annually.¹ Thus, the total burden for broker-dealers is 1,881,250 hours annually. The staff believes that compliance personnel would be charged with ensuring compliance with Commission regulation, including Rule 17a-4. The staff estimates that the hourly salary of a compliance manager is \$82.50 per hour.² Based upon these

¹ In a previous submission, the burden was estimated to be 1 hour per broker-dealer per day, with an additional 15 minutes per broker-dealer per year relating to electronic storage technology. The 60-day notice, which appeared in the **Federal Register**, utilized that previously used estimate to calculate the hourly burden. Upon further consideration, this estimate has been decreased to 1 hour per broker-dealer per day because the staff believes that advances in technology and increased efficiencies allow broker-dealers that use electronic storage technologies to spend less time on record retention and compliance with Rule 17a-4.

² Securities Industry Association, Management and Professional Earnings, Table 051 (Compliance

Continued

numbers, the total cost of compliance for 7,525 respondents is \$155,203,125 per year.³

General comments regarding the estimated burden hours should be directed to the following persons: (i) Deck Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 3208, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503; and (ii) Michael E. Bartell, Associate Executive Director, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549. Comments must be submitted to OMB within thirty days of this notice.

Dated: April 13, 2001.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-9842 Filed 4-19-01; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-44184; File No. SR-OCC-99-12]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Options Clearing Corporation; Order Granting Approval of a Proposed Rule Change Relating to Adjustments to Index Options

April 16, 2001.

On November 2, 1999, The Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") a proposed rule change (File No. SR-OCC-99-12) pursuant to section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act").¹ Notice of the proposal was published in the **Federal Register** on July 17, 2002.² No comment letters were received. For the reasons discussed below, the Commission is granting approval of the proposed rule change.

I. Description

The rule change provides for the substitution of a successor index for an underlying index. Because substitution of a successor index for an underlying index may require changes to the terms of outstanding options, the rule change

Manager) + 35% overhead (based on end-of-year 1998) figures.

³ (1 hour per day x 250 days x 7,525 active, registered broker-dealer respondents) = 1,881,250 total hours per year. (1,881,250 hours x \$82.50 per hour) = \$155,203,125 per year.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² Securities Exchange Act Release No. 43022, (July 11, 2000), 65 FR 44089.

explicitly grants OCC the authority to make adjustments to such terms as necessary to reflect the substitution. While OCC believes such substitution and adjustment are already implicitly provided for under the provisions of OCC's By-Laws at Article XVII, Section 4 ("Unavailability or Inaccuracy of Current Index Value"), OCC seeks to clarify its authority through the rule change.

New paragraph (d) of Article XVII, Section 3 provides that a successor index may be substituted for an underlying index in the event that the underlying index's publication is discontinued, when the underlying index is replaced with another index, or when an index's composition or method of calculation has so materially changed that it is deemed to be a different index. As in the case of other adjustments, the determination to substitute a successor index and the selection of the index will be made by an adjustment panel. The successor index is to be an index which is deemed to be reasonably comparable to the index for which it substitutes.

Article XVII, Section 3, paragraph (c), which is applicable to adjustments to index options generally, is amended to provide for adjustments as necessary to accommodate a successor index. In addition paragraph (c) is amended to expand the rule in other respects to cover a broader range of potential changes in the calculation of index values and to give added flexibility to OCC in making appropriate adjustments to reflect such changes.

These amendments grant OCC the authority to adjust outstanding options in the event that an exchange increases or decreases the index multiplier for any index option contract or in the event that any change in the method of calculation of an underlying index creates a discontinuity or change in the level of the index that does not reflect a change in the prices or values of the index's constituent securities. Such a change would occur, for example, if the value of an index were reset from 10,000 to 1,000, which would create a discontinuity that would affect all outstanding options.

Changes to Article 1, Section 1 and to Article XVII, Section 1, both definitional sections, are designed to clarify and conform the terminology to usage as it has developed since the index options provisions were originally drafted.

II. Discussion

Section 17A(b)(3)(F)³ of the Act requires that the rules of a clearing agency be designed to promote the

prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions and to assure the safeguarding of securities and funds which are in the custody or control of the clearing agency or for which it is responsible. For the reasons set forth below, the Commission believes that OCC's proposed rule change is consistent with OCC's obligations under the Act.

The rule change allows OCC to substitute a successor index for an underlying index when the underlying index is no longer viable for use. The rule change also enables OCC to adjust outstanding options in the event that an exchange increases or decreases the index multiplier for any index option contract or in the event that any change in the method of calculation of an underlying index creates a discontinuity or change in the level of the index that does not reflect a change in the prices or values of the index's constituent securities. The rule change refines and amplifies existing OCC rules that have proven effective in promoting the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions and in safeguarding securities and funds. Therefore, the Commission finds that the rule change is consistent with OCC's obligation to promote the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions and to assure the safeguarding of securities and funds which are in the custody or control of the clearing agency or for which it is responsible.

III. Conclusion

On the basis of the foregoing, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and in particular Section 17A of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder.

It is Therefore Ordered, pursuant to section 19(b)(2) of the Act, that the proposed rule change (File No. SR-OCC-99-12) be and hereby is approved.

For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁴

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-9844 Filed 4-19-01; 8:45 am]

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³ 15 U.S.C. 78q-1(b)(3)(F).

⁴ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).