

(2) Section VII: Project Management

The Departmental Personnel Management Board will expand to include additional board members representing the new major operating units included in the project. It is the intent of the DoC to ensure the composition of the board reflects the diversity of employee groups to ensure the objectives of the demonstration project are achieved in an equitable and consistent manner.

(3) Section V: B. Base Cost Assessment

The current plan identifies Fiscal Years 1994, 1995, and 1996 as the basis of analysis of pre-project costs to determine whether project costs are being maintained at acceptable levels. Since CFO/ASA has never participated in the demonstration project, costs will be computed as annual averages over the past three pre-project fiscal years immediately preceding implementation, within CFO/ASA offices. NOAA will continue using FY 1994–96 as its cost basis, since it was part of the demonstration project during these years.

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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.

Extension:

Rule 17Ad–4(b) and (c), SEC File No. 270–264, OMB Control No. 3235–0341.

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 existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Rule 17Ad–4(b) and (c): Notices Regarding Exempt Transfer Agent Status

Rule 17Ad–4(b) and (c) is used to document when transfer agents are exempt, or no longer exempt, from the minimum performance standards and certain recordkeeping provisions of the

Commission’s transfer agent rules. Rule 17Ad–4(c) sets forth the conditions under which a registered transfer agent loses its exempt status. Once the conditions for exemption no longer exist, the transfer agent, to keep the appropriate regulatory authority (“ARA”) apprised of its current status, must prepare, and file if the ARA for the transfer agent is the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (“BGRFS”) or the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (“FDIC”), a notice of loss of exempt status under paragraph (c). The transfer agent then cannot claim exempt status under Rule 17Ad–4(b) again until it remains subject to the minimum performance standards for non-exempt transfer agents for six consecutive months. The ARAs use the information contained in the notice to determine whether a registered transfer agent qualifies for the exemption, to determine when a registered transfer agent no longer qualifies for the exemption, and to determine the extent to which that transfer agent is subject to regulation.

The BGRFS receives approximately twelve notices of exempt status and six notices of loss of exempt status annually. The FDIC receives approximately eighteen notices of exempt status and three notices of loss of exempt status annually. The Commission and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (“OCC”) do not require transfer agent to file notice of exempt status or loss of exempt status. Instead, transfer agents whose ARA is the Commission or OCC need only to prepare and maintain these notices. The Commission estimates that approximately sixteen notices of exempt status and loss of exempt status are prepared annually by transfer agents whose ARA is the Commission. Similarly, the OCC estimates that the transfer agents for which it is the ARA prepare and maintain approximately fifteen notices of exempt status and loss of exempt status annually. Thus, a total of approximately seventy notices of exempt status and loss of exempt status are prepared and maintained by transfer agents annually. Of these seventy notices, approximately forty are filed with an ARA. Any additional costs associated with filing such notices would be limited primarily to postage, which would be minimal. Since the Commission estimates that no more than one-half hour is required to prepare each notice, the total annual burden to transfer agents is approximately thirty-five hours. The average cost per hour is approximately \$30. Therefore, the total cost of

compliance to the transfer agent community is \$1,050.

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 shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency’s estimates of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be 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 Kenneth A. Fogash, Acting Associate Executive Director, Office of Information Technology/CIO, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 5th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549.

Dated: September 11, 2003.

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Sunshine Act Meetings

FEDERAL REGISTER CITATION OF PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENT: 68 FR 53618, September 11, 2003.

STATUS: Open Meeting.

PLACE: 450 Fifth Street, NW., Room 6600, Washington, DC.

DATE AND TIME OF PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED MEETING: Wednesday, September 17, 2003.

CHANGE IN THE MEETING: Rescheduled Item.

AGENDA FOR THE WEEK OF: September 22, 2003.

The following item previously scheduled for the Open Meeting on September 17, 2003 has been rescheduled and will be considered at the Open Meeting of Wednesday, September 24, 2003 at 10 a.m., in Room 1C30, the William O. Douglas Room: Proposal for public comment of new rules 12d1–1, 12d1–2, and 12d1–3 under the Investment Company Act of 1940.

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the Government in the Sunshine Act, Pub. L. 94–409, that the Securities and Exchange Commission