Postal Operators, and the related rates and classifications, respectively. In keeping with existing practice, these dockets are addressed on a consolidated basis for purposes of this Order; however, future filings should be made in the specific docket in which issues being addressed pertain.

Interested persons may submit comments on whether the Postal Service’s filings in the captioned dockets are consistent with the policies of 39 U.S.C. 3632, 3633, or 3642, 39 CFR part 3015, and 39 CFR 3020 subpart B.

Comments are due no later than August 31, 2010. The public portions of these filings can be accessed via the Commission’s Web site (http://www.prc.gov).

The Commission appoints Paul L. Harrington to serve as Public Representative in these dockets.

III. Ordering Paragraphs

It is ordered:


2. Comments by interested persons in these proceedings are due no later than August 31, 2010.

3. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505, Paul L. Harrington is appointed to serve as officer of the Commission (Public Representative) to represent the interest of the general public in these proceedings.

4. The Secretary shall arrange for publication of this order in the Federal Register.

By the Commission.

Shoshana M. Grove, Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2010–21693 Filed 8–30–10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–4R–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Investment Company Act Release No. 29399; File No. 812–13763]

The Integrity Funds, et al.; Notice of Application


AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”).

ACTION: Notice of an application under section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the “Act”) for an exemption from section 15(a) of the Act and rule 18f–2 under the Act.

SUMMARY: The requested order would permit certain registered open-end management investment companies to enter into and materially amend subadvisory agreements without shareholder approval.

APPLICANTS: The Integrity Funds (“Integrity Funds”), Integrity Managed Portfolios (“Managed Portfolios”), Integrity Fund of Funds, Inc. (“Fund of Funds”), Viking Mutual Funds (“Viking Funds”) (each, a “Mutual Fund” and collectively, the “Mutual Funds”), and Viking Fund Management, LLC (the “Adviser”).


HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING: An order granting the application will be issued unless the Commission orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing the Commission’s Secretary and serving applicants with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the Commission by 5:30 p.m. on September 20, 2010 and should be accompanied by proof of service on applicants, in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Hearing requests should state the nature of the writer’s interest, the reasons for the request, and the issues contested. Persons who wish to be notified of a hearing may request notification by writing to the Commission’s Secretary.

ADDRESS: Secretary, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549–1090.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nathan Chiles, Division of Investment Management, Office of Investment Company Regulation.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following is a summary of the application. The complete application may be obtained via the Commission’s Web site by searching for the file number, or an applicant using the Company name box, at http://www.sec.gov/search/search.htm or by calling (202) 551–8090.

Applicants’ Representations

1. Each Mutual Fund is registered under the Act as an open-end management investment company. Integrity Funds is organized as a Delaware statutory trust and currently offers three series (each, a “Fund” and collectively, the “Funds”), each with its own distinct investment objectives, policies and restrictions. Managed Portfolios is organized as a Massachusetts business trust and...
The Integrity Funds, the Adviser, or the Subadvisers

The requested relief will not extend to any Subadviser who is an affiliated person, as defined in section 2(a)(3) of the Act, of a Fund or the Adviser (other than by reason of serving as a Subadviser to one or more of the Funds). Applicants agree that any order requested in the application, the operation of the Fund in the manner described in the application will be approved by a majority of the Fund’s outstanding voting securities, as defined in the Act, or in the case of a Fund whose public shareholders purchase shares on the basis of a prospectus containing the disclosure contemplated by condition 2 below, by the initial shareholder(s) before offering shares of that Fund to the public.

1. Section 15(a) of the Act provides, in relevant part, that it is unlawful for any person to act as an investment adviser to a registered investment company except pursuant to a written contract that has been approved by the vote of a majority of the company’s outstanding voting securities. Rule 18f–2 under the Act provides that each series or class of stock in a series company affected by a matter must approve such matter if the Act requires shareholder approval.

2. Section 6(c) of the Act provides that the Commission may exempt any person, security, or transaction or any class or classes of persons, securities, or transactions from any provision of the Act, or from any rule thereunder, if and to the extent that such exemption is necessary or appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the Act. Applicants believe that the requested relief meets this standard for the reasons discussed below.

3. Applicants state that the shareholders rely on the Adviser’s experience to select one or more Subadvisers best suited to achieve the Fund’s investment objectives. Applicants assert that, from the perspective of the investor, the role of the Subadvisers is substantially equivalent to that of the individual portfolio managers employed by traditional investment company advisory firms. Applicants contend that requiring shareholder approval of Subadvisory Agreement would impose costs and unnecessary delays on the Funds and may preclude the Adviser and the Board from acting promptly when a change in Subadvisers would benefit a Fund. Applicants note that each Advisory Agreement and any Subadvisory Agreement with an Affiliated Subadviser will remain subject to the shareholder approval requirements of section 15(a) and rule 18f–2 under the Act.

Applicants’ Conditions

Applicants agree that any order granting the requested relief shall be subject to the following conditions:

1. Before a Fund may rely on the order requested in the application, the operation of the Fund in the manner described in the application will be approved by a majority of the Fund’s outstanding voting securities, as defined in the Act, or in the case of a Fund whose public shareholders purchase shares on the basis of a prospectus containing the disclosure contemplated by condition 2 below, by the initial shareholder(s) before offering shares of that Fund to the public.

2. Each Fund that relies on the requested order will disclose in its prospectus the existence, substance, and effect of any order granted pursuant to the application. In addition, each Fund will hold itself out to the public as employing the manager of managers structure described in the application. The prospectus will prominently disclose that the Adviser has the ultimate responsibility (subject to oversight by the Board) to oversee the Subadvisers and to recommend their hiring, termination and replacement.

3. At all times, at least a majority of the Board will be Independent Board Members, and the nomination of new or additional Independent Board Members will be placed within the discretion of the then-existing Independent Board Members.

4. The Adviser will not enter into a Subadvisory Agreement with any Affiliated Subadviser without that agreement, including the compensation to be paid thereunder, being approved by the shareholders of the applicable Fund.

5. When a Subadviser change is proposed for a Fund with an Affiliated Subadviser, the Board, including a majority of the Independent Board Members, will make a separate finding, reflected in the Board minutes, that the change is in the best interests of the Fund and its shareholders and does not involve a conflict of interest from which the Adviser or the Affiliated Subadviser derives an inappropriate advantage.
6. Within 90 days of the hiring of any new Subadviser, shareholders of the affected Fund will be furnished all information about the new Subadviser that would be included in a proxy statement. To meet this condition, each affected Fund will provide shareholders with an information statement meeting the requirements of Regulation 14C, Schedule 14C and Item 22 of Schedule 14A under the 1934 Act.

7. The Adviser will provide general management services to each Fund, including overall supervisory responsibility for the general management and investment of each Fund’s assets, and, subject to the review and approval by the Board, will: (i) Set each Fund’s overall investment strategies; (ii) evaluate, select and recommend Subadvisers to manage all or part of each Fund’s assets; (iii) when appropriate, allocate and reallocate each applicable Fund’s assets among multiple Subadvisers; (iv) monitor and evaluate the performance of Subadvisers; and (v) implement management procedures reasonably designed to ensure that the Subadvisers comply with each Fund’s investment objective, policies and restrictions.

8. No Board Member or officer of a Mutual Fund, or director or officer of the Adviser will own directly or indirectly (other than through a pooled investment vehicle that is not controlled by such person), any interest in a Subadviser except for: (i) Ownership of interests in the Adviser or any entity that controls, is controlled by, or under common control with the Adviser; or (ii) ownership of less than 1% of the outstanding securities of any class of equity or debt of a publicly-traded company that is either a Subadviser or an entity that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with a Subadviser.

9. In the event that the Commission adopts a rule under the Act providing substantially similar relief to that in the order requested in the application, the requested order will expire on the effective date of that rule.

For the Commission, by the Division of Investment Management, under delegated authority.

Florence E. Harmon,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2010–21625 Filed 8–30–10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
[Investment Company Act Release No. 29400; File No. 812–13775]

Aston Funds, et al.; Notice of Application

August 26, 2010.

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”).

ACTION: Notice of an application for an order under section 12(d)(1)(J) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the “Act”) for an exemption from sections 12(d)(1)(A) and (B) of the Act, under sections 6(c) and 17(b) of the Act for an exemption from sections 17(a)(1) and (2) of the Act, and under section 6(c) of the Act for an exemption from rule 12d1–2(a) under the Act.

SUMMARY: Summary of the Application: The requested order would (a) permit certain registered open-end management investment companies that operate as “funds of funds” to acquire shares of certain registered open-end management investment companies and unit investment trusts (“UITs”) that are within and outside the same group of investment companies as the acquiring investment companies, and (b) permit funds of funds relying on rule 12d1–2 under the Act to invest in certain financial instruments.

Applicants: Aston Funds (“Trust”) and Aston Asset Management, LP (“Adviser”).


Hearing or Notification of Hearing: An order granting the application will be issued unless the Commission orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the Commission’s Secretary and serving applicants with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the Commission by 5:30 p.m. on September 20, 2010, and should be accompanied by proof of service on applicants, in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Hearing requests should state the nature of the writer’s interest, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons who wish to be notified of a hearing may request notification by writing to the Commission’s Secretary.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julia Kim Gilmer, Branch Chief, at (202) 551–16821 (Division of Investment Management, Office of Investment Company Regulation).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following is a summary of the application. The complete application may be obtained via the Commission’s Web site by searching for the file number, or for an applicant using the Company name box, at http://www.sec.gov/search/search.htm, or by calling (202) 551–8090.

Applicants’ Representations

1. The Trust is an open-end management investment company registered under the Act and organized as a Delaware statutory trust. The Trust is comprised of separate series (“Funds”) that pursue distinct investment objectives and strategies. Certain Funds currently pursue their investment objectives by investing primarily in other investment companies, including exchange-traded funds, in reliance on Section 12(d)(1)(F) of the Act. The Adviser, a Delaware limited partnership, is registered as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (“Advisers Act”) and serves as investment adviser for each of the Funds.

2. Applicants request an order to permit (a) a Fund that operates as a “fund of funds” (each a “Fund of Funds”) to acquire shares of (i) registered open-end management investment companies that are not part of the same group of investment companies, “Affiliated Funds,” within the meaning of section 12(d)(1)(G)(ii) of the Act, as the Fund of Funds (“Unaffiliated Investment Companies”) and UITs that are part of the same group of investment companies as the Fund of Funds (“Unaffiliated UITs”) together with the Unaffiliated Investment Companies, “Unaffiliated Funds,” (ii) registered open-end management companies or UITs that are part of the same group of investment companies as the Fund of Funds (collectively, “Affiliated Funds,” as defined in section 12(d)(1)(G)(ii)) as the Trust (including in the term “Funds”).

1 Applicants request that the relief apply to each existing and future Fund and to each existing and future registered open-end management investment company or series thereof that is advised by the Adviser or any entity controlling, controlled by or under common control with the Adviser and which is part of the same group of investment companies (as defined in section 12(d)(1)(G)(ii)) as the Trust (including in the term “Funds”).

2 Certain of the Unaffiliated Funds may be registered under the Act as either UITs or open-end management investment companies and have received exemptive relief to permit their shares to be listed and traded on a national securities exchange at negotiated prices (“ETFs”).