

the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 which provides opportunity for public comment on new or revised data collections, the railroad Retirement Board (RRB) will publish periodic summaries of proposed data collections.

*Comments are Invited on:*

(a) Whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the RRB's estimate of the burden of the collection of the information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden related to the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**Title and Purpose of Information-Collecting**

*Gross Earnings Reports*; OMB 3220-0132.

In order to carry out the financial interchange provisions of section 7(c)(2) of the Railroad Retirement Act (RRA), the RRB obtains annually from railroad employer's the gross earnings for their employees on a one-percent basis, i.e., 1% of each employer's railroad employees. The gross earnings sample is based on the earnings of employees whose social security numbers end with the digits "30." the gross earnings are used to compute payroll taxes under the financial interchange.

The gross earnings information is essential in determining the tax amounts involved in the financial interchange with the Social Security Administration and Health Care Financing Administration. Besides being necessary for current financial interchange calculations, the gross earnings file tabulations are also an integral part of the data needed to estimate future tax income and corresponding financial interchange amounts. These estimates are made for internal use and to satisfy requests from other government agencies and interested groups. In addition, cash flow projections of the social security equivalent benefit account, railroad retirement account and cost estimates made for proposed amendments to laws administered by the RRB are dependent on input developed from the information collection.

The RRB utilizes Form BA-11 or its electronic equivalent to obtain gross earnings information from railroad employers. One response is requested of

each railroad employer. Completion is mandatory.

No changes are proposed to Form BA-11.

*Estimate of Annual Respondent Burden*

Gross earnings reports are required annually from all employers reporting railroad service and compensation. There are approximately 633 railroad employers who currently report gross earnings to the RRB. Most large railroad employers include their railroad subsidiaries in their gross earnings reports. This results in the RRB collecting less than 633 earnings reports. Also, there are a large number of railroad employers have worked forces so small that they do not have employees with social security numbers ending in "30." Currently, there are 382 such employers in this category who file "negative" BA-11 responses to the RRB. Overall, on an annual basis, the RRB receives 16 reports consisting of computer prepared tapes or diskettes and 138 by means of manually prepared Form BA-11. The RRB estimates an average preparation time of 5 hours for each gross earnings report submitted by computer tape or diskette and 30 minutes for each manually prepared BA-11.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:** To request more information or to obtain a copy of the information collection justification, forms, and/or supporting material, please call the RRB clearance Officer at (312) 751-3363. Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Ronald J. Hodapp, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 N. Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

**Chuck Mierzwa,**

*Clearance Officer.*

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**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Issuer Delisting; Notice of Application to Withdraw From Listing and Registration; (Intertape Polymer Group Inc., Common Stock, Without Nominal or Par Value) File No. 1-10928**

August 11, 1999.

Intertape Polymer Group 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 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, pursuant to a Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed with the Commission on August 6, 1999, is slated to become listed on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE"). Trading in the Securities on the NYSE is expected to commence on or about August 16, 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 Company's Board of Directors authorizing the withdrawal of its Security from listing on the Exchange and by setting forth in detail to the Amex the reasons for such proposed withdrawal, and the facts in support thereof. The Amex has in turn informed the Company that it will not interpose any objection to the withdrawal of the Company's Security from listing on the Exchange.

In making the decision to withdraw its Security from listing on the Amex and to list it instead on the NYSE, the Company has stated its belief that listing on the NYSE will benefit its shareholders by providing the Security exposure to a larger trading market.

The Company's application relates solely to the withdrawal of the Security from listing on the Amex and shall have no effect upon the pending listing of the Security on the NYSE. Moreover, by reason of Section 12(b) of the Act and the rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder, the Company would continue to be obligated to file reports with the Commission and the NYSE under Section 13 and other applicable sections of the Act.

Any interested person may, on or before September 1, 1999, submit by letter to the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609, 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.*

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. IC-23944; File No. 812-11604]

### Parkstone Advantage Fund et al.; Notice of Application

August 11, 1999.

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

**ACTION:** Notice of application for an order pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "1940 Act") granting relief from Sections 9(a), 13(a), 15(a) and 15(b) of the 1940 Act and Rules 6e-2(b)(15) and 6e-3(T)(b)(15) thereunder.

**SUMMARY OF APPLICATION:** Applicants seek an order to permit shares of any current or future series of the Parkstone Advantage Fund (the "Fund") and shares of any other investment company that is designed to fund variable insurance products and for which the National City Investment Management Company (the "Adviser"), or any of its affiliates, may serve now or in the future, as investment adviser, (the Fund, together with such other investment companies, the "Insurance Products Funds") to be offered and sold to, and held by variable annuity and variable life insurance separate accounts of both affiliated and unaffiliated life insurance companies ("Participating Insurance Companies") and qualified pension and retirement plans outside of the separate account context ("Qualified Plans" or "Plans").

**APPLICANTS:** Parkstone Advantage Fund and National City Investment Management Company.

**FILING DATE:** The application was filed on May 3, 1999, and amended and restated on July 19, 1999.

**HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING:** An order granting the application will be issued unless the Commission orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing on this application by writing to the Secretary of the Commission and serving Applicants with a copy of the request, in person or by mail. Hearing requests must be received by the Commission by 5:30 p.m. on September 7, 1999, and accompanied by proof of service on the Applicants in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate

of service. Hearing requests should state the nature of the requester's interest, the reason for the request and the issues contested. Persons who wish to be notified of a hearing may request notification by writing to the Secretary of the Commission.

**ADDRESSES:** Secretary, SEC, 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549. Applicants, c/o Audrey C. Talley, Esq., Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, 1345 Chestnut Street, Suite 1100, Philadelphia, PA 19107-3496.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lorna MacLeod, Attorney, or Kevin Kirchoff, Branch Chief, Office of Insurance Products, Division of Investment Management, at (202) 942-0670.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following is a summary of the application. The complete application is available for a fee from the Public Reference Branch of the SEC, 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549 (tel. (202) 942-8090).

### Applicants' Representation

1. The Fund is a Massachusetts business trust that is registered under the 1940 Act as an open-end management investment company. The Fund consists of three series which are currently offered. The Fund may in the future issue shares of additional series.

2. The Adviser, a Michigan corporation, is registered as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 and serves as the investment adviser for the Fund.

3. Shares of the Fund are offered to separate accounts of Participating Insurance Companies to serve as investment vehicles for variable annuity and variable life insurance contracts (including single premium, scheduled premium, modified single premium and flexible premium contracts) (collectively, "Variable Contracts"). These separate accounts either will be registered as investment companies under the 1940 Act or will be exempt from such registration.

4. The Participating Insurance Companies will establish their own separate accounts and design their own Variable Contracts. Each Participating Insurance Company will have the legal obligation of satisfying all applicable requirements under the federal securities laws. The role of the Insurance Products Funds will be limited to that of offering their shares to separate accounts of Participating Insurance Companies and to Qualified Plans and fulfilling the conditions set forth in the application and described

later in this notice. Each Participating Insurance Company will enter into a fund participation agreement with the Insurance Products Fund in which the Participating Insurance Company invests.

### Applicants' Legal Analysis

1. Applicants request that the Commission issue an order under Section 6(c) of the 1940 Act granting exemptions from Sections 9(a), 13(a), 15(a) and 15(b) thereof and Rules 6e-2(b)(15) and 6e-3(T)(b)(15) thereunder, to the extent necessary to permit shares of the Insurance Products Funds to be offered and sold to, and held by: (a) Variable annuity and variable life insurance separate accounts of the same life insurance company or of any affiliated life insurance company ("mixed funding"); (b) separate accounts of unaffiliated life insurance companies (including both variable annuity and variable life separate accounts) ("shared funding"); and (c) qualified pension and retirement plans outside the separate account context.

2. In connection with the funding of scheduled premium variable life insurance contracts issued through a separate account registered under the 1940 Act as a unit investment trust, Rule 6e-2(b)(15) provides partial exemptions from Sections 9(a), 13(a), 15(a) and 15(b) of the 1940 Act. These exemptions are available only where all of the assets of the separate account consist of the shares of one or more registered management investment companies which offer their shares exclusively to variable life insurance separate accounts of the life insurer or any affiliated life insurance company. Therefore, the relief granted by Rule 6e-2(b)(15) is not available if the scheduled premium variable life insurance separate account owns shares of a management investment company that also offers its shares to a variable annuity separate account of the same insurance company or an affiliated insurance company. The relief granted by Rule 6e-2(b)(15) is not available if the scheduled premium variable life insurance separate account owns shares of an underlying management investment company that also offers its shares to a variable annuity separate account of the same insurance company or to separate accounts funding variable contracts of one or more unaffiliated life insurance companies. The relief granted by Rule 6e-2(b)(15) also is not available if the shares of the Insurance Products Funds also are sold to Qualified Plans.

3. In connection with the funding of flexible premium variable life insurance