

1:45 p.m.

Briefings related to chemical warfare agent exposure issues

4:30 p.m.

Meeting recessed

Friday, September 5, 1997

8:30 a.m.

Call to order

8:35 a.m.

Briefings related to chemical warfare agent exposure issues

10:30 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m.

Discussion of special report

12:30 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 p.m.

Discussion of special report

3:45 p.m.

Committee and staff discussion: Next steps

4:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned

A final agenda will be available at the meeting.

Public Participation

The meeting is open to the public. Members of the public who wish to make oral statements should contact the Committee at the address or telephone number listed below at least five business days prior to the meeting. Reasonable provisions will be made to include on the agenda presentations from individuals who have not yet had an opportunity to address the Committee. Priority will be given to Gulf War veterans whose accounts of firsthand experience with chemical and biological warfare agent detections previously have not been conveyed to the Committee. The panel chair is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business. People who wish to file written statements with the Committee may do so at any time.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nancy Rocha, Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses, 1411 K Street, N.W., suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005, Telephone: (202) 761-0066, Fax: (202) 761-0310.

Dated: August 4, 1997.

C.A. Bock,

Federal Register Liaison Officer, Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses.

[FR Doc. 97-20917 Filed 8-7-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3610-76-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 17Ad-11, SEC File No. 270-261, OMB Control No. 3235-0274

Rule 17Ad-13, SEC File No. 270-263, OMB Control No. 3235-0275

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 this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Rule 17Ad-11 requires transfer agents to report to issuers and the appropriate regulatory agency in the event that aged record differences exceed certain dollar value thresholds. An aged record difference occurs when an issuer's records do not agree with those of securityowners as indicated, for instance, on certificates presented to the transfer agent for purchase, redemption or transfer. In addition, the rule requires transfer agents to report to the appropriate regulatory agency in the event of a failure to post certificate detail to the master securityholder file within 5 business days of the time required by Rule 17Ad-10. Also, transfer agents must maintain a copy of each report prepared under Rule 17Ad-11 for a period of three years following the date of the report. These recordkeeping requirements assist the Commission and other regulatory agencies with monitoring transfer agents and ensuring compliance with the rule.

Because the information required by Rule 17Ad-11 is already available to transfer agents, any collection burden for small transfer agents is minimal. The staff estimates 150 registered transfer agents take approximately one hour annually to comply with Rule 17Ad-11. Therefore, the total burden is 150 hours annually for transfer agents, based upon past submissions. The average cost per hour is approximately \$30. Therefore, the total cost of compliance for transfer agents is \$4,500.

Rule 17Ad-13 requires approximately 200 registered transfer agents to obtain an annual report on the adequacy of internal accounting controls. In

addition, transfer agents must maintain copies of any reports prepared pursuant to Rule 17Ad-13 plus any documents prepared to notify the Commission and appropriate regulatory agencies in the event that the transfer agent is required to take any corrective action. These recordkeeping requirements assist the Commission and other regulatory agencies with monitoring transfer agents and ensuring compliance with the rule. Small transfer agents are exempt from Rule 17Ad-13.

The staff estimates 200 registered transfer agents take approximately 175 hours annually to comply with Rule 17Ad-13. Therefore, the total annual burden is 35,000 hours for transfer agents, based upon past submissions. The average cost per hour is approximately \$60. Therefore, the total cost of compliance for transfer agents is \$1,300,000.

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, DC 20549.

Dated: August 1, 1997.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-20912 Filed 8-7-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

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:

Form 18, SEC File No. 270-105, OMB

Control No. 3235-0121
Form 18-K, SEC File No. 270-108,
OMB Control No. 3235-0120
Form F-80, SEC File No. 270-357,
OMB Control No. 3235-0404

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 extension of the previously approved collections of information discussed below.

Form 18 is used for the registration of securities under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 of any foreign government or political subdivision thereof. It is filed on occasion. An estimated 5 respondents file Form 18 annually for a total burden of 40 hours.

Form 18-K is an annual report for foreign governments and political subdivisions thereof. It provides updated information concerning registered securities. An estimated 11 respondents file Form 18-K annually for a total burden of 88 hours.

Form F-80 is a form used to register under the Securities Act of 1933 securities of certain issuers to be issued in exchange offers or a business combination. It is filed on occasion. An estimated 5 respondents file Form F-80 annually for a total burden of 10 hours.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

General comments regarding the above information should be directed to the following persons: (i) 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; and (ii) Michael E. Bartell, Associate Executive Director, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: August 1, 1997.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-20913 Filed 8-7-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Issuer Delisting; Notice of Application To Withdraw From Listing and Registration; (Benchmark Electronics, Inc., Common Stock, \$.10 Par Value) File No. 1-10560

August 4, 1997.

Benchmark Electronics, Inc. ("Company") has filed an application with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to Section 12(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") and Rule 12d2-2(d) promulgated thereunder, to withdraw the above specified security ("Security") from listing and registration on the American Stock Exchange, Inc. ("Amex" or "Exchange").

The reasons cited in the application for withdrawing the Security from listing and registration include the following:

The Company's Security is listed on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") effective May 13, 1997. The Company's Board of Directors resolved on April 4, 1997 to withdraw the Company's Security from listing on Amex to avoid the direct and indirect cost and the division of the market resulting from dual listing.

The Company has complied with Rule 18 of the American Stock Exchange ("Amex") by filing with such Exchange a certified copy of preambles and resolutions adopted by the Company's Board of Directors ("Directors") authorizing the withdrawal of its common stock from listing on the Amex and by setting forth in detail to such Exchange the reasons for such proposed withdrawal, and the facts in support thereof.

By letter dated April 30, 1997, the Amex stated that the Exchange would not interpose an objection to the Company's application to withdraw its Security from listing.

Any interested person may, on or before August 25, 1997, submit by letter to the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549, facts bearing upon whether the application has been made in accordance with the rules of the exchange and what terms, if any, should be imposed by the Commission for the protection of investors. The Commission, based on the information submitted to it, will issue an order granting the application after the date mentioned above, unless the Commission determines to order a hearing on the matter.

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

Jonathan G. Katz,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-20910 Filed 8-7-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-38897; File No. SR-NYSE-97-21]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; New York Stock Exchange, Inc.; Order Granting Approval to Proposed Rule Change Relating to Trading Differentials for Equity Securities

August 1, 1997.

On June 16, 1997, the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. ("NYSE" or "Exchange") submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² a proposed rule change to replace references to specific minimum variations with general language regarding minimum variations, to replace its minimum increment of one-eighth of a dollar with one-sixteenth of a dollar, and to make conforming changes to several other rules.³

The proposed rule change was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on June 25, 1997.⁴ No comments were received. This order approves the proposal.

Exchange Rule 62 currently provides fixed minimum trading variations for stocks traded on the Exchange. The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 62 to remove the references to specific minimum variations and to replace it with general language. The Exchange believes this amendment to Rule 62 will provide flexibility so that the Exchange could permit its members to trade at increments smaller than NYSE-established trade variations in order to match other markets' bids or offers for the purpose of preventing Intermarket Trading System ("ITS") trade-throughs. The Exchange proposes to set the

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ In order for the Exchange to meet quickly changing market conditions, the Commission granted the changes described in this proposal temporary accelerated approval on June 18, 1997. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 38744 (June 18, 1997), 62 FR 34334 (June 25, 1997).

⁴ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 38745 (June 18, 1997), 62 FR 34336 (June 25, 1997).