

responded to relevant concerns in Dr. Penn's letter of March 25, 1999. The responses indicate that testing and evaluations of the core shroud by NMPC and its contractors can be relied upon by the NRC with reasonable assurance as to their accuracy. Therefore, the issues in Dr. Penn's letters do not provide a sufficient basis to warrant suspension of the NMP1 operating license.

2. The bow spring modification to each of the four tie rod assemblies replaces the design function of the failed cap screw and other cap screws that have the potential for future failure. By letter dated May 28, 1999, NMPC confirmed that no additional modifications are needed other than the bow spring modification addressed in the letter of May 21, 1999. The function of the tie rod bow spring does not affect the tie rod's function of maintaining a predetermined compressive force ("preload") on the shroud during power operation. In response to NMPC's letter dated May 21, 1999, the NRC staff reviewed and approved the modifications as an alternative repair pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i) by letter dated June 7, 1999, and NMPC has implemented these modifications. With the NRC staff's review and approval of this modification, the NRC staff finds no basis to consider enforcement action to suspend the operating license.

3. During the current refueling outage, NMPC has implemented preemptive repairs of shroud vertical welds V9 and V10, as approved by the NRC staff in a letter dated April 30, 1999. These repairs mechanically restore the vertical welds. NMPC has also verbally informed the NRC that the 1997 modifications to the tie rod assemblies have performed satisfactorily and that the tie rod assemblies have applied the appropriate preload on the shroud throughout the last operating cycle. Since vertical welds V9 and V10 have been restored and the tie rods are satisfactorily performing their preload

function, the need for NRC staff review of reinspection data before restart is obviated.

4. NMPC will provide reinspection results and analyses to disposition these reinspection findings to the NRC within 30 days of completing the reinspection. This schedule is consistent with the guidelines established by the Boiling Water Reactor Vessel and Internals Project in its report BWRVIP-01, "BWR Core Shroud Inspection and Flaw Evaluation Guidelines," which the NRC staff reviewed and accepted by letter dated September 25, 1994. The NRC staff, noting the results of inspections to date and that NMPC has followed the BWRVIP generic criteria for inspection, evaluation, and repair, does not believe a public meeting is warranted prior to restart. Also, during telephone discussions with the NRC, NMPC has indicated that a meeting on reinspection results before restart would require significant participation and preparation by NMPC, involving some of the same key employees and contractors involved in outage activities. The NRC staff recognizes the value of public meetings, and to this end, a routinely scheduled meeting to discuss recent plant performance at the NMP site is planned for August 1999. This meeting will discuss a variety of topics related to licensee performance. A brief discussion on the NMP1 core shroud activities will be one of the agenda topics.

The remaining issues in the Petition are being treated pursuant to 10 CFR 2.206 of the Commission's regulations and have been referred to the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. As provided by Section 2.206, appropriate action will be taken on this Petition within a reasonable time.

By letter dated June 11, 1999, the Director acknowledged receipt of the Petition. A copy of the Petition is available for inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room

at 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20555-0001.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 11th day of June 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Roy P. Zimmerman,**

*Acting Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 99-15414 Filed 6-16-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

## POSTAL RATE COMMISSION

### Sunshine Act Meeting

**NAME OF AGENCY:** Postal Rate Commission.

**TIME AND DATE:** 9:30 a.m., July 19, 1999.

**PLACE:** Commission Conference Room, 1333 H Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20268-0001.

**STATUS:** Open.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:** To discuss and vote on the Postal Rate Commission Budget for FY 2000 and election of a Vice Chairman.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Margaret P. Crenshaw, Secretary, Postal Rate Commission, Suite 300, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20268-0001, (202) 789-6840.

Dated: June 15, 1999.

**Margaret P. Crenshaw,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-15528 Filed 6-15-99; 12:57 pm]

BILLING CODE 7710-FW-M

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Proposed Collection, Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.  
Extension:

Rule 15b6-1; Form BDW .....	SEC File No. 270-17 .....	OMB Control No. 3235-0018.
Rule 15Ba2-5 .....	SEC File No. 270-91 .....	OMB Control No. 3235-0088.
Rule 15c1-5 .....	SEC File No. 270-422 .....	OMB Control No. 3235-0471.
Rule 15c1-6 .....	SEC File No. 270-423 .....	OMB Control No. 3235-0472.
Rule 15c3-1 .....	SEC File No. 270-197 .....	OMB Control No. 3235-0200.
Rule 17Ad-3(b) .....	SEC File No. 270-424 .....	OMB Control No. 3235-0473.
Rule 17Ad-17 .....	SEC File No. 270-412 .....	OMB Control No. 3235-0469.
Rule 17a-10 .....	SEC File No. 270-154 .....	OMB Control No. 3235-0122.
Rule 17f-2(c) .....	SEC File No. 270-35 .....	OMB Control No. 3235-029.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is soliciting comments on the collection of information

summarized below. The Commission plans to submit these existing collections of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Form BDW is used by broker-dealers to withdraw from registration with the Commission, the self-regulatory organizations, and the states. It is estimated that approximately 900 broker-dealers annually will incur an

average burden of 15 minutes, or 0.25 hours, to file for withdrawal on Form BDW via the internet with Web CRD, a computer system operated by the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. that maintains information regarding broker-dealers and their registered personnel. The annualized compliance burden per year is 225 hours ( $900 \times 25 = 225$  hours). The annualized cost to respondents, utilizing staff at an estimated cost of \$35 per hour, would be \$7,875 ( $225 \times \$35 = \$7,875$ ).

Rule 15Ba2-5 permits a duly appointed fiduciary to assume immediate responsibility for the operation of a municipal securities dealer's business. Without the rule, the fiduciary would not be able to assume operation until it registered as a municipal securities dealer. Under the rule, the registration of a municipal securities dealer is deemed to be the registration of any executor, guardian, conservator, assignee for the benefit of creditors, receiver, trustee in insolvency or bankruptcy, or other fiduciary appointed or qualified by order, judgment, or decree of a court of competent jurisdiction to continue the business of such municipal securities dealer, provided that the fiduciary files with the Commission, within 30 days after entering upon the performance of its duties, a statement setting forth substantially the same information required by Form MSD or Form BD. That statement is necessary to ensure that the Commission and the public have adequate information about the fiduciary.

There is approximately one respondent per year that requires an aggregate total of 4 hours to comply with this rule. This respondent makes an estimated one annual response. Each response takes approximately 4 hours to complete. Thus, the total compliance burden per year is 4 burden hours. The approximate cost per hour is \$20, resulting in a total cost of compliance for the respondent of \$80 (i.e., 4 hours  $\times$  \$20).

Rule 15c1-5 states that any broker-dealer controlled by, controlling, or under common control with the issuer of a security that the broker-dealer is trying to sell to or buy from a customer must give the customer written notification disclosing the control relationship at or before completion of the transaction. The Commission estimates that 390 respondents collect information annually under Rule 15c1-5 and that approximately 3,900 hours would be required annually for these collections. The approximate cost per hour is \$100, resulting in a total cost of

compliance for the respondents of \$390,000 (3,900 hours @ \$100).

Rule 15c1-6 states that any broker-dealer trying to sell to or buy from a customer a security in a primary or secondary distribution in which the broker-dealer is participating or is otherwise financially interested must give the customer written notification of the broker-dealer's participation or interest at or before completion of the transaction. The Commission estimates that 780 respondents collect information annually under Rule 15c1-6 and that approximately 7,800 hours would be required annually for these collections. The approximate cost per hour is \$100, resulting in a total cost of compliance for the respondents of \$780,000 (8,800 hours @ \$100).

Rule 15c3-1 requires brokers and dealers to have at all times sufficient liquid assets to meet their current liabilities, particularly the claims of customers. The rule facilitates monitoring the financial condition of brokers and dealers by the Commission and the various self-regulatory organizations. It is estimated that approximately 8,500 active broker-dealer respondents registered with the Commission incur an aggregate burden of 950 hours per year to comply with this rule.

Rule 17Ad-3(b) requires registered transfer agents which for each of two consecutive months have failed to turnaround at least 75% of all routine items in accordance with the requirements of Rule 17Ad-2(a) or to process at least 75% of all routine items in accordance with the requirements of Rule 17Ad-2(a) to send to the chief executive officer of each issuer for which such registered transfer agent acts a copy of the written notice required under Rule 17Ad-2(c), (d), and (h). The issuer may use the information contained in the notices in several ways: (1) to provide an early warning to the issuer of the transfer agent's and (2) to assure that issuers are aware of certain problems and poor performances with respect to the transfer agents that are servicing the issuer's securities. If the issuer does not receive notice of a registered transfer agent's failure to comply with the Commission's minimum performance standards then the issuer will be unable to take remedial action to correct the problem or to find another registered transfer agent. Pursuant to Rule 17Ad-3(b), a transfer agent that has already filed a Notice of Non-Compliance with the Commission pursuant to Rule 17Ad-2 will only be required to send a copy of that notice to issuers for which it acts when that transfer agent fails to

turnaround 75% of all routine items or to process 75% of all items.

The Commission estimates that the seven transfer agents that filed the Notice of Non-Compliance pursuant to Rule 17Ad-2, only two transfer agents will meet the requirements of Rule 17Ad-3(b). If a transfer agent fails to meet the minimum requirements under 17Ad-3(b), such transfer agent is simply sending a copy of a form that had already been produced for the Commission. The Commission estimates a requirement will take each respondent approximately one hour to complete, for a total annual estimate burden of two hours at cost of approximately \$60.00 for each hour.

Rule 17Ad-17 requires approximately 1,500 registered transfer agents to conduct searches using third party database vendors to attempt to locate lost securityholders. These recordkeeping requirements assist the Commission and other regulatory agencies with monitoring transfer agents and ensuring compliance with the rule.

The staff estimates that the average number of hours necessary for each transfer agent to comply with Rule 17Ad-17 is five hours annually. The total burden is 7,500 hours annually for all transfer agents. The cost of compliance for each individual transfer agent depends on the number of lost accounts at each transfer agent. Based on information received from transfer agents, we estimate that the annual cost industry wide is \$5.2 million.

Rule 17a-10 requires broker-dealers that are exempted from the filing requirements of paragraph (a) of Rule 17s-5 to file with the Commission an annual statement of income (loss) and balance sheet. It is anticipated that approximately 350 broker-dealers will spend 12 hours per year comply with Rule 17a-10. The total burden is estimated to be approximately 4,200 hours. Each broker-dealer will spend approximately \$1,200.00 per response for a total annual expense for all broker-dealers of \$420,000.

Rule 17f-2(c) allows persons required to be fingerprinted pursuant to Section 17(f)(2) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to submit their fingerprints through a national securities exchange or a national securities association in accordance with a plan submitted to and approved by the Commission. The plan or information is collected from the exchange or national securities association only once.

Because the Federal Bureau of Investigation will not accept fingerprint cards directly from submitting organizations, Commission approval of plans from certain exchanges and

national securities associations is essential to the Congressional goal of fingerprint personnel in the security industry. The filing of these plans for review assures users and their personnel that fingerprint cards will be handled responsibly and with due care for confidentiality.

To date, plans have been approved for seven exchanges and one national securities associations: the American Stock Exchange, the Boston Stock Exchange, the Chicago Stock Exchange, the New York Stock Exchange, the Pacific Stock Exchange, the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, and the Chicago Board Options Exchange, and for the National Association of Securities Dealers (collectively the "SROs"). For the SROs that have already submitted their fingerprint plans to the Commission, there is no requirement for them with approved plans to submit subsequent filings to the

Commission and, therefore, there is no continuing annual reporting or recordkeeping burden.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimates of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

Please direct your written comments to Michael E. Bartell, Associate Executive Director, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 5th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549.

Dated: June 9, 1999.

**Margaret H. McFarland,**  
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-15346 Filed 6-16-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

Extension:

Rule 11Ac1-1 .....	SEC File No. 270-404 .....	OMB Control No. 3235-0461.
Rule 12d2-1 .....	SEC File No. 270-98 .....	OMB Control No. 3235-0081.
Rule 12d2-2 .....	SEC File No. 270-86 .....	OMB Control No. 3235-0080.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 USC 3501 *et seq.*) the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is soliciting comments on the collections of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit these existing collections of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Rule 11Ac1-1, Dissemination of Quotations, contains two related collections of information necessary to disseminate market makers' published quotations to buy and sell securities to the public. The first collection of information is found in Rule 11Ac1-1(c), 17 CFR 240.11Ac1-1(c). This reporting requirement obligates each "responsible broker or dealer," as defined under the rule, to communicate to its exchange or association its best bids, best offers, and quotation sizes for any subject security, as defined under the rule. The second collection of information is found in Rule 11Ac1-1(b), 17 CFR 240.11Ac1-1(b). This reporting requirement obligates each exchange and association to make available to quotation vendors for dissemination to the public the best bid, best offer, and aggregate quotation size for each subject security.<sup>1</sup> Brokers,

dealers, other market participants, and members of the public rely on published quotation information to determine the best price and market for execution of customer orders.

It is anticipated that 721 respondents, consisting of 180 exchange specialists and 541 OTC market makers, will make 246,788,000 total annual responses pursuant to Rule 11Ac1-1, resulting in an annual aggregate burden of approximately 205,356 hours.

Rule 12d2-1 provides the procedures by which a national securities exchange may suspend from trading a security that is listed and registered on the exchange. Under Rule 12d2-1, an exchange is permitted to suspend from trading a listed security in accordance with its rules, and must promptly notify the Commission of any such suspension, along with the effective date and the reasons for the suspension.

Any such suspension may be continued until such time as the Commission may determine that the suspension is designed to evade the provisions of Section 12(d) of the Act

orders and the full size for such orders entered by market makers, to satisfy such market makers' reporting obligation under Rule 11Ac1-1(c). Because this reporting requirement is an alternative method of meeting the market makers' reporting obligation, and because it is directed to nine or fewer persons (ECNs), this collection of information is not subject to OMB review under the Paperwork Reduction Act.

and Rule 12d2-1 thereunder.<sup>2</sup> During the continuance of such suspension under Rule 12d2-1, the Exchange is required to notify the Commission promptly of any change in the reasons for the suspension. Upon the restoration to trading of any security suspended under Rule 12d2-1, the exchange must notify the Commission promptly of the effective date of such restoration.

Notices of suspension of trading serve a number of purposes. First, they inform the Commission that an exchange has suspended from trading a listed security or reintroduced into trading a previously suspended security. They also provide the Commission with information necessary for it to verify that the suspension has been effected in accordance with the rules of the exchange, and to determine whether the exchange has evaded the requirements of Section 12(d) of the Act and Rule 12d2-2 thereunder by improperly employing a trading suspension. Without Rule 12d2-1, the Commission would be unable to fulfill these statutory responsibilities.

There are eight national securities exchanges which are subject to Rule 12d2-1. The burden of complying with the rule is not evenly distributed among the exchanges, however, since there are many more securities listed on the New York Stock Exchange and American Stock Exchange than on the other six

<sup>1</sup> A third requirement under the Rule 11Ac1-1, as amended at 17 CFR 11Ac1-1(c)(5), gives electronic communications networks ("ECNs") the option of reporting to an exchange or association for public dissemination, on behalf of their OTC market maker or exchange specialist customers, the best priced

<sup>2</sup> Rule 12d2-2 prescribes the circumstances under which a security may be delisted, and sets forth the procedures for taking such action.