

switchman, etc.) If is accompanied by a *generic job description* for that particular railroad job. The generic job descriptions describe how these select occupations are generally performed in the railroad industry. However, not all occupations are performed the same way from railroad to railroad. Thus, the employer is given an opportunity to comment on whether the job description matches the employee's actual duties. If the employer concludes that the generic job description accurately describes the work performed by the applicant, no further action will be necessary. If the employer determines that the tasks are different, it may provide the RRB with a description of the actual job tasks. The employer has thirty days from the date the form is released to reply.

Note: The generic job descriptions were prepared and approved by a joint committee consisting of representatives of railroad and railroad management.

Proposed Form G-251b, Employer Job Information (general), is released to an employer when an application for an RRB occupational disability is filed by an employee whose regular railroad occupation does not have a generic job description. It notifies the employer that the employee has filed for a disability annuity and that, if the employer wishes, it may provide the RRB with job duty information. The type of information the RRB is seeking is outlined on the form. The employer has thirty days from the date the form is released to reply.

The RRB proposes no changes to Forms G-251a and G-251b.

The completion time for Form G-251a and G-251b is estimated at 20 minutes. Completion is voluntary. The RRB estimates that approximately 125 G-251a's and 305 G-251b's are completed annually.

Additional Information or Comments: To request more information or to obtain a copy of the information collection justification, forms, and/or supporting material, please call the RRB Clearance Officer at (312) 751-3363. Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Ronald J. Hodapp, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 N. Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Chuck Mierzwa,
Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-19095 Filed 7-28-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7905-01-M

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirement of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 which provides opportunity for public comment on new or revised data collections, the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) will publish periodic summaries of proposed data collections.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the RRB's estimate of the burden of the collection of the information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden related to the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Title and purpose of information collection: Vocational Report; OMB 3220-0141. Section 2 of the Railroad Retirement Act (RRA) provides for payment of disability annuities to qualified employees and widow(ers). The establishment of permanent disability for work in the applicants "regular occupation" or for work in any regular employment is prescribed in 20 CFR 220.12 and 220.13 respectively.

The RRB utilizes Form G-251, Vocational Report, to obtain an applicant's work history. This information is used by the RRB to determine the effect of a disability on an applicant's ability to work. Form G-251 is designed for use with the RRB's disability benefit application forms and is provided to all applicants for employee disability annuities and to those applicants for a widow(er)'s disability annuity who indicate that they have been employed at some time. Completion is required to obtain or retain a benefit. One response is requested of each respondent.

The RRB proposes non-burden impacting formatting and editorial changes to Form G-251. The completion time for Form G-251 is estimated at between thirty and 40 minutes per response. The RRB estimates that approximately 6,000 Form G-251's are completed annually.

Additional Information or Comments: To request more information or to obtain a copy of the information collection justification, forms, and/or supporting material, please call the RRB Clearance Officer at (312) 751-3363.

Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Ronald J. Hodapp, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Chuck Mierzwa,

Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-19096 Filed 7-25-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7905-01-M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-48180A; File No. PCAOB-2003-03]

Public Company Accounting Oversight Board; Order Approving Proposed Rules Relating to Registration System

July 22, 2003.

Correction

In FR Document No. 03-18497, which published on July 21, 2003, beginning on page 43244, in the last paragraph of column one, correct the file number to read (File No. PCAOB-2003-03).

Jill M. Peterson,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-19086 Filed 7-25-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-48202; File No. SR-CHX-2003-20]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of Proposed Rule Change by the Chicago Stock Exchange, Incorporated Relating to Execution of Limit Orders Following Exempted ITS Trade-Through

July 21, 2003.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on July 17, 2003, the Chicago Stock Exchange, Incorporated ("CHX" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

The proposal is intended to coincide with the Commission's extension of a *de minimis* exemption from the trade-through provisions of the Intermarket Trading System ("ITS") Plan with respect to certain transactions in the Nasdaq-100 Index ("QQQs"), the Dow Jones Industrial Average ("DIAMONDS"), and the Standard & Poor's 500 Index ("SPDRs").³ The Commission's original exemption expired on June 4, 2003. The Exchange Rule that mirrors the Commission's exemption similarly expired on June 4, 2003.⁴ The Commission recently extended the effectiveness of the exemption to March 4, 2004.⁵ In order to avoid a lapse in the effectiveness of the corresponding Exchange Rule, this order is approving the Exchange's proposal to extend the rule from June 5, 2003 until March 4, 2004.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

In response to the Commission's extension of a *de minimis* exemption for transactions in certain exchange-traded funds ("ETFs") from the trade-through provisions of the ITS Plan to March 4, 2004,⁶ the Exchange proposes to amend certain provisions of CHX Article XX, Rule 37, which governs, among other things, execution of limit orders in a CHX specialist's book following a trade-through in the primary market. Specifically, the CHX seeks to render voluntary a CHX specialist's obligation to fill limit orders in the specialist's book following a primary market trade-through, if such trade-through constitutes an Exempted Trade-Through.⁷ The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Commission and at the CHX.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the CHX included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received regarding the proposal. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item III below. The CHX has prepared summaries, set forth in Sections A, B and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

Article XX, Rules 37(a)(3) and 37(b)(6) of the CHX Rules, which govern execution of limit orders in a CHX specialist's book, provide for the execution of such orders at the limit price when certain conditions occur in the primary market. Specifically, these provisions obligate a CHX specialist to fill limit orders in his book if there is a trade-through of the limit price in the primary market.

With continued effectiveness of the ITS Exemption Order until March 4, 2004, certain primary market trade-throughs in ETFs that will trigger a CHX specialist's obligation to provide trade-through protection will constitute Exempt Trade-Throughs, and will leave the CHX specialist without recourse to seek satisfaction from the primary market. While the CHX believes that certain CHX specialists may still wish to provide trade-through protection to their limit orders for business and marketing reasons, the CHX believes that trade-through protection should no longer be mandated in the case of Exempted Trade-Throughs. The proposed rule change would continue to permit, but would not require, a CHX specialist firm to fill limit orders in his book when an Exempted Trade-Through occurs in the primary market.

2. Statutory Basis

The CHX believes the proposal is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder that are applicable to a national securities exchange, and, in particular, with the requirements of section 6(b).⁸ The CHX believes the proposal is consistent with section 6(b)(5) of the Act⁹ in that it is designed

to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to, and to perfect the mechanism of, a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any inappropriate burden on competition.

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

No written comments were either solicited or received.

III. 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. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. 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 inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the CHX. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-CHX-2003-20 and should be submitted by August 18, 2003.

IV. Discussion

After careful review, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to a national securities exchange.¹⁰ In particular, the Commission finds that the proposed rule is consistent with the requirements of section 6(b)(5) of the Act¹¹ because it is designed to facilitate transactions in securities; to remove impediments to

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 46428 (August 28, 2002), 67 FR 56607 (September 4, 2002) at 56607 ("ITS Exemption Order").

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 46760 (November 1, 2002), 67 FR 68219 (November 8, 2002)(order approving SR-CHX-2002-29).

⁵ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 47950 (May 30, 2003), 68 FR 33748 (June 5, 2003)(order extending ITS Exemption Order).

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ An Exempted Trade-Through is a trade-through in one of the three ETFs designated in the ITS Exemption Order when the transaction is executed at a price that is no more than three cents lower than the highest bid displayed in QQS and no more than three cents higher than the lowest offer displayed in QQS.

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

¹⁰ In approving this rule proposal, the Commission notes that it has also considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system; and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest; and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers or dealers.

The Commission finds good cause for approving the proposed rule change prior to the thirtieth day after the date of the publication of notice thereof in the **Federal Register**, and is granting approval retroactively to June 5, 2003, the effective date of the Commission's extension of the ITS exemption so that the proposed rule change coincides with the Commission's extension of its *de minimis* trade-through exemption for certain ITS securities. The Commission believes that by extending the Exchange's proposed exemption for its members, the Exchange removes the specialist's obligation to provide trade-through protection in situations where it will not be permitted to seek satisfaction through ITS from the primary market.

This obligation was one the CHX assumed voluntarily in order to make its market more attractive to sources of order flow, not an obligation the Act imposes on a market. The Commission believes that the business decision to potentially forego order flow by no longer providing print protection is a judgment the Act allows the CHX to make.¹²

V. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to section 19(b)(2) of the Act,¹³ that the proposed rule change (SR—CHX—2003–20) is approved on an accelerated basis and is effective retroactively to June 5, 2003.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁴

Jill M. Peterson

Assistant Secretary

[FR Doc. 03–19085 Filed 7–25–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4421]

Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs; Gulf Educational Reform Program

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Notice.

Introduction

The Office of Public Diplomacy (NEA/PD) announces an open competition for a proposal for Gulf Educational reform program in the following countries: Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, UAE, Oman and Yemen. One award will be made with this announcement.

Proposals may address any area or sector within a broad range of educational reform initiatives in the aforementioned countries, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Designing and mapping curriculum,
- Developing critical thinking skills,
- Introducing modern and innovative teaching methods to the classroom,
- Consulting on accreditation for Ministries of Education for both secondary and university-level institutions.

In order to optimize the impact of the educational reform program, initiatives should target the following groups:

- Ministry of Education supervisors and inspectors,
- Curriculum developers,
- Senior teachers and staff members from as many educational districts as possible,
- Teacher trainers.

The list is not intended to be exclusive or binding, and the office of Public Diplomacy in the bureau of Near Eastern Affairs (NEA/PD) remains open to considering a broad range of educational-related NGO activities and innovative projects designed to support and encourage educational reform in the region.

Purpose

The purpose of this agreement is educational reform in the Gulf, Chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (PL 107–206). Projects should focus on Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Yemen. Regional initiatives are encouraged where appropriate (depending on local situation/level of education system). Due to staffing constraints, Public Affairs Sections of U.S. Embassies in the region will be very limited in the assistance they can provide. Organizations should, therefore, have their own network of contacts, infrastructure and resources in-country and be prepared to carry out their programs with a minimum of official support. Public Affairs Officers will be available for consultations and program planning. NEA/PD encourages direct cooperation with Ministries of Education to ensure the successful completion of the program and to foster continuing linkages to American educational institutions.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include all non-governmental and non-profit organizations.

Legislative Authority

This program is authorized by the 2002 Supplemental Appropriations Act for Further Recovery From and Response To Terrorist Attacks on the United States. PL 107–206.

Availability of Funds

The funding level for this program is \$290,000.00. NEA/PD reserves the right to award less, or more, than the funds described, in the absence of worthy applications, or under such other circumstances as may be deemed to be in the best interest of the government. Program funds will be available until September 30, 2003.

Review Criteria

Eligible applications will be competitively evaluated according to the following criteria:

Results or Benefits Expected—The applicant clearly describes the results and benefits to be achieved. The applicant identifies how improvement will be measured on key indicators and provides milestones indicating progress. Proposed outcomes are tangible and achievable within the grant project period. (30 points)

Approach—The applicant must demonstrate that its strategy and plan are likely to achieve the proposed results; the proposed activities and timeframes are reasonable and feasible. The plan describes in detail how the proposed activities will be accomplished as well as the potential for the project to have a positive impact on the quality of education in the region. (25 points)

Organization Profiles—Where sub-contractors are proposed, the applicant describes the rationale for the collaboration, each partner agency's respective role, and how the sub-contractor will enhance the accomplishment of the project goals. In all cases, the applicant describes planning consultation efforts undertaken. The proposed sub-contractor is appropriate with respective roles and financial responsibilities delineated. Evidence of commitment by sub-contractors in implementing the activities is demonstrated, *i.e.*, by letters or the terms of the signed agreement among participants. The applicant or sub-contractor provide documented experience in performing the proposed services as well as adequate gender balance and constituent representation on the proposed project's advisory

¹² The Commission notes that the CHX's proposed rule change will remain in effect only until the expiration of the extension of Commission's ITS Exemption Order on March 4, 2004.

¹³ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(2).

¹⁴ 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12).