

Commission's Regulation NMS, have spurred trading centers to become even more automated, with trading volume and intermarket competition expected to continue to increase. Although it is difficult to forecast at this time the precise effect of such changes on the Exchange generally and specialists in particular, the Commission believes that the Exchange has made a case for modifying the rules relating to Conditional Transactions in Active Securities in anticipation of such changes. At the same time, the Commission recognizes that the proposed rule change represents a significant shift in the roles and obligations of specialists at the Exchange. Therefore, the Commission has required that, for Conditional Transactions, the Exchange implement this proposed rule change only for Active Securities and only as a Pilot.

5. Other Changes

The Commission finds that the proposal to delete current NYSE Rule 104.10(9) is appropriate because it is no longer applicable given the proposed changes to the stabilization rules as described above. In addition, the Commission also believes that the deletion of section (9) is consistent with the proposed re-definition of a Sweep Transaction⁸⁵ and notes that NYSE Rule 104.10(6)(c)(III) makes clear that each specialist trade at a separate price in a Sweep is viewed as a transaction with the published bid or offer for the purposes of the transactions that require immediate re-entry pursuant to proposed NYSE Rule 104.10(6)(iv)(c).

Further, the Commission believes that retaining NYSE Rule 104.10(7) and including streetTRACKS® Gold Shares (as defined in NYSE Rule 1300) and Currency Trust Shares (as defined in NYSE Rule 1301A) are appropriate because these are derivative products in which there is limited risk for the specialist to assert price control.

C. Accelerated Approval of Amendment No. 1

The Commission finds good cause to approve Amendment No. 1 to the proposed rule change prior to the thirtieth day after Amendment No. 1 is published for comment in the **Federal Register** pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act.⁸⁶ The commenter requested that the Commission publish the Exchange's proposal as amended in Amendment No. 1 for public comment. The Commission has authority under

⁸⁵ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 54820 (November 27, 2006).

⁸⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

Section 19(b)(2) of the Act to approve the proposed rule change prior to the thirtieth day after it is published for comment.⁸⁷ The Commission notes that the Exchange's request that the Commission issue a new interpretation of the negative obligation described in Amendment No. 1 was published for a 21-day comment period in an earlier proposed rule change.⁸⁸ In that order, the Commission specifically requested comment on NYSE's request to reinterpret the negative obligation. The Commission received comment letters from the commenter himself in response to that request, which were fully considered by the Commission. Therefore, the Commission believes that the public has had appropriate notice of the Exchange's request to re-interpret the negative obligation of specialists.

The remaining modifications in Amendment No. 1 were clarifications and/or technical corrections to the originally proposed rule change. For these reasons, the Commission believes that good cause exists to accelerate approval of the proposed rule change as amended by Amendment No. 1.

VI. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,⁸⁹ that the proposed rule change (File No. SR-NYSE-2006-76), as modified by Amendment No. 1, be, and hereby is, approved, on an accelerated basis and the Pilot is approved on a temporary basis until June 30, 2007.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁹⁰

Florence E. Harmon,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. E6-20886 Filed 12-7-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 5635]

Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs; Notice of New Information Collection Under Emergency Review: Iran Democracy Program Grants Vetting; Form DS-4100, OMB Control Number 1405-xxxx

AGENCY: Department of State, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs.

⁸⁷ *Id.*

⁸⁸ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 54578 (October 5, 2006), 71 FR 60216 (October 12, 2006). See also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 54685 (November 1, 2006), 71 FR 65559 (November 8, 2006).

⁸⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

⁹⁰ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

ACTION: Notice of request for Emergency OMB approval.

SUMMARY: The Department of State has submitted the following new information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the emergency review procedures of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Type of Request: Emergency Review.

Originating Office: Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, Middle East Partnership Initiative.

Title of Information Collection: Iran Democracy Program Grants Vetting.

Frequency: On occasion.

Form Number: DS-4100.

Respondents: Potential Grantees for Iran Democracy Program.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 200.

Average Hours per Response: 1 hour per response.

Total Estimated Burden: 200 hours.

The proposed information collection is published to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies. Emergency review and approval of this collection has been requested from OMB by December 8, 2006. If granted, the emergency approval is only valid for 180 days. Comments should be directed to Katherine Astrich, State Department Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, DC 20530, who may be reached on 202-395-4718.

During the first 60 days of this same period a regular review of this information collection is also being undertaken. Comments are encouraged and will be accepted until 60 days from the date that this notice is published in the **Federal Register**. The agency requests written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information. Your comments are being solicited to permit the agency to:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility.

- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.

- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.

- Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including

through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of technology.

For Additional Information: Requests for additional information, regarding the collection listed in this notice should be directed to David Denehy, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC 20520, who may be reached on 202-647-2519, or via e-mail at DenehyDM@state.gov.

Abstract of Proposed Collection:

A critical component of the Administration's Iran policy is the support for indigenous Iranian voices calling for freedom. President Bush himself has pledged this support and the State Department has made the awarding of grants for this purpose a key component of its Iran policy. As a condition of licensing these activities, the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) has requested the Department of State to follow certain procedures to effectuate the goals of Sections 481(b), 531(a), 571, 582, and 635(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (as amended); 18 U.S.C. §§ 2339A and 2339B; Executive Order 13224; and Homeland Security Presidential Directive 6. These licensing conditions mandate that the Department conduct a vetting of potential Iran democracy grantees and sub-grantees for counter-terrorism purposes. To conduct this vetting the Department envisions collecting information from grantees and sub-grantees regarding the identity and background of their key employees and Boards of Directors.

Methodology: The State Department (Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, Bureau of Democracy Human Rights and Labor, and Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs) will collect this information via electronic submission.

Dated: December 4, 2006.

David M. Denehy,

Senior Advisor, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. E6-20917 Filed 12-7-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary of Transportation

[Docket Nos. OST-2006-26266, FHWA-2006-26270, FTA-2006-26269, RITA-2006-26271]

Applications for Urban Partnership Agreements as Part of Congestion Initiative

AGENCIES: Office of the Secretary of Transportation ("OST"), Federal

Highway Administration ("FHWA"), Federal Transit Administration ("FTA"), Research and Innovative Technology Administration ("RITA")

ACTION: Notice of solicitation for applications to enter into urban partnership agreements with the U.S. Department of Transportation.

SUMMARY: In May 2006, the U.S. Department of Transportation (the "Department") announced its *National Strategy to Reduce Congestion on America's Transportation Network* (the "Congestion Initiative"), a bold and comprehensive national program to reduce congestion on the Nation's roads, rails, runways, and waterways. One major component of the Congestion Initiative is the Urban Partnership Agreement ("UPA"). The purpose of this Notice is to solicit proposals by metropolitan areas to enter into UPAs with the Department in order to demonstrate strategies with a combined track record of effectiveness in reducing traffic congestion. To support congestion-reducing strategies adopted by the Department's urban partners ("Urban Partners"), the Department expects to utilize discretionary funding available under the Department's Intelligent Transportation System Operational Testing to Mitigate Congestion Program (the "ITS-OTMC Program"), its Value Pricing Pilot Program (the "VPP Program"), and other discretionary grant, lending and credit support programs administered by the Department. In addition, to the maximum extent possible, the Department will support its Urban Partners with regulatory flexibility and dedicated expertise and personnel.

This Notice is the first of three solicitations to be issued by the Department in connection with the Congestion Initiative. *See below*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Coordination with Other Congestion Initiative Solicitations."

The Department reserves the right to solicit, and is actively soliciting, by means other than this Notice, certain metropolitan areas that the Department has determined, on a preliminary basis, to be candidates for UPAs. Neither the procedures nor the criteria set forth in this Notice shall be binding on the Department.

DATES: Applicants wishing to become Urban Partners must submit their application on or before April 30, 2007. Applicants wishing to become Urban Partners who intend to apply for funding under the VPP and ITS-OTMC Programs must submit separate applications to the VPP and ITS-OTMC

Programs on or before April 30, 2007, in accordance with the requests for proposals for those programs to be published by the Department in the **Federal Register** this month. *See SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Coordination with Other Congestion Initiative Solicitations.* Late-filed applications for designation as an Urban Partner and for funding under the VPP and ITS-OTMC Programs will be considered to the extent practical.

ADDRESSES: Applicants wishing to become Urban Partners may send three copies of their application by U.S. Post or express mail to: Thomas M. McNamara, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room 10305 (P-20), 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Alternatively, applicants may file applications via e-mail to Thomas M. McNamara at thomas.mcnamara@dot.gov.

Only applications received via U.S. Post, express mail or e-mail, in each case as provided above, shall be deemed properly filed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Please address questions concerning this Notice to David B. Horner, Esq., Chief Counsel, Federal Transit Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, via e-mail at david.horner@dot.gov. Please address technical questions concerning project development to either Thomas M. McNamara at 202-366-4462 (or by e-mail at thomas.mcnamara@dot.gov) or Patrick DeCorla-Souza at 202-366-4076 (or by e-mail at patrick.decorla-souza@dot.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

Crisis of Congestion. Traffic congestion affects virtually every aspect of peoples' lives—where people live, where they work, where they shop, and how much they pay for goods and services. According to 2003 figures, in certain metropolitan areas the average rush hour driver loses as many as 93 hours per year to travel delay—equivalent to more than two weeks of work, amounting annually to a virtual "congestion tax" as high as \$1,598 per traveler in wasted time and fuel.¹ Nationwide, congestion imposes costs on the economy of over \$65 billion per year,² a figure that has more than doubled since 1993, and that would be even higher if it accounted for the

¹ Texas Transportation Institute ("TTI"), 2005 Urban Mobility Report, May 2005 (http://tti.tamu.edu/documents/mobility_report_2005.pdf), Tables 1 and 2.

² TTI, 2005 Urban Mobility Report, p. 1.