

(6) W. Gail Willette, Director of the Commission's Office of the Consumer Advocate, is designated to represent the general public in this proceeding.

(7) Complainant shall provide a statement, due August 12, 1996, estimating the amount of time it will require to develop and file a direct case in this proceeding.

(8) The Secretary shall cause this Notice and Order to be published in the Federal Register.

By the Commission.

Cyril J. Pittack,  
*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 96-19754 Filed 8-02-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710-FW-P

**[Docket No. A96-21; Order No. 1127]**

**Moriah, New York 12960 (Katherine E. Baker, Petitioner); Notice and Order Accepting Appeal and Establishing Procedural Schedule Under 39 U.S.C. 404(b)(5)**

Issued July 30, 1996.

*Docket Number:* A96-21.

*Name of Affected Post Office:* Moriah, New York 12960.

*Name(s) of Petitioner(s):* Katherine E. Baker.

*Type of Determination:* Closing.

*Date of Filing of Appeal Papers:* July 29, 1996.

*Categories of Issues Apparently Raised:*

1. Effect on postal services [39 U.S.C. 404(b)(2)(C)].
2. Effect on the community [39 U.S.C. 404(b)(2)(A)].

After the Postal Service files the administrative record and the Commission reviews it, the Commission may find that there are more legal issues than those set forth above. Or, the Commission may find that the Postal Service's determination disposes of one or more of those issues.

The Postal Reorganization Act requires that the Commission issue its decision within 120 days from the date this appeal was filed (39 U.S.C. § 404(B)(5)). In the interest of expedition, in light of the 120-day decision schedule, the Commission may request the Postal Service to submit memoranda of law on any appropriate issue. If requested, such memoranda will be due 20 days from the issuance of the request and the Postal Service shall serve a copy of its memoranda on the petitioners. The Postal Service may incorporate by reference in its briefs or motions, any arguments presented in memoranda it previously filed in this docket. If necessary, the Commission

also may ask petitioners or the Postal Service for more information.

**The Commission Orders**

(a) The Postal Service shall file the record in this appeal by August 13, 1996.

(b) The Secretary of the Postal Rate Commission shall publish this Notice and Order and Procedural Schedule in the Federal Register.

By the Commission.

Cyril J. Pittack,  
*Acting Secretary.*

**Appendix**

July 29, 1996: Filing of Appeal letter

July 30, 1996: Commission Notice and Order of Filing of Appeal

August 23, 1996: Last day of filing of petitions to intervene [see 39 C.F.R. § 3001.111(b)]

September 3, 1996: Petitioner's Participant Statement or Initial Brief m[see 39 C.F.R. § 3001.115(a) and (b)]

September 23, 1996: Postal Service's Answering Brief [see 39 C.F.R. § 3001.115(c)]

October 8, 1996: Petitioner's Reply Brief should Petitioner choose to file one [see 39 C.F.R. § 3001.115(d)]

October 15, 1996: Deadline for motions by any party requesting oral argument. The Commission will schedule oral argument only when it is a necessary addition to the written filings [see 39 C.F.R. § 3001.116]

November 26, 1996: Expiration of the Commission's 120-day decisional schedule [see 39 U.S.C. § 404(b)(5)]

[FR Doc. 96-19755 Filed 8-2-96; 8:45 am]

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**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request**

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

**Extension:**

Rule 17a-22, SEC File No. 270-202  
OMB Control No. 3235-0196

Rule 17Ab2-1 and Form CA-1, SEC  
File No. 270-203 OMB Control No.  
3235-0195

Rule 17Ac3-1 and Form TA-W, SEC  
File No. 270-96 OMB Control No.  
3235-0151

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") has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget requests for approval of extension on the following rules and forms:

Rule 17a-22, which was adopted pursuant to Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"), requires all registered clearing agencies to file with the Commission three copies of all materials they issue or make generally available to their participants or other entities with whom they have a significant relationship. The filings with the Commission must be made within ten days after the materials are issued, and when the Commission is not the appropriate regulatory agency, the clearing agency must file one copy of the material with its appropriate regulatory agency. The Commission is responsible for overseeing clearing agencies and uses the information filed pursuant to Rule 17a-22 to determine whether a clearing agency is implementing procedural or policy changes. The information filed aids the Commission in determining whether such changes are consistent with the purposes of Section 17A of the Act. Also, the Commission uses the information to determine whether a clearing agency has changed its rules without reporting the actual or prospective change to the Commission as required under Section 19(b) of the Act.

The respondents to Rule 17a-22 generally are registered clearing agencies.<sup>1</sup> The frequency of filings made by clearing agencies pursuant to Rule 17a-22 varies, but on an average there are approximately 200 filings per year per clearing agency. Because the filings consist of materials that have been prepared for widespread distribution, the additional cost to the clearing agencies associated with submitting copies to the Commission is relatively small. The Commission staff estimates that the cost of compliance with Rule 17a-22 to all registered clearing agencies is approximately \$3500. This represents one dollar per filing in postage, or a total of \$2800. The remaining \$700 (or 20% of the total cost of compliance) is the estimated cost of additional printing, envelopes, and other administrative expenses.

Rule 17Ab2-1 and Form CA-1 require clearing agencies to register with the Commission and to meet certain requirements with regard to, among other things, a clearing agency's organization, capacities, and rules. The information is collected from the clearing agency upon the initial application for registration on Form CA-1. Thereafter, information is

<sup>1</sup> Respondents include temporarily registered clearing agencies. Respondents also may include clearing agencies granted exemptions from the registration requirements of Section 17A, conditioned upon compliance with Rule 17a-22.

collected by amendment to the initial Form CA-1 when a material change in circumstance necessitates modification of the information previously provided to the Commission.

The Commission uses the information disclosed on Form CA-1 to (i) determine whether an applicant meets the standards for registration set forth in Section 17A of the Act, (ii) enforce compliance with the Act's registration requirement, and (iii) provide information about specific registered clearing agencies for compliance and investigatory purposes. Without Rule 17Ab2-1, the Commission could not perform these duties as statutorily required.

There are currently thirteen registered clearing agencies and one clearing agency that has been granted an exemption from registration. The Commission staff estimates that each initial Form CA-1 requires approximately 130 hours to complete and submit for approval. Hours required for amendments to Form CA-1 that must be submitted to the Commission in connection with material changes to the initial Form CA-1 can vary, depending upon the nature and extent of the amendment. Since the Commission only receives an average of one submission per year, the aggregate annual burden associated with compliance with rule 17Ab2-1 and Form CA-1 is 130 hours. Based upon the staff's experience, the average cost to clearing agencies of preparing and filing the initial Form CA-1 is estimated to be \$15,000.

Subsection (c)(3)(C) of Section 17A of the Act authorizes transfer agents registered with an appropriate regulatory agency ("ARA") to withdraw from registration by filing with the ARA a written notice of withdrawal and by agreeing to such terms and conditions as the ARA deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or in furtherance of the purposes of Section 17A.

In order to implement Section 17A(c)(3)(C) of the Act the Commission, on September 1, 1977, promulgated Rule 17Ac3-1(a) and accompanying Form TA-W. Rule 17Ac3-1(a) provides that notice of withdrawal from registration as a transfer agent with the Commission shall be filed on Form TA-W. Form TA-W requires the withdrawing transfer agent to provide the Commission with certain information, including: (1) the locations where transfer agent activities are or were performed; (2) the reasons for ceasing the performance of such activities; (3) disclosure of unsatisfied

judgments or liens; and (4) information regarding successor transfer agents.

The Commission uses the information disclosed on Form TA-W to determine whether the registered transfer agent applying for withdrawal from registration as a transfer agent should be allowed to deregister and, if so, whether the Commission should attach to the granting of the application any terms or conditions necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or in furtherance of the purposes of Section 17A of the Act. Without Rule 17Ac3-1(a) and Form TA-W, transfer agents registered with the Commission would not have a means for voluntary deregistration when necessary or appropriate to do so.

Respondents file approximately thirty Form TA-Ws with the Commission annually. The filing of a Form TA-W occurs only once, when a transfer agent is seeking deregistration. In view of the ready availability of the information requested by Form TA-W, its short and simple presentation, and the Commission's experience with the Form, we estimate that approximately one half hour is required to complete Form TA-W, including clerical time. Thus, the total burden of fifteen hours of preparation for all transfer agents seeking deregistration in any one year is negligible.

The Commission estimates a cost of approximately \$30 for each half hour required to complete a Form TA-W. Therefore, based upon a total of fifteen hours, transfer agents spend approximately \$900 each year to complete thirty Form TA-Ws.

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 estimate 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.

General comments regarding the estimated burden hours should be directed to the Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission at the address below. Any comments concerning the accuracy of the estimated average burden hours for

compliance with Commission rules and forms should be directed to Michael E. Bartell, Associate Executive Director, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549 and Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 3208, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503.

Dated: July 29, 1996.  
Margaret H. McFarland,  
*Deputy Secretary.*  
[FR Doc. 96-19837 Filed 8-2-96; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

[Rel. No. IC-22109; File No. 812-9672]

**Allstate Life Insurance Company of New York, et al.**

July 30, 1996.

**AGENCY:** Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or the "Commission").

**ACTION:** Notice of Application for Exemptions under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "1940 Act").

**APPLICANTS:** Allstate Life Insurance Company of New York (the "Company"), Allstate Life of New York Separate Account A (the "Variable Account"), and Allstate Life Financial Services, Inc. ("ALFS").

**RELEVANT 1940 ACT SECTIONS:** Order requested under Section 6(c) of the 1940 Act for exemptions from Sections 26(a)(2)(C) and 27(c)(2) of the 1940 Act.

**SUMMARY OF APPLICATION:** Applicants seek an order permitting the Company to deduct a mortality and expense risk charge from: (i) the assets of the Variable Account in connection with the offer and sale of certain flexible premium deferred variable annuity certificates (the "Contracts") and any contracts offered in the future ("Future Contracts") by the Company which are materially similar to the Contracts; and (ii) the assets of any other variable accounts established in the future ("Future Accounts") by the Company, in connection with the offer and sale of Future Contracts. Applicants propose that the order extend to any broker-dealer ("Other Broker-Dealers") which may serve in the future as principal underwriter with respect to the Contracts or Future Contracts.

**FILING DATE:** The application was filed June 7, 1996.

**HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING:** An order granting the application will be