

include such an ROT. Because the Exchange believes it would be cumbersome and impractical for the Options Committee to meet and vote to approve the extension of a Wheel Assignment Area each time the issue arises on the Options Floor, the Options Committee has delegated its authority to approve such changes to two Exchange Floor Officials, who would indicate their approval by signing the appropriate form and submitting the form to Market Surveillance.⁹

The proposal also includes a provision that would enable a Floor Official to remove an ROT from all Wheel participation for the remainder of the trading day, and issue a fine pursuant to the fine schedule in OFPA F-24, if an ROT who is signed-on the Wheel is away from the Wheel Assignment Area for more than a brief interval. The Exchange believes that this provision substantially reduces the likelihood that an ROT would sign onto the Wheel and then leave the crowd, or even the trading floor, thereby receiving the benefit of participating as contra-side to automatically executed trades, and receiving favorable on-floor margin treatment despite the fact that such an ROT may not even be present in the crowd or on the floor.

Other technical amendments, included to make the OFPA consistent throughout, are also proposed.

2. Statutory Basis

For these reasons, the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act¹⁰ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5)¹¹ in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and protect investors and the public interest by defining "Wheel Assignment Area" to be consistent with the current physical configuration of the Exchange's Options Floor.

⁹ Exchange By-Law Article X, Section 10-3(a) provides that each Standing Committee of the Exchange (the Options Committee is a Standing Committee) shall make such regulations for its government as it shall deem proper. By-Law Article X, Section 10-3(b) provides that each Standing Committee may appoint subcommittees as it may deem necessary for the efficient discharge of its duties. Each Options Committee member is a Floor Official, as is each member of the Options Subcommittee on Rules and Rulings. For purposes of efficiency, the Options Committee has delegated authority to these Floor Officials to discharge its on-floor duties of general supervision of the dealings of members on the options floor.

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on 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 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

Within 35 days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

A. By order approve the proposed rule change, or

B. Institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be 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. 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 at the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-Phlx-2002-85 and should be submitted by September 5, 2003.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹²

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

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BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Meridian Venture Partners II, L.P., License No. 03/73-0220; Notice Seeking Exemption Under Section 312 of the Small Business Investment Act, Conflicts of Interest

Notice is hereby given that Meridian Venture Partners II, L.P., 201 King of Prussia Road, Suite 240, Radnor PA, 19087, a Federal Licensee under the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, as amended ("the Act"), in connection with the financing of a small concern, has sought an exemption under section 312 of the Act and section 107.730, Financings which Constitute Conflicts of Interest of the Small Business Administration ("SBA") rules and regulations (13 CFR 107.7301(2001)). Meridian Venture Partners II, L.P. proposes to provide equity financing to Woof & Co., 55 Carter Drive, Edison, NJ 08817 ("Woof"). The financing is contemplated for the build out of additional retail stores.

The financing is brought within the purview of Sec. 107.730(a)(1) of the Regulations because Meridian Venture Partners and MVP Distribution Partners, Associates of Meridian Venture Partners II, L.P., currently own greater than 10 percent of Woof and therefore Woof is considered an Associate of Meridian Venture Partners II, L.P., as defined in Sec. 107.50 of the regulations.

Notice is hereby given that any interested person may submit written comments on the transaction to the Associate Administrator for Investment, U. S. Small Business Administration, 409 Third Street, SW., Washington, DC 20416.

Jeffrey D. Pierson,

Associate Administrator for Investment.

[FR Doc. 03-20837 Filed 8-14-03; 8:45 am]

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster #3526]

State of Indiana; Amendment #2

In accordance with the notice received from the Department of

¹² 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

Homeland Security—Federal Emergency Management Agency, effective August 6, 2003, the above numbered declaration is hereby amended to establish the incident period for this disaster as beginning on July 4, 2003 and continuing through August 6, 2003.

All other information remains the same, *i.e.*, the deadline for filing applications for physical damage is September 9, 2003, and for economic injury the deadline is April 12, 2004.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008)

Dated: August 8, 2003.

Cheri L. Cannon,

Acting Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

[FR Doc. 03-20890 Filed 8-14-03; 8:45 am]

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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Request and Comment Request

The Social Security Administration (SSA) publishes a list of information collection packages that will require clearance by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in compliance with Public Law 104-13 effective October 1, 1995, The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The information collection packages that may be included in this notice are for new information collections, revisions to OMB-approved information collections and extensions (no change) of OMB-approved information collections.

SSA is soliciting comments on the accuracy of the agency's burden estimate; the need for the information; its practical utility; ways to enhance its quality, utility and clarity; and on ways to minimize burden on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Written comments and recommendations regarding the information collection(s) should be submitted to the OMB Desk Officer and the SSA Reports Clearance Officer. The information can be mailed and/or faxed to the individuals at the addresses and fax numbers listed below:

(OMB), Office of Management and Budget, Attn: Desk Officer for SSA, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, 725 17th St., NW., Washington, DC 20503, Fax: 202-395-6974.

(SSA), Social Security Administration, DCFAM, Attn: Reports Clearance Officer, 1338 Annex, 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235, Fax: 410-965-6400.

1. The information collections listed below are pending at SSA and will be submitted to OMB within 60 days from the date of this notice. Therefore, your comments should be submitted to SSA within 60 days from the date of this publication. You can obtain copies of the collection instruments by calling the SSA Reports Clearance Officer at 410-965-0454, or by writing to the address listed above.

1. *Integrated Registration for Employers and Submitters (IRES)—0960-0626.* The IRES authentication system is a free service designed to allow employers to access SSA's electronic wage reporting services, and to replace the use of a handwritten signature with an electronic signature. Employer representatives use an IRES generated PIN and password as their electronic signature. IRES is designed to be more efficient, reducing the costs to both employers and SSA, and will facilitate the filing of wage data electronically. SSA's paramount interest in the development of IRES was to ensure that the new electronic method of identifying wage report submitters provides the same security features as the current paper-based method. Security features include message integrity, originator authentication, non-repudiation and confidentiality. The PIN and password will be issued to an individual designated by the employer after SSA authenticates the company and contact information provided by the individual. SSA uses the IRES in conjunction with SSA's wage reporting processes. It is used as the gateway for electronic wage reporting and the online employee verification service. IRES will also be used when SSA implements additional electronic services such as electronic notices and error information. Also, the PIN will be used in the Annual Wage Reporting diskette process to replace IRS paper form 6559. SSA has received approval from IRS to use an alternative signature. Respondents to IRES will be Employers and Submitters who utilize SSA's electronic wage reporting and online employee verification services.

Type of Request: Revision of an OMB-approved information collection.

Number of Respondents: 250,120.

Number of Responses: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 2 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 8,337 hours.

2. *Application for Widow's or Widower's Insurance Benefits—20 CFR 404.335-.338—0960-0004.* SSA uses the information collected on the Form SSA-10-BK to determine if the applicant meets the statutory and regulatory

conditions for entitlement to widow(er)'s benefits. The respondents are applicants for Widow(er)'s benefits.

Type of Request: Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.

Number of Respondents: 288,580.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 15 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 72,145 hours.

3. *Application of Circuit Court Law—0960-0581.* SSA regulations at 20 CFR 404.985 and 416.1485 inform claimants of their right to request that a published Acquiescence Ruling (AR) be applied to a prior determination when we make a determination or decision on a claim between the date of the Circuit Court decision and the date we publish the AR. The regulations also specify that claimants can request that the AR be applied to a prior determination or decision by submitting a statement that demonstrates how the AR could change the prior determination or decision. SSA will use the information provided in the statement to readjudicate the claim if the claimant demonstrates the Ruling could change the prior determination. Claimants may use Form SSA-795, Statement of Claimant or Other Person (0960-0045), to request and support application of a published AR to the prior determination or decision. The respondents are claimants whose determinations or decisions on their claims may be affected by an AR.

Type of Request: Extension of current approved collection.

Number of Respondents: 100,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 17 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 28,333 hours.

4. *Waiver of Right to Appear—20 CFR 404.913-914, 20 CFR 404.916(b)(5), 20 CFR 416.1413-1414 and 416(b)(5)—0960-0534.* The Social Security Administration uses Form-773-U4 to provide claimants with an effective means of requesting a waiver of their right to appear at a disability hearing. The information collected will be used as documentation that claimants understand their rights to appear and the effects of the decision to waive this right. The respondents are claimants under Title II (Old-Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) and Title XVI (Supplemental Security Income) of the Social Security Act, who wish to waive their right to a disability hearing.

Type of Request: Extension of current approved collection.

Number of Respondents: 200.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 3 minutes.