

shall file statements of any such issues they believe to exist by October 11, 2001, and be prepared to discuss those statements in the prehearing conference to be held the following day.

Need for Hearing

A decision on whether there is a need for evidentiary hearings, and the scope of any such hearings, cannot be made at this time. Comments on this matter, and other procedural issues raised by the Service's request, should be filed no later than October 11, 2001, and participants should be prepared to discuss these matters at the prehearing conference.

Representation of the General Public

In conformance with § 3624(a) of title 39, the Commission designates Shelley S. Dreifuss, acting director of the Commission's office of the consumer advocate (OCA), to represent the interests of the general public in this proceeding. Pursuant to this designation, Ms. Dreifuss will direct the activities of Commission personnel assigned to assist her and, upon request, will supply their names for the record. Neither Ms. Dreifuss nor any of the assigned personnel will participate in or provide advice on any Commission decision in this proceeding. The OCA shall be separately served with three copies of all filings, in addition to and at the same time as, service on the Commission of the 24 copies required by Commission rule 10(d) [39 CFR 3001.10(d)].

Prehearing Conference

A prehearing conference will be held Friday, October 12, 2001, at 10 a.m. in the Commission's hearing room. At the conference, the Postal Service will be expected to report on the progress made in the off-the-record settlement conference it has announced for the preceding day. The Service and other participants should also be prepared to address the procedural matters discussed above.

Ordering Paragraphs

It is ordered:

1. The Commission establishes docket nos. R2001-2 and MC2001-2, preliminarily designated as experimental suspension of fee for manual delivery confirmation category, to consider the request referred to in the body of this order.

2. The Commission will sit en banc in this proceeding.

3. The deadline for filing notices of intervention is Wednesday, October 10, 2001.

4. Answers to the Service's motion for waiver of certain filing requirements and comments on the appropriateness of considering the request under sections 67 through 67d of the rules of practice are due no later than October 10, 2001.

5. Written discovery pursuant to rules 26-28 may be undertaken upon intervention.

6. Objections to written discovery requests shall be filed within 3 workdays, as specified in the body of this order.

7. The Service shall respond to discovery requests within 7 days, as specified in the body of this order.

8. Interested parties shall file statements of issues they perceive in the case, in accordance with 39 CFR 3001.67a(b), and comments on the need for evidentiary hearings, and the scope of any such hearings, by October 11, 2001.

9. A prehearing conference will be held Friday, October 12, 2001, at 10 a.m. in the Commission's hearing room.

10. Shelley S. Dreifuss, acting director of the Commission's office of the consumer advocate, is designated to represent the interests of the general public in this proceeding.

11. The acting secretary shall arrange for publication of this notice and order in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: September 27, 2001.

Steven W. Williams,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-24639 Filed 10-2-01; 8:45 am]

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION

Postal Facility Tour

AGENCY: Postal Rate Commission.

ACTION: Notice of commission visit.

SUMMARY: On September 26, 2001, the Commission issued a notice in Docket No. R2001-1 concerning a postal facility tour. It informs participants that members of the Commission accompanied by advisory staff will tour the Postal Service's Baltimore General Mail Facility on October 10, 2001, beginning at 7 p.m. Arrangements for this visit were initiated prior to the filing of the Postal Service request in this docket.

DATES: The tour is scheduled for October 10, 2001; this notice was issued September 26, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephen L. Sharfman, General Counsel, Postal Rate Commission, 202-789-6820.

Dated: September 27, 2001.

Steven W. Williams,

Acting Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-44857; File No. SR-NASD-2001-61]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. To Provide Nasdaq Issuers Temporary Relief From Listing Requirements Relating to the Bid Price for Continued Inclusion and the Market Value of the Public Float

September 27, 2001.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on September 26, 2001, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD"), through its subsidiary, The Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc. ("Nasdaq"), 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 Nasdaq. Nasdaq asserts that the proposed rule change meets the criteria set forth in Rule 19b-4(f)(6),³ which renders this 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

Nasdaq has filed with the Commission a proposed rule change to temporarily suspend, through January 2, 2002, the application of the continued inclusion bid price and market value of public float requirements set forth in NASD Rules 4310(c)(4), 4310(c)(7), 4450(a)(2), 4450(a)(5), 4450(b)(3), and 4450(b)(4).

II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, Nasdaq included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).