

Participants to transact additional Customer orders and encourage participants in the Exchange's equity markets to also participate in the Exchange's options market.

The Exchange believes that the increased Customer rebate for market participants that add Customer liquidity of 25,000 or more contracts per day in a month, certify for the ISP and execute at least one order on NASDAQ's equity market is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory, because the increased rebate is intended to encourage increased activity in both NOM and in the ISP of the NASDAQ equity market. The goal of the ISP is to incentivize members<sup>12</sup> to provide liquidity from individual equity investors to the NASDAQ Market Center. The increased rebate would encourage firms that certify pursuant to Rule 7014 to increase the amount of Customer order liquidity to NOM. The addition of such liquidity, either through the ISP or through increased Customer order flow, would benefit all Exchange members that participate in those markets.

The Exchange operates in a highly competitive market comprised of nine U.S. options exchanges in which sophisticated and knowledgeable market participants can and do send order flow to competing exchanges if they deem fee levels at a particular exchange to be excessive or rebate opportunities to be inadequate. The Exchange believes that the proposed fee and rebate scheme are competitive and similar to other fees, rebates and tier opportunities in place on other exchanges. The Exchange believes that this competitive marketplace materially impacts the fees and rebates present on

<sup>12</sup> The Commission has expressed its concern that a significant percentage of the orders of individual investors are executed in the over-the-counter ("OTC") market, that is, not on exchange markets; and that a significant percentage of the orders of institutional investors are executed in dark pools. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 61358 (January 14, 2010), 75 FR 3594 (January 21, 2010) (Concept Release on Equity Market Structure, "Concept Release"). In the Concept Release, the Commission has recognized the strong policy preference under the Act in favor of price transparency and displayed markets. The Commission published the Concept Release to invite public comment on a wide range of market structure issues, including high frequency trading and un-displayed, or "dark," liquidity. See also Mary L. Schapiro, Strengthening Our Equity Market Structure (Speech at the Economic Club of New York, Sept. 7, 2010) ("Schapiro Speech," available on the Commission Web site) (comments of Commission Chairman on what she viewed as a troubling trend of reduced participation in the equity markets by individual investors, and that nearly 30 percent of volume in U.S.-listed equities is executed in venues that do not display their liquidity or make it generally available to the public).

the Exchange today and substantially influences the proposal set forth above.

#### *B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition*

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

#### *C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others*

No written comments were either solicited or received.

### **III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action**

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act.<sup>13</sup> At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend 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. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

### **IV. Solicitation of Comments**

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

#### *Electronic Comments*

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an email to *rule-comments@sec.gov*. Please include File Number SR-NASDAQ-2012-033 on the subject line.

#### *Paper Comments*

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NASDAQ-2012-033. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your

comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet Web site (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). 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 Web site viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NASDAQ-2012-033 and should be submitted on or before March 30, 2012.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>14</sup>

**Kevin M. O'Neill,**  
*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2012-5736 Filed 3-8-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8011-01-P**

### **SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

**[Disaster Declaration #13024]**

#### **Connecticut Disaster #CT-00027; Declaration of Economic Injury**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Small Business Administration.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This is a notice of an Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) declaration for the State of Connecticut, dated 02/29/2012.

*Incident:* Major Winter Storm.

*Incident Period:* 10/29/2011.

*Effective Date:* 02/29/2012.

*EIDL Loan Application Deadline Date:* 11/29/2012.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit completed loan applications to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

<sup>13</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

<sup>14</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** A. Escobar, Office of Disaster Assistance, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street SW., Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given that as a result of the Administrator's EIDL declaration, applications for economic injury disaster loans may be filed at the address listed above or other locally announced locations.

The following areas have been determined to be adversely affected by the disaster:

*Primary Counties:* Hartford.

*Contiguous Counties:*

Connecticut: Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London, Tolland.

Massachusetts: Hampden.

	Percent
The Interest Rates are:	
Businesses and Small Agricultural Cooperatives Without Credit Available Elsewhere ...	4.000
Non-Profit Organizations Without Credit Available Elsewhere .....	3.000

The number assigned to this disaster for economic injury is 130240.

The States which received an EIDL Declaration # are Connecticut, Massachusetts.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 59002)

Dated: February 29, 2012.

**Karen G. Mills,**  
*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 2012-5718 Filed 3-8-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8025-01-P**

## OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

### Notice of Meeting of the Industry Trade Advisory Committee on Small and Minority Business (ITAC-11)

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**ACTION:** Notice of a Partially Opened Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Industry Trade Advisory Committee on Small and Minority Business (ITAC-11) will hold a meeting on Wednesday, April 4, 2012, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The meeting will be opened to the public from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

**DATES:** The meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2012, unless otherwise notified.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Herbert C. Humphrey Building, 1401

Constitution Avenue NW., Room 1412, Washington, DC.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Laura Hellstern, DFO for ITAC-11 at (202) 482-3222, Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Agenda topics to be discussed are: U.S. Small Business Administration State Trade and Export Promotion (STEP) Grants Process.

**Christine L. Turner,**

*Assistant U.S. Trade Representative, Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement.*

[FR Doc. 2012-5791 Filed 3-8-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3190-W2-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Office of the Secretary

[Docket No. DOT-OST-2008-0244]

### Notice of Request for Renewal of a Previously Approved Collection

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of the Secretary, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU), invites public comments about our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) approval to renew a collection. Currently, there are two Short Term Loan Program (STLP) applications: the "Short Term Lending Program Application for a New Loan Guarantee" and the "Application for Loan Guarantee Renewal". This collection renewal request includes one STLP application. The revised STLP application will be used for both new loan guarantee applicants and renewal loan guarantee applicants. The revised STLP application is a single, consolidated document that is easier to read and understand for all small business applicants. The information collected in the revised STLP application will determine the applicant's eligibility and is necessary to approve or deny a loan.

**Public Comments Invited:** You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

**Authority:** The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended; and 49 CFR 1.48.

**DATES:** Written comments should be submitted by May 6, 2012.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit your comments identified by Docket Number DOT-OST-2008-0244 by any of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

- **Agency Web Site:** <http://dms.dot.gov/>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on the DOT electronic docket site.

- **Fax:** 1-202-493-2251.

- **Mail or Hand Delivery:** U.S.

Department of Transportation, Dockets Management Facility, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., West Building, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nancy Strine, Manager Financial Assistance Division, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Room W56-448, Washington, DC 20590. Phone number 202-366-5343, fax number 202-366-7228, Email address: [Nancy.Strine@dot.gov](mailto:Nancy.Strine@dot.gov). Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** Short Term Lending Program Application for a Loan Guarantee.  
**OMB Control No.:** 2105-0555.

**Background:** OSDBU's Short Term Lending Program (STLP) offers certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) and other certified Small Businesses (8a, women-owned, small disadvantaged, HUBZone, veteran owned, and service disabled veteran owned) the opportunity to obtain short term working capital at variable interest rates for transportation-related projects. The STLP provides Participating Lenders (PLs) a guarantee, up to 75%, on a revolving line of credit up to a \$750,000 maximum. These loans are provided through lenders that serve as STLP Participating Lenders (PLs). The term on the line of credit is up to one (1) year, which may be renewed for five (5) years. A potential or renewal STLP participant must submit a guaranteed loan application package. The guaranteed loan application includes the STLP application, checklist, and instructions.

**Respondents:** Certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) and other certified Small Businesses (8a, women-owned, small disadvantaged, HUBZone, veteran owned, and service disabled veteran owned) interested in financing their transportation-related contracts.

**DOT Form 2301-1(REV.1): Short Term Lending Program Application for**