

transfers (EFT's) are processed each year; 200 RI 38-31 forms will be completed annually while 7,600 telephone calls are received at OPM. We estimate it takes approximately 10 minutes to complete the form for missing Treasury checks or to report the missing payment by telephone. The annual burden for reporting missing checks is 1,300 hours. The remaining 200 reports are about missing EFT payments. Since people have realized that they can report on the telephone, no missing EFT payments are reported using RI 38-31. The annual burden of reporting 200 missing EFT payments by telephone is 33 hours. The combined burden for collecting this information is 1,333 hours. In 1998 we included a total burden of 25 hours because 50 missing EFT payments were reported using RI 38-31. It takes an estimated 30 minutes to report a missing EFT payment using RI 38-31. The total burden is 17 hours lower because RI 38-31 is no longer used to report missing EFT payments.

For copies of this proposal, contact Mary Beth Smith-Toomey on (202) 606-8358, FAX (202) 418-3251 or e-mail to [mbtoomey@opm.gov](mailto:mbtoomey@opm.gov). Please include a mailing address with your request.

**DATES:** Comments on this proposal should be received January 7, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Send or deliver comments to—

Ronald W. Melton, Chief, Operations Support Division, Retirement and Insurance Service, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street, NW, Room 3349A, Washington, DC 20415-3540 and

Joseph Lackey, OPM Desk Officer, Office of Information & Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, NW, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503.

**FOR INFORMATION REGARDING**

**ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATION—CONTACT:** Donna G. Lease, Team Leader, Forms Analysis and Design, (202) 606-0623.

Office of Personnel Management.

**Kay Coles James,**

*Director.*

[FR Doc. 01-30246 Filed 12-5-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6325-50-P**

**OFFICE OF PERSONNEL  
MANAGEMENT**

**Submission for OMB Review;  
Comment Request for Review of a  
Revised Information Collection: INV 41,  
42, 43 and 44**

**AGENCY:** Office of Personnel Management.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-13, May 22, 1995), this notice announces that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request for reclearance of revised information collection forms INV 41, 42, 43 and 44. OPM uses these forms to request information when conducting employment investigations. The investigations are conducted to determine suitability for Federal employment or the ability to hold a security clearance as prescribed in Executive Orders 10450, 12968, and 10577 (5 CFR part V), and 5 U.S.C. 3301.

INV Form 41, Investigative Request for Employment Data and Supervisor Information, is sent to employers and supervisors. INV Form 42, Investigative Request for Personal Information, is sent to references. INV Form 43, Investigative Request for Educational Registrar and Dean of Students Record Data, is sent to educational institutions. INV Form 44, Investigative Request for Law Enforcement Data, is sent to local law enforcement agencies.

Based on current usage, OPM estimates that 1,962,947 individuals will respond annually to the forms (902,204 to INV 41; 494,728 to INV Form 42; 135,304 to INV 43; and 430,711 to INV 44). We believe the forms require an average of 5 minutes to complete. The total estimated public burden is 162,924 hours.

To obtain copies of this proposal, please contact Mary Beth Smith-Toomey at (202) 606-8358 or FAX (202) 418-3251 or by e-mail to [mbtoomey@opm.gov](mailto:mbtoomey@opm.gov). Please include a mailing address with your request.

**DATES:** Comments on this proposal should be received on or before January 7, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Send or deliver written comments to:

Richard A. Ferris, Associate Director, Investigations Service, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street, NW Room 5416, Washington, DC 20415-4000; and

Joseph Lackey, OPM Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Rasheedah I. Ahmad, Program Analyst, Investigations Service, Phone (202) 606-7983, FAX (202) 606-2390.

Office of Personnel Management.

**Kay Coles James,**

*Director.*

[FR Doc. 01-30247 Filed 12-5-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6325-40-P**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE  
COMMISSION**

**Proposed Collection; Comment  
Request**

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

Tell Us How We're Doing!": SEC File No.  
270-406, OMB Control No. 3235-0463

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") is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this previously-approved questionnaire to the Office of Management and Budget for approval.

The title of the questionnaire is "Tell Us How We're Doing!"

The Commission currently sends the questionnaire to persons who have used the services of the Commission's Office of Investor Education and Assistance. The questionnaire consists mainly of eight (8) questions concerning the quality of services provided by OIEA. Most of the questions can be answered by checking a box on the questionnaire.

The Commission needs the information to evaluate the quality of services provided by OIEA. Supervisory personnel of OIEA use the information collected in assessing staff performance and for determining what improvements or changes should be made in OIEA operations for services provided to investors.

The respondents to the questionnaire are those investors who request assistance or information from OIEA.

The total reporting burden of the questionnaire in 2001 was approximately 5 hours. This was calculated by multiplying the total number of investors who responded to the questionnaire times how long it is estimated to take to complete the questionnaire (20 respondents × 15 minutes = 5 hours).

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate

of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

Please direct your written comments to Michael E. Bartell, Associate Executive Director, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 5th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549.

Dated: November 28, 2001.

**Margaret H. McFarland,**  
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-30215 Filed 12-5-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. IC-25303]

### Notice of Applications for Deregistration Under Section 8(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

November 30, 2001.

The following is a notice of applications for deregistration under section 8(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 for the month of November, 2001. A copy of each application may be obtained for a fee at the SEC's Public Reference Branch, 450 Fifth St., NW., Washington, DC 20549-0102 (tel. 202-942-8090). An order granting each application will be issued unless the SEC orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing on any application by writing to the SEC's Secretary at the address below and serving the relevant applicant with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the SEC by 5:30 p.m. on December 26, 2001, and should be accompanied by proof of service on the applicant, in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Hearing requests should state the nature of the writer's interest, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons who wish to be notified of a hearing may request notification by writing to the Secretary, SEC, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. For Further Information Contact: Diane L. Titus, at (202) 942-0564, SEC, Division of Investment Management, Office of Investment Company

Regulation, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0506.

#### Vanguard Preferred Stock Fund [File No. 811-2601]

*Summary:* Applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. On July 27, 2001, applicant made a liquidating distribution to its shareholders based on net asset value. Applicant incurred \$1,890 in expenses in connection with the liquidation.

*Filing Dates:* The application was filed on November 14, 2001, and amended on November 27, 2001.

*Applicant's Address:* 100 Vanguard Blvd., Malvern, PA 19355.

#### Solanus Funds [File No. 811-10311]

*Summary:* Applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. Applicant has never made a public offering of its securities and does not propose to make a public offering or engage in business of any kind.

*Filing Date:* The application was filed on November 20, 2001.

*Applicant's Address:* 6120 Parkland Blvd., Suite 101, Mayfield Heights, OH 44124.

#### The Baupost Fund [File No. 811-6138]

*Summary:* Applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. On August 10, 2001 and October 31, 2001, applicant made liquidating distributions to its shareholders based on net asset value. Expenses of \$202,480 incurred in connection with the liquidation were paid by applicant and applicant's investment adviser, The Baupost Group, L.L.C.

*Filing Date:* The application was filed on November 15, 2001.

*Applicant's Address:* 10 Saint James Ave., Suite 2000, Boston, MA 02116.

#### Pilgrim Government Securities Fund [File No. 811-4432]

#### Pilgrim Balance Sheet Opportunities Fund [File No. 811-4433]

*Summary:* Each applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. On March 27, 2000, Pilgrim Government Securities Fund transferred its assets to Pilgrim Government Securities Income Fund, Inc., based on net asset value. On March 27, 2000, Pilgrim Balance Sheet Opportunities Fund transferred its assets to Pilgrim Balanced Fund, a series of Pilgrim Mutual funds, based on net asset value. Expenses of \$95,415 and \$100,897, respectively, incurred in connection with the reorganizations

were paid by each applicant and by its surviving fund.

*Filing Date:* The applications were filed on November 6, 2001.

*Applicants' Address:* 7337 East Doubletree Ranch Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85258-2034.

#### Federated Exchange Fund, Ltd. [File No. 811-2626]

*Summary:* Applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. On January 2, 1996, applicant transferred its assets to Federated Capital Appreciation Fund, a portfolio of Federated Equity Funds, based on net asset value. Applicant incurred no expenses in connection with the reorganization.

*Filing Dates:* The application was filed on September 26, 2001, and amended on November 20, 2001.

*Applicant's Address:* 5800 Corporate Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15237-7000.

#### Fortress Utility Fund, Inc. [File No. 811-4530]

*Summary:* Applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. On June 1, 1996, applicant transferred its assets to Federated Utility Fund, Inc., based on net asset value. Applicant incurred no expenses in connection with the reorganization.

*Filing Dates:* The application was filed on September 26, 2001, and amended on November 20, 2001.

*Applicant's Address:* 5800 Corporate Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15237-7000.

#### Fiduciary Management Associates [File No. 811-1897]

*Summary:* Applicant seeks an order clearing that it has ceased to be an investment company. By May 5, 1998, all shareholders of applicant had redeemed their shares at net asset value. Applicant incurred no expenses in connection with the liquidation.

*Filing Dates:* The application was filed on September 28, 2001, and amended on November 15, 2001.

*Applicant's Address:* 1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10105.

#### Equitable Government Securities Account, Inc. [File No. 811-3684]

*Summary:* Applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. By August 15, 1985, all shareholders of applicant had redeemed their shares at net asset value. Applicant incurred no expenses in connection with the liquidation.

*Filing Dates:* The application was filed on September 28, 2001, and amended on November 15, 2001.

*Applicant's Address:* 1285 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019.