

maintained will not include the applicant's name or other identifier. Completion of one form will be

requested of each respondent. Completion is voluntary.

Estimate of Annual Respondent Burden

The estimated annual respondent burden is as follows:

Form No.	Annual responses	Time (min)	Burden (hrs)
EEO-44	800	5	67

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information or to obtain a copy of the information collection justification, form, and/or supporting material, please call the RRB Clearance Officer at (312) 751-3363 or send an e-mail request to Charles.Mierzwa@RRB.GOV. Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Ronald J. Hodapp, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 N. Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092 or send an e-mail to Ronald.Hodapp@RRB.GOV. Comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Charles Mierzwa,
Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 05-17388 Filed 8-31-05; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available

From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

Extension:

Rule 17f-5; SEC File No. 270-259; OMB Control No. 3235-0269.
Rule 17f-7; SEC File No. 270-470; OMB Control No. 3235-0529.
Form N-17D-1; SEC File No. 270-231; OMB Control No. 3235-0229.
Rule 19b-1; SEC File No. 270-312; OMB Control No. 3235-0354.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") requests for extension of the previously approved collections of information discussed below.

Rule 17f-5. Rule 17f-5 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 [15 U.S.C. 80a] ("Investment Company Act" or "Act") governs the custody of the assets of registered management investment companies ("funds") with

custodians outside the United States.¹ Under rule 17f-5, the fund's board of directors must find that it is reasonable to rely on each delegate it selects to act as the fund's foreign custody manager. The delegate must agree to provide written reports that notify the board when the fund's assets are placed with a foreign custodian and when any material change occurs in the fund's custody arrangements. The delegate must agree to exercise reasonable care, prudence, and diligence, or to adhere to a higher standard of care. When the foreign custody manager selects an eligible foreign custodian, it must determine that the fund's assets will be subject to reasonable care if maintained with that custodian, and that the written contract that governs each custody arrangement will provide reasonable care for fund assets. The contract must contain certain specified provisions or others that provide at least equivalent care. The foreign custody manager must establish a system to monitor the contract and the appropriateness of continuing to maintain assets with the eligible foreign custodian.

The collection of information requirements in rule 17f-5 are intended to provide protection for fund assets maintained with a foreign bank custodian whose use is not authorized by statutory provisions that govern fund custody arrangements,² and that is not subject to regulation and examination by U.S. regulators. The requirement that the fund board determine that it is reasonable to rely on each delegate is intended to ensure that the board carefully considers each delegate's qualifications to perform its responsibilities. The requirement that the delegate provide written reports to the board is intended to ensure that the delegate notifies the board of important developments concerning custody arrangements so that the board may exercise effective oversight. The requirement that the delegate agree to exercise reasonable care is intended to

provide assurances to the fund that the delegate will properly perform its duties.

The requirements that the foreign custody manager determine that fund assets will be subject to reasonable care with the eligible foreign custodian and under the custody contract, and that each contract contain specified provisions or equivalent provisions, are intended to ensure that the delegate has evaluated the level of care provided by the custodian, that it weighs the adequacy of contractual provisions, and that fund assets are protected by minimal contractual safeguards. The requirement that the foreign custody manager establish a monitoring system is intended to ensure that the manager periodically reviews each custody arrangement and takes appropriate action if developing custody risks may threaten fund assets.

The Commission's staff estimates that each year, approximately 207 registrants³ could be required to make an average of one response per registrant under rule 17f-5, requiring approximately 2 hours of director time per response, to make the necessary findings concerning foreign custody managers. The total annual burden associated with these requirements of the rule would be up to approximately 414 hours (207 registrants × 2 hours per registrant). The staff further estimates that during each year, approximately 15 global custodians⁴ would be required to make an average of 4 responses per custodian concerning the use of foreign custodians other than depositories. The staff estimates that each response would take approximately 275 hours, requiring approximately 1100 total hours annually per custodian. The total annual burden associated with these requirements of the rule would be approximately 16,500 hours (15 global

³ This figure is an estimate of the number of new funds each year, based on data reported by funds in 2004 on Form N-1A and Form N-2 [17 CFR 274.101]. In practice, not all funds will use foreign custody managers, and the actual figure may be smaller.

⁴ This estimate is the same used in connection with the adoption of the amendments to rule 17f-5 and of rule 17f-7 in 1999, based on staff review of custody contracts and other research. The number of global custodians has not changed significantly since 1999.

¹ 17 CFR 270.17f-5. All references to rules 17f-5, 17f-7, 17d-1, or 19b-1 in this notice are to 17 CFR 270.17f-5, 17 CFR 270.17f-7, 17 CFR 270.17d-1, and 17 CFR 270.19b-1, respectively.

² See section 17(f) of the Investment Company Act [15 U.S.C. 80a-17(f)].

custodians $\times$ 1100 hours per custodian). Therefore, the total annual burden of all collection of information requirements of rule 17f-5 is estimated to be up to 16,914 hours (414 + 16,500). The total annual cost of burden hours is estimated to be \$1,032,000 (414 hours $\times$ \$500/hour for director time, plus 16,500 hours $\times$ \$50/hour of professional time). Compliance with the collection of information requirements of the rule is necessary to obtain the benefit of relying on the rule's permission for funds to maintain their assets in foreign custodians.

Rule 17f-7. Rule 17f-7 permits funds to maintain their assets in foreign securities depositories based on conditions that reflect the operations and role of these depositories.⁵ Rule 17f-7 contains some "collection of information" requirements. An eligible securities depository has to meet minimum standards for a depository. The fund or its investment adviser generally determines whether the depository complies with those requirements based on information provided by the fund's primary custodian (a bank that acts as global custodian). The depository custody arrangement has to meet certain risk limiting requirements. The fund can obtain indemnification or insurance arrangements that adequately protect the fund against custody risks. The fund or its investment adviser generally determines whether indemnification or insurance provisions are adequate. If the fund does not rely on indemnification or insurance, the fund's contract with its primary custodian is required to state that the custodian will provide to the fund or its investment adviser a custody risk analysis of each depository, monitor risks on a continuous basis, and promptly notify the fund or its adviser of material changes in risks. The primary custodian and other custodians also are required to agree to exercise reasonable care.

The collection of information requirements in rule 17f-7 are intended to provide workable standards that protect funds from the risks of using securities depositories while assigning appropriate responsibilities to the fund's primary custodian and investment adviser based on their capabilities. The requirement that the depository meet specified minimum standards is intended to ensure that the depository is subject to basic safeguards deemed appropriate for all depositories.

The requirement that the custody contract state that the fund's primary custodian will provide an analysis of the custody risks of depository arrangements, monitor the risks, and report on material changes is intended to provide essential information about custody risks to the fund's investment adviser as necessary for it to approve the continued use of the depository. The requirement that the primary custodian agree to exercise reasonable care is intended to provide assurances that its services and the information it provides will meet an appropriate standard of care. The alternative requirement that the fund obtain adequate indemnification or insurance against the custody risks of depository arrangements is intended to provide another, potentially less burdensome means to protect assets held in depository arrangements.

The staff estimates that each of approximately 980 investment advisers⁶ would make an average of 4 responses annually under the rule to address depository compliance with minimum requirements, any indemnification or insurance arrangements, and reviews of risk analyses or notifications. The staff estimates each response would take 5 hours, requiring a total of approximately 20 hours for each adviser. The total annual burden associated with these requirements of the rule would be approximately 19,600 hours (980 advisers $\times$ 20 hours per adviser). The staff further estimates that during each year, each of approximately 15 global custodians would make an average of 4 responses to analyze custody risks and provide notice of any material changes to custody risk under the rule. The staff estimates that each response would take 500 hours, requiring approximately 2,000 hours annually per custodian.⁷ The total annual burden associated with these requirements of the new rule would be approximately 30,000 hours (15 custodians $\times$ 2,000 hours). Therefore, the staff estimates that the total annual burden associated with all collection of information requirements of the rule would be 49,600 hours (19,600 + 30,000). The total annual cost of burden hours is estimated to be \$2,480,000 (49,600 hours $\times$ \$50/hour of professional time). The estimate of average burden hours is made solely for the purposes of the Paperwork

Reduction Act. The estimate is not derived from a comprehensive or even a representative survey or study of the costs of Commission rules and forms. Compliance with the collection of information requirements of the rule is necessary to obtain the benefit of relying on the rule's permission for funds to maintain their assets in foreign custodians.

Form N-17D-1. Section 17(d) [15 U.S.C. 80a-17(d)] of the Investment Company Act authorizes the Commission to adopt rules that protect funds and their security holders from overreaching by affiliated persons when the fund and the affiliated person participate in any joint enterprise or other joint arrangement or profit-sharing plan. Rule 17d-1 under the Act prohibits funds and their affiliated persons from participating in a joint enterprise, unless an application regarding the transaction has been filed with and approved by the Commission. Subparagraph (d)(3) of the rule provides an exemption from this requirement for any loan or advance of credit to, or acquisition of securities or other property of, a small business concern, or any agreement to do any of the foregoing ("investments") made by a small business investment company ("SBIC") and an affiliated bank, provided that reports about the investments are made on forms the Commission may prescribe. Rule 17d-2 designates Form N-17D-1 ("form") as the form for reports required by rule 17d-1(3).

SBIC's and their affiliated banks use form N-17D-1 to report any contemporaneous investments in a small business concern. The form provides shareholders and persons seeking to make an informed decision about investing in an SBIC an opportunity to learn about transactions of the SBIC that have the potential for self dealing and other forms of overreaching by affiliated persons at the expense of shareholders.

Form N-17D-1 requires SBICs and their affiliated banks to report identifying information about the small business concern and the affiliated bank. The report must include, among other things, the SBIC's and affiliated bank's outstanding investments in the small business concern, the use of the proceeds of the investments made during the reporting period, any changes in the nature and amount of the affiliated bank's investment, the name of any affiliated person of the SBIC or the affiliated bank (or any affiliated person of the affiliated person of the SBIC or the affiliated bank) who has any interest in the transactions, the basis of the affiliation, the nature of the interest, and

⁵ Custody of Investment Company Assets Outside the United States, Investment Company Act Release No. IC-23815 (April 29, 1999) [64 FR 24489 (May 6, 1999)].

⁶ At the start of 2005, there were more than 36,800 investment company portfolios that were managed or sponsored by more than 980 mutual fund complexes. A fund complex is a group of funds, all of which typically have the same adviser.

⁷ These estimates are based on conversations with representatives of the fund industry and global custodians.

the consideration the affiliated person has received or will receive.

Up to five SBICs may file the form in any year.⁸ The Commission estimates the burden of filling out the form is approximately one hour per response and would likely be completed by an accountant or other professional. Based on past filings, the Commission estimates that no more than one SBIC is likely to use the form each year. The estimated total annual burden of filling out the form is one hour and the total annual cost is \$53.⁹ The Commission will not keep responses on Form N-17D-1 confidential.

Rule 19b-1. Rule 19b-1 prohibits funds from distributing long-term capital gains more than once every twelve months unless certain conditions are met. Rule 19b-1(c) permits unit investment trusts ("UITs") engaged exclusively in the business of investing in certain eligible fixed-income securities to distribute long-term capital gains more than once every twelve months, if: (i) The capital gains distribution falls within one of several categories specified in the rule, and; (ii) the distribution is accompanied by a report to the unitholder that clearly describes the distribution as a capital gains distribution. The purpose of this notice requirement is to ensure that unitholders understand that the source of the distribution is long-term capital gains.

Rule 19b-1(e) permits a fund to apply for permission to distribute long-term capital gains more than once a year if the fund did not foresee the circumstances that created the need for the distribution. The application must set forth the pertinent facts and explain the circumstances that justify the distribution. An application that meets those requirements is deemed to be granted unless the Commission denies the request within 15 days after the Commission receives the application. The Commission uses the information required by rule 19b-1(e) to facilitate the processing of requests from funds for authorization to make a distribution that would not otherwise be permitted by the rule.

The staff understands that funds that file an application generally use outside counsel to prepare the 19b-1(e)

application. The staff estimates that, on average, the fund's investment adviser spends approximately four hours to review an application. The staff estimates that, on average, seven funds file an application per year under this rule for an estimated annual collection of information burden of 28 hours.

There is a cost burden associated with rule 19b-1(e). As noted above, the staff understands that funds that file for exemption under rule 19b-1(e) generally use outside counsel to prepare the exemptive application. The staff estimates that, on average, 10 hours is required to prepare a rule 19b-1(e) exemptive application by outside counsel, including 8 hours by an associate and 2 hours by a partner. The staff estimates that the average cost of outside counsel preparation of the 19b-1(e) exemptive application is \$3,500. An average of 7 funds file under 19b-1(e) for an exemptive application each year, therefore the staff estimates that the annual cost burden imposed by rule 19b-1(e) is \$24,500.

The Commission staff estimates that there is no hour burden associated with paragraph (c) of rule 19b-1. There is also a cost burden associated with rule 19b-1(c). The staff estimates that there are approximately 6,485 UITs. For purposes of this Paperwork Reduction Act analysis, the staff has assumed that each of these UITs could rely on rule 19b-1(c) to make capital gains distributions. The staff estimates that, on average, UITs rely on rule 19b-1(c) once a year to make a capital gains distribution.¹⁰ The staff estimates that a UIT incurs a cost of \$50, which is encompassed within the fee the UIT pays its trustee, to prepare a notice for a capital gains distribution under rule 19b-1(c). These notices require limited preparation, the cost of which accounts for only a small, indiscrete portion of the comprehensive fee charged by the trustee for its services to the UIT. There is no separate cost to mail the notices because they are mailed with the capital gains distribution. Thus, the staff estimates that the notice requirement imposes an annual cost on UITs of approximately \$324,250.

Based on these calculations, the total number of respondents for rule 19b-1 is estimated to be 6,492 (6485 UIT portfolios + 7 funds filing an application

under rule 19b-1(e)), the total annual hour burden is estimated to be 28 hours, and the total annual cost burden is estimated to be \$348,750. These estimates of average annual burden hours and costs are made solely for purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act. The collections of information required by 19b-1(c) and 19b-1(e) are necessary to obtain the benefits described above. Responses will not be kept confidential.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

General comments regarding the above information relating to rules 17f-5, 17f-7, or 19b-1, or Form N-17D-1 should be directed to the following persons: (i) Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10102, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or e-mail to: David_Rostker@omb.eop.gov; and (ii) R. Corey Booth, Director/Chief Information Officer, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: August 24, 2005.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. E5-4773 Filed 8-31-05; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. IC-27050]

Notice of Applications for Deregistration Under Section 8(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

August 26, 2005.

The following is a notice of applications for deregistration under section 8(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 for the month of August 2005. A copy of each application may be obtained for a fee at the SEC's Public Reference Branch (tel. 202-551-5850). An order granting each application will be issued unless the SEC orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing on any application by writing to the SEC's Secretary at the address below and serving the relevant applicant with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the SEC by 5:30

⁸ As of April 22, 2005, five SBICs were registered with the Commission.

⁹ Commission staff estimates that the annual burden would be incurred by accounting professionals with an average hourly wage rate of \$53.08 per hour. See Securities Industry Association, *Report on Management and Professional Earnings in the Securities Industry—2003* (2003) (reporting median salary paid to senior accountants outside New York).

¹⁰ The number of times a UITs may rely on the rule to make capital gains distributions depends on a wide range of factors and, thus, can vary greatly from one year to another. A number of UITs are organized as grantor trusts, and therefore do not generally make capital gains distributions under rule 19b-1(c), or may not rely on rule 19b-1(c) as they do not meet the rule's requirements. Other UITs may distribute capital gains biannually, annually, quarterly, or at other intervals.