

(i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest;

(ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and

(iii) become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹¹ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.¹² At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate such 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.

The Amex has requested that the Commission waive the 30-day operative delay. The Commission believes waiving the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. Acceleration of the operative date will make the pilot permanent without requiring the Amex to file another proposed rule change to extend the pilot long enough to allow the 30-day operative period to expire. For these reasons, the Commission designates the proposal to be effective and operative upon filing with the Commission.¹³

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposal 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. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Amex. All submissions should refer to file number

SR-Amex-2003-79 and should be submitted by October 14, 2003.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁴

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-24088 Filed 9-18-03; 12:01 pm]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-U

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for the Aged, Blind and Disabled; Extension of the SSI Work Incentives Demonstration Project

AGENCY: Social Security Administration (SSA).

ACTION: Notice of the extension of the SSI Work Incentives Demonstration Project.

SUMMARY: We are announcing an extension of the period for testing the use of certain modifications of the SSI program rules for participants in the SSI Work Incentives Demonstration Project. We are conducting this demonstration project under the authority of section 1110(b) of the Social Security Act (the Act). Under this project, the Social Security Administration (SSA) is testing the effectiveness of altering certain provisions of the SSI program under title XVI of the Act as an incentive to encourage SSI recipients with disabilities or blindness to work for the first time, return to work, or increase their work activity and earnings. We are conducting this demonstration project in selected States which we are assisting under our State Partnership Initiative to develop innovative and enhanced systems for the coordination and delivery of services to assist persons with disabilities to obtain employment and reduce their dependence on government benefit programs.

We are extending the period during which the modifications of the SSI program rules will apply to participants in the SSI Work Incentives Demonstration Project in order to obtain sufficient data to permit a thorough evaluation of the effects that the altered SSI program rules and enhanced service delivery systems in the selected States have on encouraging SSI recipients to enter and remain in the workforce and reduce their dependence on SSI benefits and benefits under other government programs. We are publishing this notice in accordance with 20 CFR 416.250(e).

DATES: We are extending the date on which the alternative SSI program rules

generally end for project participants from September 30, 2003 to September 30, 2004. We are extending the starting date of the 24-month spend-down period for the Independence Account, which is a feature of the alternative rules that apply to project participants, from October 1, 2003 to October 1, 2004. If we decide to extend the period for testing the alternative SSI program rules beyond these dates, we will publish a notice in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: B. J. Olson, Social Security Administration, Office of Program Development and Research, 6401 Security Boulevard, 3531 Annex Building, Baltimore, Maryland 21235-6401; phone (410) 965-9990 or through e-mail to b.j.olson@ssa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The SSI Work Incentives Demonstration Project

On January 25, 2001, we published a notice in the **Federal Register** (66 FR 7826) announcing and describing the SSI Work Incentives Demonstration Project. Under this project, we are testing, on a demonstration basis, the effectiveness of certain modifications of the SSI program rules as incentives for SSI recipients with disabilities or blindness to attempt work activity or increase their level of work and earnings. For SSI recipients who are participating in the demonstration project, we are waiving certain provisions of title XVI of the Act and the implementing regulations and applying alternative rules for SSI program purposes. The alternative rules which apply to project participants involve modifications of the SSI program rules relating to the counting of a recipient's income and resources for SSI program purposes, and to the initiation of certain continuing disability reviews for recipients of SSI benefits based on disability or blindness.

We are conducting the SSI Work Incentives Demonstration Project under the authority of section 1110(b) of the Act. Section 1110(b) of the Act authorizes the Commissioner of Social Security to waive any of the requirements, conditions, or limitations of title XVI of the Act to the extent necessary to carry out experimental, pilot, or demonstration projects which, in the Commissioner's judgment, are likely to assist in promoting the objectives or facilitate the administration of the SSI program.

We are conducting the SSI Work Incentives Demonstration Project in connection with certain return-to-work projects for which we awarded

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹² 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹³ For purposes only of accelerating the operative date of this proposal, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

¹⁴ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

cooperative agreement funds to certain States under our State Partnership Initiative (SPI) program. In 1998, under the SPI program, SSA awarded five-year cooperative agreements to a number of States to develop innovative and enhanced systems for the coordination and delivery of rehabilitation, employment, and other support services to assist adults who are recipients of SSI benefits based on disability or blindness, or who are Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries, to enter and remain in the workforce and reduce their dependence on SSI and SSDI benefits.

We are conducting the SSI Work Incentives Demonstration Project, which consists of two models, in conjunction with the testing of the enhanced service delivery systems employed in the SPI projects in the States of California, New York, Vermont and Wisconsin. Our overall objective in conducting this project is to demonstrate whether certain modifications of the SSI program rules, in combination with the enhanced service delivery systems employed in the SPI projects in these States, are effective in promoting the return-to-work efforts of disabled or blind SSI recipients. The four States are collecting data for each project participant regarding identifying information, educational and vocational background, services provided, work attempts and outcomes, and use of the alternative SSI program rules. Each State will use the data to evaluate the effectiveness of the alternative SSI program rules and enhanced service delivery systems under the project in that State. The data will also be used by evaluators under contract with SSA to perform a process evaluation and a net outcomes evaluation.

Participants in the SSI Work Incentives Demonstration Project

To be a participant in the SSI Work Incentives Demonstration Project, an individual must be a disabled or blind SSI recipient or concurrent SSI/SSDI beneficiary who is enrolled as a participant in the SPI cooperative agreement project in California, New York, Vermont or Wisconsin. An enrollee in one of the SPI projects becomes a participant in the SSI Work Incentives Demonstration Project by providing a voluntary written consent to be a participant in the SSI demonstration project. The individual's consent to participate in the SSI Work Incentives Demonstration Project may be revoked by the individual at any time. In addition, an individual's status as a participant in the SSI Work Incentives Demonstration Project will

end if his or her participation in the SPI project ends.

Alternative SSI Program Rules That Apply to Participants in the SSI Work Incentives Demonstration Project

The alternative SSI program rules that we are testing under the demonstration project consist of the following four elements. Elements 1 through 3 apply to participants in the project who are SSI-only recipients or concurrent SSI/SSDI beneficiaries. Element 4 only applies to participants who are SSI-only recipients; it does not apply to concurrent SSI/SSDI beneficiaries.

1. "Three-for-Four"—Increase Earned Income Exclusion

SSA is testing the effectiveness, as a work incentive, of using a modified earned income exclusion in determining an SSI recipient's countable income for SSI program purposes. Under this alternative rule, SSA will exclude the first \$65 of a project participant's monthly earned income plus an additional 75 percent of any remaining gross monthly earned income, or an additional \$3 for every \$4 earned. This differs from the current rules under which SSA excludes the first \$65 of monthly earned income plus an additional 50 percent of any remaining gross monthly earned income, or an additional \$1 for every \$2 earned.

2. "Unearned Income Related to Work Activity"—Treat as Earned Income

SSA is testing, as an additional work incentive, treating certain types of temporary unearned income related to work activity in the same manner as earned income is treated under element 1 above for purposes of determining an SSI recipient's countable income. That is, for a project participant, SSA will exclude the first \$65 per month of certain types of unearned income that result from work activity plus 75 percent of the remainder of such unearned income in a month. This differs from current SSI rules under which SSA excludes the first \$20 of unearned income in a month. The only types of temporary unearned income that result from work activity that are subject to this alternative rule are: unemployment insurance benefits, worker's compensation benefits, State disability benefits, and disability-related benefits paid through private insurance plans. Other types of benefits, such as Social Security benefits or veterans benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, will continue to be treated as unearned income based on current rules.

3. "Independence Account"—Create New Resource Exclusion

SSA is testing the use of an additional resource exclusion as a work incentive. Under this alternative rule, SSA allows a project participant to maintain an "Independence Account" as a resource, beyond the current \$2,000 resource limit. For purposes of determining an SSI recipient's countable resources, SSA will exclude monies conserved (including any accrued interest) in one separate account for saved wages, not to be commingled with other monies, and with deposits limited to 50 percent of gross earnings, not to exceed \$8,000 per year. The account may be a checking or savings account, certificate of deposit, money market or mutual fund account. It cannot be any type of retirement plan such as an IRA, Roth IRA, 401(k) plan, or 403(b) plan. The period during which a participant is permitted to deposit a portion of his or her wages into an "Independence Account" will end when this altered SSI program rule terminates or, if earlier, when he or she ceases to be a project participant. Following the close of the period for making deposits, SSA will provide the individual a 24-month spend-down period during which the resource exclusion under this alternative rule will continue to apply to monies in the account.

4. "Medical Continuing Disability Reviews"—Suspend for Certain Participants

SSA is testing suspending medical continuing disability reviews (CDRs) as a work incentive for certain individuals. SSA is suspending medical CDRs for participants in the demonstration project who are SSI-only recipients with "medical improvement possible" or "medical improvement not expected" diaries. For a project participant meeting these criteria, SSA will not initiate a medical CDR during the period this alternative rule is in effect, so long as the individual remains a project participant. The suspension of CDRs does not apply to redeterminations of disability that are required for childhood disability recipients who attain age 18.

The Two Models of the SSI Work Incentives Demonstration Project

Model one of the demonstration project uses the alternative SSI program rules described in items 1 through 4 above, and is being carried out in conjunction with the SPI projects in California, New York, and Wisconsin. Model two of the demonstration project uses the alternative SSI program rules

described in items 2 through 4 above, and is being carried out in conjunction with the SPI project in Vermont.

Extension of the Period for Testing the Alternative SSI Program Rules

In the notice announcing the implementation of the SSI Work Incentives Demonstration Project, published at 66 FR 7826 (January 25, 2001), we indicated that, with the exception of the spend-down period for the "Independence Account," the alternative SSI program rules would cease to apply to project participants after September 30, 2003. For an individual who is a participant on September 30, 2003, we indicated that the 24-month spend-down period for the "Independence Account" would begin on October 1, 2003.

We are extending the period during which the alternative SSI program rules will be in effect for participants in the SSI Work Incentives Demonstration Project for one year. We are extending the period for testing in order to produce sufficient data to permit a thorough evaluation of the effects that the altered SSI program rules and enhanced service delivery systems in the selected States have on encouraging SSI recipients to enter and remain in the workforce and reduce their dependence on SSI benefits and benefits under other government programs. To enable additional testing for one year of the combined effects of the altered SSI program rules and enhanced service delivery systems in the selected States, we are providing a 12-month extension of the cooperative agreement project period and the necessary additional funding to the SPI projects in the four States to enable them to continue to provide services for the extended period to SSI recipients (including concurrent SSI/SSDI beneficiaries) who are enrolled in the SPI projects as of September 30, 2003, and to collect and evaluate data for this period.

Except for the spend-down period for the "Independence Account," we are extending the ending date of the period during which the alternative SSI program rules apply to a participant in the SSI Work Incentives Demonstration Project from September 30, 2003 to September 30, 2004. With the exception of the spend-down period, the alternative SSI program rules will cease to be effective after September 30, 2004.

We are extending the starting date of the 24-month spend-down period for the "Independence Account" for a project participant from October 1, 2003 to October 1, 2004. The spend-down period will begin on October 1, 2004 (or, if earlier, when an individual ceases to

be a participant in the SSI demonstration project) and will end after a period of 24 months.

Additional information about the SSI Work Incentives Demonstration Project, a description of the specific statutory and regulatory provisions being waived to conduct the project, and a description of the SPI projects in California, New York, Vermont and Wisconsin can be found in the notice announcing the implementation of the SSI Work Incentives Demonstration Project which we published in the **Federal Register** on January 25, 2001 (66 FR 7826).

Dated: September 16, 2003.

Jo Anne B. Barnhart,

Commissioner of Social Security.

[FR Doc. 03-24045 Filed 9-18-03; 12:01 pm]

BILLING CODE 4191-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4498]

Culturally Significant Objects Imported for Exhibition Determinations: "Russian Odyssey: Riches of the State Russian Museum"

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following determinations: Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Act of October 19, 1965 (79 Stat. 985; 22 U.S.C. 2459), Executive Order 12047 of March 27, 1978, the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2681, *et seq.*; 22 U.S.C. 6501 note, *et seq.*), Delegation of Authority No. 234 of October 1, 1999, Delegation of Authority No. 236 of October 19, 1999, as amended, and Delegation of Authority No. 257 of April 15, 2003 [68 FR 19875], I hereby determine that the objects to be included in the exhibition "Russian Odyssey: Riches of the State Russian Museum," imported from abroad for temporary exhibition within the United States, are of cultural significance. The objects are imported pursuant to loan agreements with the foreign owners. I also determine that the exhibition or display of the exhibit objects at the Florida International Museum, St.

Petersburg, FL, from on or about November 2, 2003 until on or about April 4, 2004, and at possible additional venues yet to be determined, is in the national interest. Public Notice of these Determinations is ordered to be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, including a list of the exhibit objects, contact the Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of

State, (telephone: 202/619-6982). The address is U.S. Department of State, SA-44, 301 4th Street, SW., Room 700, Washington, DC 20547-0001.

Dated: September 16, 2003.

C. Miller Crouch,

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 03-24104 Filed 9-19-03; 12:01 pm]

BILLING CODE 4710-08-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Meeting of the National Parks Overflights Advisory Group.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service (NPS) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), in accordance with the National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000, announce the next meeting of the National Parks Overflights Advisory Group (NPOAG). The meeting will take place October 21, 2003, in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. This notice informs the public of the dates, location, and agenda for the meeting.

DATES: The NPOAG will meet October 2003, at the Wort Hotel, 50 N. Glenwood Street, Jackson, Wyoming, 83001 (telephone 1-800-250-1623).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barry Brayer, Manager, Executive Resource Staff, Western Pacific Region, Federal Aviation Administration, 1500 Aviation Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250, telephone: (310) 725-3800 or Barry.Brayer@faa.gov, or Howie Thompson, National Park Service, Natural Sounds Program, 12795 W. Alameda Parkway, Denver, CO 80225, telephone: (303) 969-2461, or Howie_Thompson@nps.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000, enacted on April 5, 2000, as Public Law 106-181 (Pub. L. 106-181), required the establishment of a National Parks Overflights Advisory Group within 1 year after its enactment. The NPOAG was to be a balanced group representative of general aviation, commercial air tour operations, environmental concerns, and Indian tribes. The duties of the NPOAG included providing advice, information,