

of the public health and safety and common defense and security of the United States.

(3) NEP shall provide the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation a copy of any application, at the time it is filed, to transfer (excluding grants of security interests or liens) from NEP to its direct or indirect parent, or to any other affiliated company, facilities for the production, transmission, or distribution of electric energy having a depreciated book value exceeding ten percent (10 percent) of NEP's consolidated net utility plant, as recorded on its books of account.

(4) Should the proposed merger not be completed by December 30, 2000, this Order shall become null and void, provided however, upon application and for good cause shown, such date may be extended.

This Order is effective upon issuance.

For further details with respect to this Order, see the initial application dated March 15, 1999, and the supplements dated May 20 and June 17, 1999, and the safety evaluation dated December 10, 1999, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and accessible electronically through the ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room link at the NRC Web site <http://www.nrc.gov>.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 10th day of December 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Roy P. Zimmerman,

Acting Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 99-33143 Filed 12-21-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Recommendations From the Metropolitan Area Standards Review Committee to the Office of Management and Budget Concerning Changes to the Standards for Defining Metropolitan Areas

AGENCY: Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

ACTION: Notice extending comment period.

SUMMARY: On October 20, 1999, OMB published a Notice (64 FR 56628-56644) requesting comments on recommendations that it had received from the Metropolitan Area Standards Review Committee (MASRC) for

changes to OMB's metropolitan area standards. By this Notice, OMB is extending the time period for public comment from December 20, 1999 to December 30, 1999.

DATES: To ensure consideration during the final decision making process, written comments must be received no later than December 30, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the recommendations should be submitted to James D. Fitzsimmons, U.S. Bureau of the Census, IPC-Population Division, Washington, DC 20233-8860; fax (301) 457-3034.

Electronic Data Availability: This **Federal Register** Notice and the October 20, 1999 Notice are available electronically from the OMB home page: <<<http://www.whitehouse.gov/OMB/fedreg/index.html>>>. **Federal Register** Notices also are available electronically from the U.S. Government Printing Office web site: <<http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html>>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James D. Fitzsimmons, Chair, Metropolitan Area Standards Review Committee, (301) 457-2419; or E-mail <<pop.frquestion@ccmail.census.gov>>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 20, 1999, OMB published a Notice (64 FR 56628-56644) requesting comments on recommendations that it had received from the Metropolitan Area Standards Review Committee (MASRC) for changes to OMB's metropolitan area standards. MASRC's report and recommendations were published in their entirety in that Notice. To allow additional time for public comment, OMB is extending the comment period on the recommended standards from December 20, 1999 to December 30, 1999. The final standards will be published prior to Census 2000.

John T. Spotila,

Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

[FR Doc. 99-33219 Filed 12-21-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3110-01-P

POSTAL SERVICE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Sunshine Act Meeting

TIMES AND DATES: 1 p.m., Monday, January 10, 2000; 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, January 11, 2000.

PLACE: Washington, D.C., at U.S. Postal Service Headquarters, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., in the Benjamin Franklin Room.

STATUS: January 10 (Closed); January 11 (Open).

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Monday, January 10—1 p.m. (Closed)

1. Rate Case Briefing.
2. Financial Performance—FY 2000, Accounting Period 3 Results.
3. Personnel Matters.
4. Compensation Issues.

Tuesday, January 11—8:30 a.m. (Open)

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting, December 6-7, 1999.
2. Remarks of the Postmaster General/Chief Executive Officer.
3. Consideration of Board Resolution on Capital Funding.
4. Annual Report on Government in the Sunshine Act Compliance.
5. Capital Investment.
 - a. Singulate, Scan, Induction Units.
6. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors.
7. Tentative Agenda for the February 7-8, 2000, meeting in Miami, Florida.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Thomas J. Koerber, Secretary of the Board, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington, DC 20260-1000. Telephone (202) 268-4800.

Thomas J. Koerber,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-33338 Filed 12-20-99; 2:50 pm]

BILLING CODE 7710-12-M

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Agency Forms Submitted for OMB Review

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) has submitted the following proposal(s) for the collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for review and approval.

Summary of Proposal(s)

- (1) *Collection title:* Employee's Certification.
- (2) *Form(s) submitted:* G-346.
- (3) *OMB Number:* 3220-0140.
- (4) *Expiration date of current OMB clearance:* 2/29/2000.
- (5) *Type of request:* Extension of a currently approved collection.
- (6) *Respondents:* Program planning or management.
- (7) *Estimated annual number of respondents:* 5,400.
- (8) *Total annual responses:* 5,400.
- (9) *Total annual reporting hours:* 450.
- (10) *Collection description:* Under Section 2 of the Railroad Retirement Act, spouses of retired railroad employees may be entitled to an annuity. The collection obtains

information from the employee about the employee's previous marriages, if any, to determine if any impediment exists to the marriage between the employee and his or her spouse.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:

Copies of the forms and supporting documents can be obtained from Chuck Mierzwa, the agency clearance officer (312-751-3363). Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Ronald J. Hodapp, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60611-2092 and the OMB reviewer, Lori Schack (202-395-7316), Office of Management and Budget, Room 10230, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Chuck Mierzwa,

Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-33189 Filed 12-21-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7905-01-M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-42239; File No. SR-CHX-99-20]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change by the Chicago Stock Exchange, Inc. Relating to Minimum Net Capital and Excess Net Capital Requirements for Members

December 15, 1999.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on September 24, 1999, the Chicago Stock Exchange, Inc. ("CHX" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the CHX. On December 8, 1999, the CHX submitted Amendment No. 1 to the proposed rule change.³ The Commission is publishing the notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

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

The Exchange proposes to amend Article XI, Rule 3 of the Exchange's rules to modify the minimum net capital and excess net capital requirements applicable to members of the Exchange who are specialists or who carry accounts of specialists. Below in the text of the proposed rule change, Proposed new language is italicized; proposed deletions are in brackets.

Article XI—Financial Responsibility and Reporting Requirements

* * * * *

Net Capital and Aggregate Indebtedness

Rule 3. (a)(1) Except as otherwise provided below, a member or member organization shall at all times—

(i) maintain net capital not less than that prescribed by SEC 15c3-1 (17 CFR 240.15c3-1) and

(ii) maintain subordinated cash borrowing and secured demand notes equal to or greater than 50% of its total subordinated borrowings to the extent that these subordinated borrowings are part of the debt equity total.

* * * * *

(3) a member or member organization that is registered as a specialist on the Exchange [in less than 200 securities] and that clears its own specialist account(s) shall at all time—

(i) maintain[,] (A) at a minimum, net capital that is *equal to* the greater of (1)[a] \$100,000 [\$250,000, subject to the phase-in period set forth in Interpretation and Policy .01, below] or (2)[(b)] the amount prescribed by SEC 15c3-1 (17 CFR 240.15c3-1); and (B) *excess net capital equal to the greater of (1) \$500,000 (or the minimum amount required by National Securities Clearing Corporation ("NSCC") for such direct participants), subject to the phase-in-period set forth in Interpretation and Policy .01, below or (2) the amount prescribed by SEC 15c3-1.*

* * * * *

[(4) A member or member organization that is registered as a specialist on the Exchange in 200 or more securities and that clears its own specialist account(s) shall at all times—

(i) maintain, at a minimum, net capital that is the greater of (a) \$350,000, subject to the phase-in period set forth in Interpretation and Policy .01, below, or (b) the amount prescribed by SEC 15c3-1 (17 CFR 240.15c3-1); and

(ii) maintain subordinated cash borrowings and secured demand notes equal to or greater than 50% of its total subordinated borrowings to the extent

that these subordinated borrowing are part of the debt equity total.]

(4) [5] A member or member organization that clears the specialist accounts of another member or member organization registered as a specialist on the Exchange shall, at all times—

(i) maintain[,] (A) at a minimum, net capital that is *equal to* the greater of (1)[a] \$250,000 [\$500,000, subject to the phase-in period set forth in Interpretation and Policy .01, below] or (2)[(b)] the amount prescribed by SEC 15c3-1 (17 CFR 240.15c3-1); and (B) *excess net capital equal to the greater of (1) \$1,000,000 (or the minimum amount required by NSCC for such direct participants), subject to the phase-in period set forth in Interpretation and Policy .01, below or (2) the amount prescribed by SEC 15c3-1.*

* * * * *

(5) [6] * * *

(6) [7] * * *

Interpretations and Policies

.01 Phase-In Periods for Minimum Capital Standards for Self-Clearing Specialists and Firms Clearing Specialist Accounts.

On [May 31, 1999] (*insert date 30 days after date of SEC approval order*), the Exchange adopted separate minimum net capital *and excess net capital* standards for self-clearing specialists and firms clearing other specialist accounts, as specified in subsections (a)(3) and (a)(4) [and (a)(5) above. These minimum capital standards are to be phased in over a 12 month (*or other time period based on date of SEC approval order*) period.

Self-Clearing Specialists [Registered as Specialist in Less Than 200 Securities: \$250,000 Standard]

The amount specified in Rule 3(a)(3)(i)(B)(1) above shall be [\$150,000 effective on May 31, 1999; \$200,000 effective on November 30, 1999; and \$250,000] \$350,000 effective on May 31, 2000; and \$500,000 effective on June 30, 2000.

[Registered as a Specialist in 200 or More Securities: \$350,000 Standard].

The amount specified in Rule 3(a)(4)(i)(a) above shall be \$200,000 effective on May 31, 1999; \$275,000 effective on November 30, 1999; and \$350,000 effective on May 31, 2000.]

Firms Clearing Other Specialist Accounts: [\$500,000 Standard].

The amount specified in Rule 3(a)(4)(i)(B)(1) above shall be [\$350,000 effective on May 31, 1999; \$425,000 effective on November 30, 1999; [and] \$500,000 effective on May 31, 2000; and \$1,000,000 effective on June 30, 2000.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4

³ In Amendment No. 1, the CHX clarified Interpretation .01 to Rule 3 of Article XI and made technical amendments to the proposed rule language. See letter from Kathleen M. Boege, Associate General Counsel, CHX, to Jack Drogin, Senior Special Counsel, Division of Market Regulation, Commission, dated December 7, 1999.