(B) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

SCCP does not believe that this extension should impose any burden on competition 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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received with respect to the proposed rule change.

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

Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Act[6] requires that the rules of a clearing agency be designed to promote the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions. Based on the information the Commission has to date, the Commission believes that SCCP's restructured operations have functioned satisfactorily to provide prompt and accurate clearance and settlement. During the upcoming temporary approval period, the Commission expects to review with SCCP in detail the functioning of SCCP's restructured operations in order to determine whether permanent approval of SCCP's restructured business is warranted.

SCCP has requested that the Commission approve the proposed rule change prior to the 30th day after publication of the notice of the filing. The Commission finds good cause for approving the rule change prior to the 30th day after publication because such approval will allow SCCP to continue to offer its restructured clearing operations for another year without interruption.

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. Comments may also be submitted electronically at the following e-mail address: *rule-comments@sec.gov.* All comment letters should refer to File No. SR–SCCP–2001–12. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. 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 SCCP. All submissions should refer to File No. SR–SCCP–2001–12 and should be submitted by January 14, 2003.

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to section 19(b)(2) of the Act,[7] that the proposed rule change (File No. SR–SCCP–2001–12) be and hereby is approved on an accelerated basis through December 31, 2003.

For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.[8]

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02–32319 Filed 12–23–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010–01–P

[6] 15 U.S.C. 78q–1(b)(3)(F).

[7] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

[8] 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12).

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster #3452]

State of Louisiana (Amendment # 5)

In accordance with a notice received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, dated December 13, 2002, the above numbered declaration is hereby amended to extend the deadline for filing applications for physical damages as a result of this disaster to January 3, 2003.

All other information remains the same, *i.e.*, the deadline for filing applications for economic injury is July 3, 2003.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008).

Dated: December 17, 2002.

Herbert L. Mitchell,

Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

[FR Doc. 02–32278 Filed 12–23–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025–01–P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster #3459]

State of Texas; (Amendment #5)

In accordance with a notice received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, dated December 16, 2002, the above numbered declaration is hereby amended to include Walker County in the State of Texas as a disaster area due to damages caused by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding occurring on October 24, 2002, and continuing through November 15, 2002.

In addition, applications for economic injury loans from small businesses located in Houston and Madison Counties in the State of Texas may be filed until the specified date at the previously designated location. All other counties contiguous to the above named primary counties have been previously declared.

All other information remains the same, *i.e.*, the deadline for filing applications for physical damage is January 6, 2003, and for economic injury the deadline is August 5, 2003.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008).

Dated: December 18, 2002.

Herbert L. Mitchell,

Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

[FR Doc. 02–32402 Filed 12–23–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025–01–P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Notice: 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 4.500 (4½) percent for the January–March quarter of FY 2003.

James E. Rivera,

Associate Administrator for Financial Assistance.

[FR Doc. 02–32401 Filed 12–23–02; 8:45 am]

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