

Retirement Board (RRB) has submitted the following proposal(s) for the collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for review and approval.

- Summary of Proposal(s):* (1) *Collection title:* Voluntary Customer Surveys in Accordance with E.O. 12862. (2) *Form(s) submitted:* G-201. (3) *OMB Number:* 3220-0192. (4) *Expiration date of current OMB clearance:* (5) *Type of request:* Extension of a currently approved collection. (6) *Respondents:* Individuals or households, business or other for-profit. (7) *Estimated annual number of respondents:* 2,050. (8) *Total annual responses:* 2,050. (9) *Total annual reporting hours:* 742. (10) *Collection description:* The Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) utilizes voluntary customer surveys to ascertain customer satisfaction with the RRB in terms of timeliness, appropriateness, access, and other measures of quality service. Surveys involve individuals that are direct or indirect beneficiaries of RRB services as well as railroad employers who must report earnings.

*Additional Information or Comments:* Copies of the forms and supporting documents can be obtained from Chuck Mierzwa, the agency clearance officer (312-751-3363).

Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Ronald J. Hodapp, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092 and to the OMB Desk Officer for the RRB, at the Office of Management and Budget, Room 10230, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

**Chuck Mierzwa,**  
*Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 03-28504 Filed 11-13-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7905-01-M**

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Sunshine Act Meeting

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the Government in the Sunshine Act, Public Law 94-409, that the Securities and Exchange Commission will hold the following meeting during the week of November 17, 2003:

An Open Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 19, 2003 at 2 p.m., in Room 1C30, the William O. Douglas Room.

The subject matter of the Open Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 19, 2003 will be:

The Commission will consider whether to adopt amendments to Schedule 14A and Forms 10-Q, 10-QSB, 10-K, and 10-KSB under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and Form N-CSR under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940. The amendments would require expanded disclosure related to the operation of board nominating committees and new disclosure concerning security holder communications with board members.

For further information, please contact Lillian Brown at (202) 824-5250.

At times, changes in Commission priorities require alterations in the scheduling of meeting items. For further information and to ascertain what, if any, matters have been added, deleted or postponed, please contact: The Office of the Secretary at (202) 942-7070.

Dated: November 12, 2003.

**Jonathan G. Katz,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 03-28707 Filed 11-12-03; 3:45 pm]

**BILLING CODE 8010-01-P**

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Sunshine Act Meeting

**FEDERAL REGISTER CITATION OF PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENT:** [68 FR 62860, November 6, 2003]

**STATUS:** Closed Meeting.

**PLACE:** 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF ADDITIONAL MEETING:** Additional meeting.

An additional Closed Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2003 at 4 p.m.

Commissioners, Counsel to the Commissioners, the Secretary to the Commission, and recording secretaries will attend the Closed Meeting. Certain staff members who have an interest in the matter may also be present.

Commissioner Campos, as duty officer, determined that no earlier notice thereof was possible.

The General Counsel of the Commission, or his designee, has certified that, in his opinion, one or more of the exemptions set forth in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(5), (7), and (10) and 17 CFR 200.402(a)(5), (7), and (10), permit consideration of the scheduled matters at the Closed Meeting.

Commissioner Campos, as duty officer, voted to consider the items

listed for the closed meeting in a closed session.

The subject matter of the Closed Meeting to be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2003 will be:

Settlement of administrative proceedings of an enforcement nature.

At times, changes in Commission priorities require alterations in the scheduling of meeting items. For further information and to ascertain what, if any, matters have been added, deleted or postponed, please contact the Office of the Secretary at (202) 942-7070.

Dated: November 12, 2003.

**Jonathan G. Katz,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 03-28708 Filed 11-12-03; 3:45 pm]

**BILLING CODE 8010-01-P**

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-48755; File No. PCAOB-2003-04]

### Public Company Accounting Oversight Board; Order Approving Proposed Code of Ethics

November 7, 2003.

#### I. Introduction

On July 11, 2003, the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (the "Board" or the "PCAOB") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") proposed rule PCAOB-2003-04 pursuant to Section 101 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (the "Act")<sup>1</sup>, relating to the establishment of an ethics code. Notice of the proposed rule was published in the **Federal Register** on September 26, 2003.<sup>2</sup> The Commission received no comment letters. For the reasons discussed below, the Commission is granting approval of the proposed rule.

#### II. Description

Section 101(g)(3) of the Act directs the PCAOB to establish ethics rules and standards of conduct for Board members and staff. The Act required that this code include a one-year bar on practice before the Board (and the Commission, with respect to Board-related matters) for former members of the Board, and a bar for former staff that was not to exceed one year.

In furtherance of this provision, the PCAOB issued a proposed ethics code for public comment on April 18, 2003. In response to comments received, the PCAOB adopted a proposed ethics code

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 7201, *et seq.*

<sup>2</sup> Release No. 34-48506 (September 22, 2003); 68 FR 55673 (September 26, 2003).

on June 30, 2003 and filed it with the Commission's Office of the Secretary on July 11, 2003. Pursuant to the requirements of section 107(b) of the Act and section 19(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"), the Commission published the proposed ethics code for public comment on September 26, 2003.

The PCAOB's proposed ethics code consists of 14 sections (EC 1 through EC 14) that establish rules governing the conduct of PCOAB members, employees and certain contractors and consultants. The code, among other things, adopts a set of basic principles, clarifies who is covered by which provisions, establishes permitted and prohibited financial and employment interests, requires certain financial disclosures, restricts certain outside activities, limits the gifts that may be received by members and employees, employs a reasonable person standard for analyzing disqualification issues, maintains a permanent ban on the release of non-public information, establishes the position of an Ethics Officer to counsel and provide interpretations of the code, addresses the conflict-of-interest issues relating to seeking other employment, imposes a post-employment restriction on former members and staff with respect to practicing before the Board (or the Commission with respect to Board-related matters) with respect to particular matters involving specific parties that the former member or staff person had worked on at the Board, provides that waivers of the ethics code will be made public (subject to the protection of certain information on privacy grounds), and requires an annual certification of compliance with the Code's provisions.

### III. Discussion

The Commission received no public comments regarding the PCAOB's proposed ethics code. Section 101 of the Act directs the PCAOB to establish ethics rules and standards of conduct for Board members and staff. The proposed ethics code addresses all of the essential elements of an effective ethics code, including standards on financial and personal conflicts, protection of non-public information, acceptance of gifts, outside activities, waivers of the code, and restrictions on seeking other employment, and post-Board employment activities.

### IV. Conclusion

On the basis of the foregoing, the Commission finds that the proposed ethics code is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the

securities laws and is necessary and appropriate in the public interest and for the protection of investors.

*It is therefore ordered*, pursuant to section 107 of the Act and section 19(b)(2) of the Exchange Act, that the proposed ethics code (File No. PCAOB-2003-04) be and hereby is approved.

By the Commission.

**J. Lynn Taylor,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 03-28474 Filed 11-13-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-48749; File No. SR-NYSE-2003-24]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; New York Stock Exchange, Inc.; Order Granting Approval of Proposed Rule Change and Amendment No.1 Thereto To Reduce Initial and Annual Branch Office Registration Fees, Retroactive to January 1, 2003, Charged to Member Organizations With More Than One Thousand Branch Offices

November 6, 2003.

On August 21, 2003, the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. ("NYSE" or the "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1)<sup>1</sup> of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act") and Rule 19b-4<sup>2</sup> thereunder, a proposed rule change to reduce branch office fees charged to member organizations with more than one thousand branch offices, retroactive to January 1, 2003. On September 8, 2003, the Exchange amended the proposal.<sup>3</sup> The proposed rule change, as amended, was published for notice and comment in the **Federal Register** on October 3, 2003.<sup>4</sup> The Commission did not receive any comment letters on the proposed rule change.

The Commission finds that the proposed rule change, as amended, is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to a national securities exchange.<sup>5</sup> In particular, the Commission finds that the proposed

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

<sup>3</sup> See letter from Darla C. Stuckey, Secretary, NYSE, to Nancy J. Sanow, Assistant Director, Division of Market Regulation, Commission, dated September 5, 2003 ("Amendment No. 1").

<sup>4</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 48547 (September 25, 2003), 68 FR 57497 (October 3, 2003).

<sup>5</sup> In approving this proposal, the Commission has considered its impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

rule change is consistent with section 6(b)(4) of the Act, which requires that the rules of an exchange provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its members and issuers and other persons using its facilities.<sup>6</sup> The Commission notes that the proposed rule change will not impose any additional charges on members, but will rather refund a portion of the fees paid by members having more than one thousand offices since January 1, 2003, as well as reduce their prospective fees. The Commission further notes that the Exchange has represented that it filed this proposal in response to member organization concerns that the current branch fee schedule is unduly burdensome for certain business models.

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to section 19(b)(2) of the Act,<sup>7</sup> that the proposed rule change (SR-NYSE-2003-24), as amended by Amendment No. 1, is hereby approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>8</sup>

**J. Lynn Taylor,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 03-28475 Filed 11-13-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Highway Administration

#### Environmental Impact Statement: Bartow County, GA

**AGENCY:** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that a supplemental draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for the proposed new location extension of US 411 in Bartow County, Georgia.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robert M. Callan, P.E., Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, 61 Forsyth Street, SW., Suite 17T100, Atlanta, GA 30303-3104, Telephone (404) 562-3630 and/or Mr. Harvey Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer, Georgia Department of Transportation, Office of Environmental/Location, 3993 Aviation Circle, Atlanta, Georgia 30336, Telephone (404) 699-4400.

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

<sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

<sup>8</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).