

subject line if e-mail is used. To help us process and review comments more efficiently, comments should be sent in hardcopy or by e-mail but not by both methods. 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 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 NASD. All submissions should refer to the file number SR-NASD-2004-108 and should be submitted by August 20, 2004.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁸

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-17398 Filed 7-29-04; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-50085; File No. SR-NSCC-2003-05]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; National Securities Clearing Corporation; Order Granting Approval of a Proposed Rule Change Permitting Elimination of All Hard Copies of Important Notices

July 26, 2004.

I. Introduction

On March 14, 2003, the National Securities Clearing Corporation ("NSCC") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") proposed rule change SR-NSCC-2003-05 pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act").¹ Notice of the proposal was published in the **Federal Register** on January 23, 2004.² One comment letter was received.³ For the reasons

discussed below, the Commission is granting approval of the proposed rule change.

II. Description

NSCC currently distributes notices to its members in a hard copy form using U.S. mail for members outside of the New York area, the Direct Drop Boxes for each member with a New York presence, and using fax when necessary. The proposed rule change modifies NSCC's Rule 45 to allow NSCC to post notices on its website and to have these postings satisfy NSCC's notification obligations. The rule change would require members to access that website throughout the day. The proposed rule change also modifies NSCC's Rule 45 to allow NSCC to serve notices on interested persons as defined in Rule 37 by emailing the notices to an interested person's email address.

NSCC believes that the proposed rule change would facilitate the timely dissemination of information necessary for participation in NSCC and therefore is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder.

III. Comment

The Commission received one comment letter.⁴ The commenter, which is an NSCC member, objects to the proposed rule change because it believes that the requirement under the proposed rule change to check NSCC's website on a daily basis for notices would require it to allocate special staffing to monitor the website and would be an inefficient use of its resources.

IV. Discussion

Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Act requires, among other things, that the rules of a clearing agency be designed to promote the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions.⁵ The timely dissemination of information to clearing corporation members is an important factor in the operation of a clearing agency. By allowing NSCC to post notices on its website instead of having to mail, put into a drop box, or fax, the proposed rule change should help to ensure that NSCC's members receive information from NSCC as quickly as possible and in a manner that is easily accessible. Furthermore, elimination of paper notices should reduce the possibility of nonreceipt of notices by members and should add efficiencies to NSCC's operations. Accordingly, the proposed

rule change should help to promote the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions.

In response to the comment letter, the Commission appreciates that the proposed rule change imposes a new burden on NSCC's members to periodically look for notices on NSCC's website instead of receiving them in physical form; however, the Commission believes this burden is small given the minimal amount of time it should take each NSCC member to review NSCC's website for notices. Furthermore, the Commission believes that any inconvenience or expense that may be incurred by NSCC's members as a result of the proposed rule change is outweighed by the benefit of having the notices be quickly and readily available to NSCC's members.

V. Conclusion

On the basis of the foregoing, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and in particular Section 17A of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder.

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act, that the proposed rule change (File No. SR-NSCC-2003-05) be and hereby is approved.

For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁶

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-50069; File No. SR-OCC-2004-15]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Options Clearing Corporation; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Correct an Erroneous Cross-Reference Resulting From an Approved Rule Change

July 23, 2004.

Pursuant to section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),¹ notice is hereby given that on July 15, 2004, The Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change described in Items I, II, and III below, which items have been prepared

⁸ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² Securities Exchange Act Release No. 49094 (January 16, 2004), 69 FR 3418.

³ Letter from Richard Eustice, Vice President, Dimensional Fund Advisors (April 25, 2003).

⁴ *Supra* note 3.

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78q-1(b)(3)(F).

⁶ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

primarily by OCC. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested parties.

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

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to correct an erroneous cross-reference in Rule 101.E.(6).

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

In its filing with the Commission, OCC included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. OCC has prepared summaries, set forth in sections (A), (B), and (C) below, of the most significant aspects of these statements.²

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

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to correct an erroneous cross-reference in Rule 101.E.(6). OCC's recently approved rule filing SR-OCC-2003-08 significantly restructured and revised Chapter IX of OCC's Rules, which pertains to delivery settlement of exercised equity options and matured stock futures.³ One of the changes renumbered Rule 902 as Rule 903. OCC neglected to change Rule 101.E.(6), which cross-references Rule 902 now renumbered as Rule 903. With this filing, OCC will change the reference to Rule 902 in Rule 101.E.(6) to Rule 903.

The proposed rule change is consistent with section 17A(a)(2)(A)(i) of the Act⁴ and the rules and regulations thereunder because it facilitates the establishment of a national system for the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of transactions in securities.

(B) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

OCC does not believe that the proposed rule change would impose any burden on competition.

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

Written comments were not and are not intended to be solicited with respect to the proposed rule change, and none have been received. OCC will notify the Commission of any written comments received by OCC.

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

The foregoing rule change has become effective upon filing pursuant to section 19(b)(3)(A)(i) of the Act⁵ and Rule 19b-4(f)(1)⁶ thereunder because the proposed rule change facilitates the administration of an existing rule. At any time within sixty days of the filing of such rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate 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.

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 e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-OCC-2004-15 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Jonathan G. Katz, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-OCC-2004-15. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail 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 inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Section, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of OCC and on OCC's Web site at <http://www.optionsclearing.com>. 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-OCC-2004-15 and should be submitted on or before August 20, 2004.

For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁷

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-50080; File No. SR-OCC-2004-12]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; the Options Clearing Corporation; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Related to Clearing Fees for Securities Option Contracts

July 26, 2004.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),¹ notice is hereby given that on June 22, 2004, The Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change described in Items I, II, and III below, which items have been prepared primarily by OCC. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested parties.

² The Commission has modified the text of the summaries prepared by OCC.

³ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 49420 (March 16, 2004), 69 FR 13345 (March 22, 2004) [File No. SR-OCC-2003-08].

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78q-1(a)(2)(A)(i).

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(i).

⁶ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(1).

⁷ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).