

data and processing results from Web CRD or IARD). Web-based form filing (on a single transaction basis) will remain available through Web CRD and IARD; therefore, member firms will not be required to use Web EFT.

Member firms that elect to use the new Web EFT application will be charged a fee based on whether they choose to use the data download or form filing functionalities, or both. NASD is proposing annual subscription fees of \$1,800.00 per year for data downloading; \$3,600.00 per year for form filing; and \$4,800.00 per year for data downloading and form filing. The proposed fees would be effective upon full deployment of Web EFT, currently scheduled for March 24, 2003.⁷ The proposed fees are designed to recover the cost of developing and operating registration-related batch filing and data downloads via Web EFT.

Web EFT will benefit NASD and member firms by eliminating the costs and risks associated with maintaining Legacy EFT, enhancing security, and increasing efficiencies through the expanded batch filing and data download options that will be available. Further, the proposed Web EFT application and accompanying infrastructure will give firms a more secure interface to NASD systems, and it will enable firms that use the registration batch filing service to submit in batches additional filing types not currently available through the legacy system.⁸ For example, the new application will enable firms to batch file all forms for registered persons and all filings for non-registered personnel who are required to be fingerprinted. As with Legacy EFT, firms will not be able to submit filings that include Disclosure Reporting Pages ("DRPs"). The new application will also enable firms to download more reports than are currently available to firms through Legacy EFT.

Web EFT should be especially attractive to larger member firms that process high volumes of filings (e.g., office of employment address changes for large numbers of registered individuals when there is a branch relocation), or that wish to download from Web CRD or IARD large amounts of data on their registered persons (e.g., to obtain a download of exam results for registered persons at the firm for a specified period) to populate their own internal systems. In this regard, large

member firms that maintain such internal systems have expressed a desire for a more robust EFT application to support registration transactions because of the efficiencies it will provide them, including the elimination of duplicative data entry.

(2) Statutory Basis

NASD believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of section 15A(b)(5) of the Act, which requires, among other things, that NASD's rules provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility or system that NASD operates or controls. NASD believes that the proposed subscription charges are reasonable fees that fairly reflect the benefit to be gained by members from using a secure Web-based EFT application to submit batch filings in a single transaction or to download member firm data and processing results from Web CRD or IARD.

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

NASD does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended.

(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.

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

NASD has designated the proposed rule change as "establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge" under section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act⁹ and rule 19b-4(f)(2) thereunder,¹⁰ which renders the proposal effective upon receipt of this filing by the Commission. The NASD will implement the fee on March 24, 2003. At any time within 60 days of this filing, the Commission may summarily abrogate this proposal 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 in Washington, DC. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of NASD. All submissions should refer to the file number in the caption above and should be submitted by March 24, 2003.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹¹

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-4833 Filed 2-28-03; 8:45 am]

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Data Collection Available for Public Comments and Recommendations

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Small Business Administration's intentions to request approval on a new, and/or currently approved information collection.

DATES: Submit comments on or before May 2, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send all comments regarding whether these information collections are necessary for the proper performance of the function of the agency, whether the burden estimates are accurate, and if there are ways to minimize the estimated burden and enhance the quality of the collections, to Thomas Mueller, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Small Business Development Centers, Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street, SW., Suite 6400, Washington DC 20416.

⁷ Details on how a firm can sign up for Web EFT, payment schedules, and additional information on Web EFT are available on NASD's Web site at http://www.nasdr.com/3400_eft.asp.

⁸ Web EFT will add six additional filing types that were not available in Legacy EFT.

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

¹⁰ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

¹¹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Mueller, Deputy Associate Administrator, (202) 205-7301 or Curtis B. Rich, Management Analyst, (202) 205-7030.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: SBA Counseling Evaluation.
Form No: 1419.
Description of Respondents: Small Business Clients.
Annual Responses: 2,800.
Annual Burden: 476.
Title: National Training Participant Evaluation Questionnaire.
Form No: 20.
Description of Respondents: Individuals Receiving SBA Training and Counseling Assistance.
Annual Responses: 26,000.
Annual Burden: 6,500.

Jacqueline White,
Chief, Administrative Information Branch.
[FR Doc. 03-4932 Filed 2-28-03; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4288]

**Office of Oceans Affairs;
Comprehensive Environmental
Evaluations for Antarctic Activities**

AGENCY: Department of State.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of State gives notice of the availability of three draft Comprehensive Environmental Evaluations (CEEs) for activities proposed to be undertaken in Antarctica. Interested members of the public are invited to submit comments relative to these CEEs.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before June 3, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to OES/OA, Room 5805; Department of State; Washington, DC 20520, or to SaturniFM@state.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Fabio M. Saturni, Office of Oceans Affairs, (202) 647-0237.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Article 3 of Annex I to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty requires parties to prepare a CEE for any proposed Antarctic activity likely to have more than a minor or transitory impact. Draft CEEs are to be made publicly available with a 90-day period for receipt of comments. This notice is published pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 2403a(h).

The Department of State has received three draft CEEs:

1. The Czech Republic has submitted a draft CEE for proposed construction and operation of a scientific station at James Ross Island. The document is available at this Web site: <http://www.cep.aq/default.asp?casid=5768>.

2. New Zealand has submitted a draft CEE for the ANDRILL program of proposed Antarctic scientific stratigraphic drilling. The document is available at this Web site: <http://www.antarcticanz.govt.nz/DownloadDocuments/PDF/Environment/ANDRILL%20Final%20Jan22.pdf>.

3. The Russian Federation has submitted a draft CEE for water sampling of the subglacial Lake Vostok. The document is available at this Web site: <http://www.cep.aq/default.asp?casid=5762>.

The Department of State invites interested members of the public to provide written comments on these draft CEEs.

Dated: February 24, 2003.

Raymond V. Arnaudo,
*Deputy Director, Office of Oceans Affairs,
Department of State.*
[FR Doc. 03-4909 Filed 2-28-03; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4710-09-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4262]

**Fine Arts Committee; Notice of
Meeting**

The Fine Arts Committee of the Department of State will meet on Friday, March 28, 2003, at 2:30 p.m. in the Diplomatic Reception Rooms. The meeting will last until approximately 3:30 p.m. and is open to the public.

The agenda for the committee meeting will include a summary of the work of the Fine Arts Office since its last meeting on October 18, 2002 and the announcement of gifts and loans of furnishings as well as financial contributions from January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002.

Public access to the Department of State is strictly controlled. Members of the public wishing to take part in the meeting should telephone the Fine Arts Office by March 12, 2003, telephone (202) 647-1990 to make arrangements to enter the building. The public may take part in the discussion as long as time permits and at discretion of the chairman.

Dated: February 17, 2003.

Gail F. Serfaty,
*Secretary, Fine Arts Committee, Department
of State.*
[FR Doc. 03-4907 Filed 2-28-03; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4710-38-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4268]

**Overseas Buildings Operations;
Industry Advisory Panel Meeting
Notice**

The Industry Advisory Panel of Overseas Buildings Operations will meet on Thursday, March 27, 2003 from 9:45 until 11:45 a.m. and 1 until 3:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. The meeting will be held in conference room 1105 at the Department of State, 2201 C Street NW., (entrance on 23rd Street), Washington, DC. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss new technologies and successful management practices for design, construction, security, property management, emergency operations, the environment, and planning and development. An agenda will be available prior to the meeting.

The meeting will be open to the public, however, seating is limited. Prior notification and a valid photo ID are mandatory for entry into the building. Members of the public who plan to attend must notify Luigina Pinzino at 703/875-7109 before Wednesday, March 12th, to provide date of birth, Social Security number, and telephone number.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Luigina Pinzino 703/875-7109.

Dated: February 20, 2003.

Charles E. Williams,
*Director/Chief Operating Officer, Overseas
Buildings Operations, Department of State.*
[FR Doc. 03-4908 Filed 2-28-03; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4710-24-P

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES
TRADE REPRESENTATIVE**

**Notice of Meeting of the Industry
Sector Advisory Committee on Small
and Minority Business (ISAC-14)**

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice of a partially opened meeting.

SUMMARY: The Industry Sector Advisory Committee on Small and Minority Business (ISAC-14) will hold a meeting on March 14, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The meeting will be closed to the