

protection by making available, via BrokerCheck, information regarding the professional background, business practices, and conduct of firms and associated persons that were members solely of a national securities exchange. Making this information available via BrokerCheck harmonizes the disclosure across the securities industry. The information is relevant to investors and members of the public who wish to educate themselves with respect to a firm or the professional history of a current or formerly associated person of a CRD Exchange. Further, the public's ability to access information regarding a firm or current or former associated person, whether the individual is or was associated with FINRA or with any national securities exchange that uses CRD for registration purposes, may serve to protect investors, the integrity of the marketplace, and the public interest. The Commission urges the public to utilize BrokerCheck as well as all other sources of information, particularly the databases of the state regulators, as well as legal search engines, and records searches, to conduct a thorough search of a firm or any associated person's activities.

Furthermore, the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(i)(1) of the Act,¹⁶ which require, among other things, that FINRA maintain a toll-free telephone listing and a readily accessible electronic or other process to receive and promptly respond to inquiries regarding registration information on CRD Exchange members and their associated persons. The proposed amendments require FINRA to release information through BrokerCheck about CRD Exchange members and their associated persons,¹⁷ harmonizing the information available about broker-dealers and their associated persons across the industry.

Finally, the Commission reiterates the need for FINRA to continuously strive to improve BrokerCheck to enhance its value as a tool for the public to use in deciding whether to work with a firm or a particular associated person.¹⁸ The suggestions for enhancement made by the commenter while outside the scope of this proposal should be considered.

IV. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,¹⁹ that the

¹⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(i)(1).

¹⁷ See Section 15A(i) of the Act.

¹⁸ See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 59916 (May 13, 2009), 74 FR 23750 (May 20, 2009) and 62476 (July 8, 2010), 75 FR 41254 (July 15, 2010).

¹⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

proposed rule change (SR-FINRA-2013-047), be, and hereby is, approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.²⁰

Lynn M. Powalski,

Deputy Secretary.

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BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Disaster Declaration #13839 and #13840]

Texas Disaster #TX-00418

AGENCY: U.S. Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is a Notice of the Presidential declaration of a major disaster for Public Assistance Only for the State of Texas (FEMA-4159-DR), dated 12/20/2013.

Incident: Severe Storms and Flooding.
Incident Period: 10/30/2013 through 10/31/2013.

Effective Date: 12/20/2013.

Physical Loan Application Deadline Date: 02/18/2014.

Economic Injury (EIDL) Loan Application Deadline Date: 09/22/2014.

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

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 President's major disaster declaration on 12/20/2013, Private Non-Profit organizations that provide essential services of governmental nature may file disaster loan applications 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:

Caldwell, Hays, Travis.
The Interest Rates are:

	Percent
<i>For Physical Damage:</i>	
Non-Profit Organizations With Credit Available Elsewhere	2.625
Non-Profit Organizations Without Credit Available Elsewhere	2.625

²⁰ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

	Percent
<i>For Economic Injury:</i>	
Non-Profit Organizations Without Credit Available Elsewhere	2.625

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 138396 and or economic injury is 138406.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers 59002 and 59008)

James E. Rivera,

Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

2014 Special 301 Review: Identification of Countries Under Section 182 of the Trade Act of 1974: Request for Public Comment and Announcement of Public Hearing

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Request for written submissions from the public and announcement of public hearing.

SUMMARY: Section 182 of the Trade Act of 1974 (Trade Act) (19 U.S.C. 2242) requires the United States Trade Representative (Trade Representative) to identify countries that deny adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights (IPR) or deny fair and equitable market access to U.S. persons who rely on intellectual property protection. The provisions of Section 182 are commonly referred to as the "Special 301" provisions of the Trade Act. The Trade Act requires the Trade Representative to determine which, if any, of these countries to identify as Priority Foreign Countries. Acts, policies, or practices that are the basis of a country's identification as a Priority Foreign Country can be subject to the procedures set out in sections 301-305 of the Trade Act.

In addition, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) has created a "Priority Watch List" and "Watch List" to assist the Administration in pursuing the goals of the Special 301 provisions. Placement of a trading partner on the Priority Watch List or Watch List indicates that particular problems exist in that country with respect to IPR protection, enforcement, or market access for persons that rely on intellectual property protection. Trading partners