

Other information collection requirements apply to the fund. The fund's board of directors must approve by resolution the custodian's arrangement with each depository, and material changes in any arrangement. In the unusual case when a fund deals directly with a depository, the fund board must approve the arrangement with the depository, and the fund must establish a system that is reasonably designed to prevent unauthorized officer's instructions.⁵

Rule 17f-4 facilitates the safe use of depositories, which can simplify the clearance and settlement of securities transactions and reduce risks of loss, theft, and destruction of securities. The rule's requirements that the custodian confirm transactions and earmark a portion of its holdings for the fund help to document the fund's transactions, and provide evidence of the fund's interest in "omnibus" depository accounts that may contain the pooled assets of multiple owners. The requirement that the custodian and its agent send the fund reports on internal controls helps the fund and its auditors to evaluate the reliability of the custodian, its agent, and the depository. The requirement that the fund board approve depository arrangements and material changes encourages directors to review periodically the safety of these arrangements. The requirement that the fund have a system to prevent unauthorized officer's instructions helps to protect fund assets from misappropriation.

The Commission staff estimates that 3,400 respondents (including 3,300 funds, 50 bank custodians, and 50 agents of the custodians) make approximately 25,750 responses under the rule each year. The staff estimates that on average, 50 custodians spend 500 hours each year in transmitting daily confirmations to funds and 250 hours in earmarking holdings for funds, and 100 custodians and agents spend 16 hours annually in transmitting reports to funds. The staff estimates that on average, 500 funds spend 6 hours each year in approving new depository arrangements or changes in existing arrangements, and 50 funds spend 10 hours each year in implementing systems to prevent unauthorized officer's instructions. The total annual burden of the rule's requirements for all respondents therefore is estimated to be 42,600 hours ((50 custodians × 750 hours) + (100 custodians and agents ×

16 hours) + (500 funds × 6 hours) + (50 funds × 10 hours)).⁶

The estimated annual burden of 42,600 burden hours represents an increase of 17,344 hours over the prior estimate of 25,256 hours. The increase in annual burden hours is attributable to the staff's recognition that the rule imposes information collection requirements of funds as well as custodians, and to increases in the estimated time spent by custodians and agents in collecting information relating to an increasing number of fund transactions.

The estimate of average burden hours is made solely for the purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act. The estimate is not derived from a comprehensive or even a representative survey or study of the costs of Commission rules. 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.

Please direct general comments regarding the above information 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, DC 20503; and (ii) Michael E. Bartell, Associate Executive Director, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 5th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549-0004. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: June 2, 1999.

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

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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 236; SEC File No. 270-118; OMB Control No. 3235-0095.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities

⁶The estimated average burden hours do not reflect the costs of operating computer systems used by custodians to provide confirmations and earmark assets, and used by funds to help prevent unauthorized officer's instructions.

and Exchange Commission ("Commission") has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget a request for extension of the previously approved collection of information discussed below.

Rule 236 under the Securities Act of 1933 ("Securities Act") requires issuers wishing to rely upon an exemption from the Securities Act registration for the issuance of fractional shares, script certificates or order forms, in connection with a stock dividend, stock split, reverse stock split, conversion, merger or similar transaction to furnish specified information to the Commission in writing at least ten days prior to the offering. The information is needed to provide notice that an issuer is relying on the exemption. Public companies are the likely respondents. An estimated ten submissions are made pursuant to Rule 236 annually, resulting in an estimated annual total burden of 15 hours.

The information is needed to establish qualification for reliance on the exemption. The information provided by Rule 236 is required to obtain or retain benefits. All information provided to the Commission is available to the public for review upon request.

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, DC 20503; and (ii) Michael E. Bartell, Associate Executive Director, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: June 4, 1999.

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

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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-11, SEC File No. 270-94, OMB Control No. 3235-0085

⁵Officer's instructions are directions to the depository by authorized personnel of the fund.

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 a request for extension of the previously approved collection of information discussed below.

Rule 17a-11 (17 CFR 240.17a-11) requires broker-dealers to give notice when certain specified events occur. Specifically, the rule requires a broker-dealer to give notice of a net capital deficiency on the same day that the net capital deficiency is discovered or a broker-dealer is informed by its designated examining authority or the Commission that it is, or has been, in violation of its minimum requirement under Rule 15c3-1 (17 CFR 240.15c3-1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act").

Rule 17a-11 also requires a broker-dealer to send notice promptly (within 24 hours) after the broker-dealer's aggregate indebtedness is in excess of 1,200 percent of its net capital, its net capital is less than 5 percent of aggregate debit items, or its total net capital is less than 120 percent of its required minimum net capital. In addition, a broker-dealer must give notice if it fails to make and keep current books and records required by Rule 17a-3 (17 CFR 240.17a-3), if any material inadequacy is discovered as defined in Rule 17a-5(g) (17 CFR 240.17a-5(g)), and if backtesting exceptions are identified pursuant to Appendix F of Rule 15c3-1 (17 CFR 15c3-1f) for a broker-dealer registered as an OTC derivatives dealer.

The notice required by the rule alerts the Commission, self-regulatory organizations ("SROs"), and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC") if the broker-dealer is registered as a futures commission merchant, which have oversight responsibility over broker-dealers, to those firms having financial or operational problems.

Because broker-dealers are required to file pursuant to Rule 17a-11 only when certain specified events occur, it is difficult to develop a meaningful figure for the cost of compliance with Rule 17a-11. The Commission receives approximately 656 notices under this rule each year from approximately 362 broker-dealers. Each broker-dealer will spend approximately one hour per year complying with Rule 17a-11. Accordingly, the aggregate burden is estimated to be approximately 656 hours. With respect to those broker-dealers that must give notice under Rule 17a-11, the cost is approximately \$10

per response for a total annual expense for all broker-dealers of \$6,560.

Broker-dealers providing notice and reports under Rule 17a-11 are required to preserve such records under rule 17a-4 (17 CFR 240.17a-4) for a period of not less than three years, the first two years in an accessible place. Compliance with the Rule is mandatory. The Commission will generally not publish or make available to any person notice or reports received pursuant to Rule 17a-11. The Commission believes that information obtained under Rule 17a-11 relates to a condition report prepared for the use of the Commission, other federal governmental authorities, and securities industry self-regulatory organizations responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions.

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.

Written 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 10202, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503; and (ii) Michael E. Bartell, Associate Executive Director, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: June 7, 1999.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-14988 Filed 6-11-99; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Issuer Delisting; Application To Withdraw From Listing and Registration; (The Midland Company, Common Stock, No Par Value Per Share) File No. 1-6026

June 7, 1999.

The Midland Company ("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 security specified above ("Security") from listing and registration on the American Stock Exchange LLC ("Amex or "Exchange").

The Security has been listed for trading on the Amex and became designated for quotation on the Nasdaq National Market ("Nasdaq") on June 2, 1999.

The Company has complied with the rules of the Amex by filing with the Exchange a certified copy of the resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors of the Company authorizing the withdrawal of the Security from listing on the Amex and by setting forth in detail to the Exchange the reasons for such proposed withdrawal, and the facts in support thereof. In making the determination to withdraw the Security from listing on the Amex in conjunction with its designation for quotation on the Nasdaq, the Company sought to avoid the direct and indirect costs, as well as a division of the market for its Security, which would have resulted from the simultaneous trading of the Security on both the Amex and the Nasdaq.

The Amex has informed the Company that it will not interpose any objection to the Company's application to withdraw its Security from listing and registration on the Exchange.

The Company's application relates solely to the withdrawal from listing of the Company's Security on the Amex and shall have no effect upon the continued designation of the Security for quotation on the Nasdaq. By reason of Section 12(g) of the Act and the rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder, the Company shall continue to be obligated to file reports under Section 13 of the Act with the Commission.

Any interested person may, on or before June 28, 1999, submit by letter to the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549-0609, facts bearing upon whether the application has been made in accordance with the rules of 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. 99-14955 Filed 6-11-99; 8:45 am]

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