

proposed rule change has been designed to enable the PCX to compete with other markets in attracting options business, and that the proposed rule change is therefore reasonable and equitable.

## 2. Basis

The PCX believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>5</sup> particularly Section 6(b)(4) of the Act,<sup>6</sup> in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its members.

### B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The PCX does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

### C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

The PCX neither solicited nor received any written comments on the proposed rule change.

## III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Because the PCX has designated the foregoing as a fee change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>7</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(2) thereunder,<sup>8</sup> the proposal has become effective immediately upon filing with the Commission. At any time within 60 days after the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate the rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

## IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written

communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the PCX. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-PCX-2001-49 and should be submitted by January 18, 2002.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>9</sup>

**Margaret H. McFarland,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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## SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

### Interest Rates

The Small Business Administration publishes an interest rate called the optional "peg" rate (13 CFR 120.214) on a quarterly basis. This rate is a weighted average cost of money to the government for maturities similar to the average SBA direct loan. This rate may be used as a base rate for guaranteed fluctuating interest rate SBA loans. This rate will be 4.625 (4 5/8) percent for the January–March quarter of FY 2002.

**LeAnn M. Oliver,**

*Deputy Associate Administrator for Financial Assistance.*

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## SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

### Region 1—Maine District Advisory Council; Public Meeting

The U.S. Small Business Administration Augusta, Maine District Advisory Council, will hold a public meeting at 10:00 a.m. February 5th, 2002 at 68 Sewall Street, Room 510, Augusta, Maine to discuss such matters as may be presented by members, staff of the U.S. Small Business Administration, or others present.

Anyone wishing to make an oral presentation to the Board must contact Mary MaAleney, in writing by letter or fax no later than January 25th, 2002, in order to be put on the agenda. Please direct questions to Mary MaAleney,

District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration, 68 Sewall Street, Room 512, Augusta, Maine 04330, (201) 622-8386 phone, (207) 622-8277 fax. For further information, write or call Mary MaAleney, District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration, 68 Sewall Street, Room 512, Augusta, Maine 04330, (207) 622-8386 phone, (207) 622-8277 fax.

**Steve Tupper,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

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## SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

### Modifications to the Disability Determination Procedures; Extension of Disability Claims Process Redesign Prototype and Test of Single Decisionmaker Model

**AGENCY:** Social Security Administration.

**ACTION:** Notice of the extension of two tests involving modifications to the disability determination procedures.

**SUMMARY:** We are announcing the extension of two tests of modifications to our disability determination procedures that we are conducting under the authority of current rules codified at 20 CFR 404.906 and 416.1406. These rules provide authority to test several modifications to the disability determination procedures that we normally follow in adjudicating claims for disability insurance benefits under title II of the Social Security Act (the Act) and for supplemental security income payments based on disability under title XVI of the Act. We have decided to extend selection of cases for six months while we identify the most positive elements of the tests for rollout, and to enable us to address transition issues.

**DATES:** We are extending our selection of cases to be included in these tests from December 31, 2001 until no later than June 28, 2002. If we decide to continue selection of cases for these tests beyond this date, we will publish another notice in the **Federal Register**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Phil Landis, Director, Disability Process Redesign Staff, Office of Disability, Social Security Administration, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland, 21235, 410-965-5388.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Current regulations at 20 CFR 404.906 and 416.1406 authorize us to test, individually or in any combination, several different modifications to the disability determination procedures. We

<sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

<sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>8</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f).

<sup>9</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).