are entitled to veterans' preference. Preference eligibles meeting basic (minimum) qualifications will receive an additional 5 or 10 points (depending on their preference eligibility) which is added to the minimum scores identified above. Candidates will be placed in one of three quality groups based on their numerical score, including any veterans' preference points: Basically Qualified (score of 70 and above), Highly Qualified (score of 80 and above), or Superior (score of 90 and above). The names of preference eligibles shall be entered ahead of others having the same numerical rating.

For engineering/scientific and professional positions at the equivalent of GS–9 and above, candidates will be referred by quality groups in the order of the numerical ratings, including any veterans' preference points. For all other positions, i.e., other than engineering/scientific and professional positions at the equivalent of GS–9 and above, preference eligibles with a compensable service-connected disability of 10 percent or more who meet basic (minimum) eligibility will be listed at the top of the highest group certified.

In making their selections, selecting officials should be provided with a reasonable number of qualified candidates from which to choose. All candidates in the highest group will be certified. If there is an insufficient number of candidates in the highest group, candidates in the next lower group may then be certified. Should this process not yield a sufficient number, groups will be certified sequentially until a selection is made or the qualified pool is exhausted. When two or more groups are certified, candidates will be identified by quality group (i.e., Superior, Highly Qualified, Basically Qualified) in the order of their numerical scores. In making selections, to pass over any preference eligible(s) in order to select a nonpreference eligible requires approval under current pass-over or objection procedures.

B. Distinguished Scholastic Achievement Appointment

ARL further proposes to establish a Distinguished Scholastic Achievement Appointment using an alternative examining process which provides the authority to appoint undergraduates and graduates through the doctoral level to professional positions at the equivalent of GS–7 through GS–11, and GS–12 positions.

At the undergraduate level, candidates may be appointed to positions at a pay level no greater than the equivalent of GS–7, step 10, provided that: they meet the minimum standards for the position as published in OPM's operating manual, ''Qualification Standards for General Schedule Positions,'' plus any selective factors stated in the vacancy announcement; the occupation has a positive education requirement; and the candidate has a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or better (on a 4.0 scale) in those courses in those fields of study that are specified in the Qualifications Standards for the occupational series.

Appointments may also be made at the equivalent of GS–9 through GS–12 on the basis of graduate education and/or experience for those candidates with a grade point average of 3.5 or better (on a 4.0 scale) for graduate level courses in the field of study required for the occupation.

Veterans' preference procedures will apply when selecting candidates under this authority. Preference eligibles who meet the above criteria will be considered ahead of nonpreference eligibles. In making selections, to pass over any preference eligible(s) to select a nonpreference eligible requires approval under current pass-over or objection procedures. Priority must also be given to displaced employees as may be specified in OPM and DoD regulations.

Distinguished Scholastic Achievement Appointments will enable the ARL to respond quickly to hiring needs with eminently qualified candidates possessing distinguished scholastic achievements.

IV. Required Waivers to Law and Regulations

Public Law 103–337 gave the DoD the authority to experiment with several personnel management innovations. In addition to the authorities granted by the law, the following are the waivers of law and regulation that will be necessary for amendment of the demonstration project. Additional waivers in the area of performance management make explicit the intent of the demonstration project regarding OPM approval of the performance appraisal system already contained in the project plan.

A. Waivers to Title 5, U.S. Code

Section 3317(a), Competitive Service; certification from registers (insofar as ''rule of three'' is eliminated under the demonstration project).

Section 3318(a), Competitive Service; selection from certificates (insofar as ''rule of three'' is eliminated under the demonstration project).

Section 4304(b)(1) and (3), Inasmuch as OPM approval of the final demonstration project plan enumerated in paragraph 1 of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION,** above, also constitutes OPM approval of the performance appraisal system contained in that plan.

B. Waivers to Title 5, Code of Federal Regulations

Part 332.401 (b), Only to the extent that for non-professional or non-scientific positions equivalent to GS–9 and above, preference eligibles with a compensable service-connected disability of 10 percent or more who meet basic (minimum) qualification requirements will be entered at the top of the highest group certified without the need for further assessment.

Part 332.402, ''Rule of three'' will not be used in the demonstration project.

Part 332.404, Order of selection is not limited to highest three eligibles.

Part 430.210, Inasmuch as OPM approval of the final demonstration project plan enumerated in paragraph 1 of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION,** above, also constitutes OPM approval of the performance appraisal system contained in that plan.

[FR Doc. 00–1341 Filed 1–20–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325–01–U

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Request Under Review by Office of Management and Budget

Upon written request, copies available from: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, D.C. 20549.

Extension:

Rule 12a–5, Form 26, SEC File No. 270–85, OMB Control No. 3235–0079

Rule 12f–1, SEC File No. 270–139, OMB Control No. 3235–0128

Rule 12f–3, SEC File No. 270–141, OMB Control No. 3235–0249

Rule 15Ajensp;1, Forms X–15AJ–1 and X–15AJ–2 SEC File No. 270–25, OMB Control No. 3235–0044

Rule 15c2–1 SEC File No. 270–418, OMB Control No. 3235–0485

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.

Rule 12a–5 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the ''Act'') generally makes it unlawful for any security to be traded on a national securities exchange unless such security is registered on the exchange in accordance with the

provisions of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder.

Rule 12a–5 under the Act and Form 26 were adopted by the Commission in 1936 and 1955, respectively, pursuant to Sections 3(a)(12), 10(b), and 23(a) of the Act. Subject to certain conditions, Rule 12a–5 affords a temporary exemption (generally for up to 120 days) from the registration requirements of Section 12(a) of the Act for a new security when the holders of a security admitted to trading on a national securities exchange obtain the right (by operation of law or otherwise) to acquire all or any part of a class of another or substitute security of the same or another issuer, or an additional amount of the original security. The purpose of the exemption is to avoid an interruption of exchange trading to afford time for the issuer of the new security to list and register it, or for the exchange to apply for unlisted trading privileges.

Under paragraph (d) of Rule 12a–5, after an exchange has taken action to admit any security to trading pursuant to the provisions of the Rule, the exchange is required to file with the Commission a notification on Form 26. Form 26 provides the Commission with certain information regarding a security admitted to trading on an exchange pursuant to Rule 12a–5, including: (1) The name of the exchange, (2) the name of the issuer, (3) a description of the security, (4) the date(s) on which the security was or will be admitted to when-issued and/or regular trading, and (5) a brief description of the transaction pursuant to which the security was or will be issued.

The Commission generally oversees the national securities exchanges. This mission requires that, under Section 12(a) of the Act specifically, the Commission receive notification of any securities that are permitted to trade on an exchange pursuant to the temporary exemption under Rule 12a–5. Without the Rule and the Form, the Commission would be unable fully to implement these statutory responsibilities.

There are currently eight national securities exchanges subject to Rule 12a–5. While approximately 40 Forms 26 are filed annually, the reporting burdens are not typically spread evenly among the exchanges.[1] For purposes of this analysis of burden, however, the staff has assumed that each exchange files an equal number (five) of Form 26 notifications. Each notification requires approximately 20 minutes to complete. Each respondent's compliance burden, then, in a given year would be approximately 100 minutes (20 minutes/report × 5 reports = 100 minutes), which translates to just over 13 hours in the aggregate for all respondents (8 respondents × 100 minutes/respondent = 800 minutes, or 13⅓ hours).

Based on the most recent available information, the Commission staff estimates that the cost to respondents of completing a notification on Form 26 is, on average, $15 per response. The staff estimates that the total annual related reporting cost per respondent is $75 (5 responses/respondent × $15 cost/response), for a total annual related cost to all respondents of $600 ($75 cost/respondent × 8 respondents).

Compliance with Rule 12a–5 is required to obtain the benefit of the temporary exemption from registration offered by the Rule. There are no recordkeeping requirements associated with Rule 12a–5. Information received in response to Rule 12a–5 shall not be kept confidential; the information collected is public information.

Rule 12f–1, originally adopted in 1934 pursuant to Sections 12(f) and 23(a) of the Act and as modified in 1995, sets forth the information which an exchange must include in an application to reinstate its ability to extend unlisted trading privileges to any security for which such unlisted trading privileges have been suspended by the Commission, pursuant to Section 12(f)(2)(A) of the Act. An application must provide the name of the issuer, the title of the security, the name of each national securities exchange, if any, on which the security is listed or admitted to unlisted trading privileges, whether transaction information concerning the security is reported in the consolidated transaction reporting system contemplated by Rule 11Aa3–1 under the Act, and any other pertinent information Rule 12f–1 further requires a national securities exchange seeking to reinstate its ability to extend unlisted trading privileges to a security to indicate that it has provided a copy of such application to the issuer of the security, as well as to any other national securities exchange on which the security is listed or admitted to unlisted trading privileges.

The information required by rule 12f–1 enables the Commission to make the necessary findings under the Act prior to granting applications to reinstate unlisted trading privileges. This information is also made available to members of the public who may wish to comment upon the applications. Without the Rule, the Commission would be unable to fulfill these statutory responsibilities.

There are currently eight national securities exchanges subject to Rule 12f–1. The burden of complying with Rule 12f–1 arises when a potential respondent seeks to reinstate its ability to extend unlisted trading privileges to any security for which unlisted trading privileges have been suspended by the Commission, pursuant to Section 12(f)(2)(A) of the Act. The staff estimates that each application would require approximately one hour to complete. Thus each potential respondent would incur on average one burden hour in complying with the Rule.

The Commission staff estimates that there could be as many as eight responses annually and that each respondent's related cost of compliance with Rule 12f–1 would be $50, or, the cost of one hour of professional work needed to complete the application. The total annual related reporting cost for all potential respondents, therefore, is $400 (8 responses × $50/response).

Compliance with Rule 12f–1 is mandatory. There are no recordkeeping requirements associated with Rule 12f–1. Information received in response to Rule 12f–1 shall not be kept confidential; the information collected is public information.

Rule 12f–3, which was originally adopted in 1934 pursuant to Sections 12(f) and 23(a) of the Act, prescribes the information which must be included in applications for and notices of termination or suspension of unlisted trading privileges for a security as contemplated in Section 12(f)(4) of the Act. An application must provide, among other things, the name of the applicant; a brief statement of the applicant's interest in the question of termination of suspension of such unlisted trading privileges; the title of the security; the name of the issuer; certain information regarding the size of the class of security and its recent trading history; and a statement indicating that the applicant has provided a copy of such application to the exchange from which the suspension or termination of unlisted trading privileges are sought, and to any other exchange on which the security is listed or admitted to unlisted trading privileges.

The information required to be included in applications submitted pursuant to Rule 12f–3, is intended to provide the Commission with sufficient information to make the necessary findings under the Act to terminate or suspend by order the unlisted trading privileges granted a security on a national securities exchange. Without

[1] In fact, some exchanges do not file any notifications on Form 26 with the Commission in a given year.

the Rule, the Commission would be unable to fulfill these statutory responsibilities.

The burden of complying with Rule 12f–3 arises when a potential respondent, having a demonstrable bona fide interest in the question of termination or suspension of the unlisted trading privileges of a security, determines to seek such termination or suspension. The staff estimates that each such application to terminate or suspend unlisted trading privileges requires approximately one hour to complete. Thus each potential respondent would incur on average one burden hour in complying with the Rule.

The Commission staff estimates that there could be as many as ten responses annually and that each respondent's related cost of compliance with Rule 12f–3 would be $50, or, the cost of one hour of professional work needed to complete the application. The total annual related reporting costs for all potential respondents, therefore, is $500 (10 responses×50/response).

Compliance with the application requirements of Rule 12f–3 is mandatory, though the filing of such applications is undertaken voluntarily. There are no recordkeeping requirements associated with Rule 12f–3. Information received in response to Rule 12f–1 shall not be kept confidential; the information collected is public information.

Rule 12Aj–1 implements the requirements of Sections 15A, 17, and 19 of the Act by requiring every association registered as, or applying for registration as, a national securities association or as an affiliated securities association to keep its registration statement up-to-date by making periodic filings with the commission on Form X–15AJ–1 and Form X–15AJ–2.

Rule 15Aj–1 requires a securities association to promptly notify the Commission after the discovery of any inaccuracy in its registration statement or in any amendment or supplement thereto by filing an amendment to its registration statement on Form X–15AJ–1 correcting such inaccuracy. The Rule also requires an association to promptly notify the Commission of any change which renders no longer accurate any information contained or incorporated in its registration statement or in any amendment or supplement thereto by filing a current supplement on Form X–15AJ–1. Rule 15Aj–1 further requires an association to file each year with the Commission an annual consolidated supplement on Form X–15AJ–2.

The information required by Rule 15Aj–1 and Form X–15AJ–1 and X–15AJ–2 is intended to enable the Commission to carry out its statutorily mandated oversight functions and to assure that registered securities associations are in compliance with the Act. This information is also made available to members of the public. Without the requirements imposed by the Rule, the Commission would be unable to fulfill its regulatory responsibilities.

There is presently only one registered securities association, which registered in 1939, subject to the Rule. The burdens associated with Rule 15Aj–1 requirements have been borne by only one securities association since Rule 15Aj–1 was adopted. Furthermore, the burdens associated with Rule 15Aj–1 vary depending on whether amendments and current supplements are filed on Form X–15AJ–1 in addition to an annual consolidated supplement filed on Form X–15AJ–2. The Commission staff estimates the burden in hours necessary to comply with the Rule by filing an amendment or a current supplement on Form X–15AJ–1 to be approximately one-half hour, with a related cost of $11, per response. The Commission staff estimates the burden in hours necessary to comply with the Rule by filing an annual consolidated supplement on Form X–15AJ–2 to be approximately three hours, with a related cost of $90. Therefore, the Commission staff estimates that the total annual related reporting cost associated with the Rule to be upwards of $90, assuming a minimum filing of an annual consolidated statement on Form X–15AJ–2, with additional filings on Form X–15AJ–1 correspondingly increasing such reporting cost.

Compliance with Rule 15Aj–1 is mandatory. Information received in response to Rule 15Aj–1 shall not be kept confidential; the information collected is public information.

Rule 15c2–1 generally prohibits a broker-dealer from using its customers' securities as collateral to finance its own transactions. Subject to certain exceptions and exemptions, Rule 15c2–1 prohibits a broker-dealer from: (1) Commingling under the same lien customer securities with other customer securities, without the written consent of each customer; (2) commingling under the same lien customer securities with non-customer securities (including those of the broker-dealer) for a loan made to the broker-dealer, and (3) hypothecating customer securities for a loan amount which exceeds all customers' aggregate indebtedness relating to securities carried in their accounts. Under Rule 15c2–1, a broker-dealer must collect information necessary to prevent the rehypothecation of customer securities in contravention of the Rule, issue and retain copies of notices to the pledgee of hypothecation of customer securities in accordance with the Rule, and collect written consents from customers in accordance with the Rule. The collection of information required by Rule 15c2–1 is necessary to ensure compliance with the Rule, and to advice customers of the Rule's protections. In addition, the collection of information is necessary to execute the Commission's mandate under the Securities Exchange of 1934 (''Exchange Act'') to prevent fraudulent, manipulative, and deceptive acts and practices by broker-dealers.

There are approximately 177 respondents (i.e., broker-dealers that carry or clear customer accounts that also have bank loans) that must comply with the Rule. Each of these approximately 177 respondents make an estimated 45 annual responses, for an aggregate total of 7,965 responses per year. Each response takes approximately 0.5 hours to complete. Thus, the total compliance burden per year is 3,983 burden hours. The approximate cost per hour is $25 (based on an annual salary of $52,000 for clerical labor), resulting in a total compliance cost of $99,575 (3,983 hours @ $25 per hour).

Although Rule 15c2–1 does not specify a retention period or record keeping requirement under the Rule, nevertheless broker-dealers are required to preserve the records for a period no less then six years pursuant to Rule 17a–4(c). The information required under Rule 15c2–1 is necessary for broker-dealers to hypothecate customer securities in compliance with the Rule. Rule 15c2–1 does not assure confidentiality for the information retained under the rule.[2]

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: (a) Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and

[2] The records required by Rule 15c2–1 would be available only to the examination of the Commission staff, state securities authorities and the Self-Regulatory Organizations (SRO's). Subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 522, and the Commission's rules thereunder (17 CFR 200.80(b)(4)(iii)), the Commission does not generally publish or make available information contained in any reports, summaries, analyses, letters, or memoranda arising out of, in anticipation of, or in connection with an examination or inspection of the books and records of any person or any other investigation.

Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10102, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503; and (b) Michael E. Bartell, Associated Executive Director, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Comments must be submitted to Office of Management and Budget within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: January 11, 2000.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00–1479 Filed 1–20–00; 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:

Form F–9, SEC File No. 270–333, OMB Control No. 3235–0377

Form F–10, SEC File No. 270–334, OMB Control No. 3235–0380

Form 10, SEC File No. 270–51, OMB Control No. 3235–0064

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 extensions on the following:

Form F–9 is a Registration Statement under the Securities Act of 1933 (Securities Act) used by certain Canadian issuers to register certain investment grade debt or investment grade preferred securities that are offered for cash or in connection with an exchange offer and either non convertible or not convertible for a period of at least one year from the date of issuance and, except as noted in paragraph (e), are thereafter only convertible into security of another class of the issuer.

The information required by Form F–9 is useful for persons considering investment in securities issued by Canadian companies. Form F–9 takes approximately 25 hours to prepare and is filed by 12 respondents. It is estimated that 25% of the 300 hours (75 hours) would be prepared by the company.

Form F–10 is a Registration Statement used by Canadian ''substantial issuers,'' those issuers with at least thirty-six calendar months of reporting history with a securities commission in Canada and a market value of common stock of at least $360 million (Canadian) and an aggregate market value of common stock held by non-affiliates of at least $75 million (Canadian).

The information required under the cover of Form F–10 can be used by security holders and investors in evaluating securities and making investment decisions. Form F–10 takes approximately 25 hours to prepare and is filed by 45 respondents. It is estimated that 25% of the 1,125 hours (281) would be prepared by the company.

Form 10 is used by the Commission to register securities pursuant to Sections 12(b) or 12(g) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Exchange Act). Form 10 requires financial and other information about such matters as the registrant's business, properties, identity and remuneration of management, outstanding securities and securities to be registered and financial condition.

The information provided by Form 10 is intended to ensure the adequacy of information available to investors about the company. form 10 takes approximately 24 hours to prepare and is filed by 124 respondents. It is estimated that 25% of the 2,977 hours (744 hours) would be prepared by the company.

All information provided to the Commission is available to the public for review. Information provided by both Form F–9 and Form F–10 is mandatory. Information provided by Form 10 is voluntary.

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, 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, N.W., Washington DC 20549. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: January 10, 2000.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00–1480 Filed 1–20–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010–01–M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Issuer Delisting; Notice of Application to Withdraw From Listing and Registration; (Enzo Biochem, Inc., Common Stock, Par Value $.01 per Share) File No. 1–9974

January 13, 2000.

Enzo Biochem, Inc. (''Company''), has filed an appliction with the Securities and Exchange Commission (''Commission''), pursuant to Section 12(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (''Act'')[1] and Rule 12d2–2(d) thereunder,[2] 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 which became effective on December 8, 1999, on the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. (''NYSE''). Trading in the Security on the NYSE commenced at the opening of business on December 16, 1999.

The Company has complied with Amex Rule 18 by filing with the Exchange a certified copy of the preambles and resolutions adopted by the Company's Board of Directors authorizing the withdrawal of its Security from listing and registration on the Exchange and by setting forth in detail to the Exchange the reasons for such proposed withdrawal and the facts in support thereof. The Amex has in turn informed the Company that it does not object to the proposed withdrawal of the Company's Security from listing and registration on the Exchange.

In making the decision to withdraw the Security from listing on the Amex in conjunction with its new listing on the NYSE, the Company has cited its desire to avoid the direct and indirect costs, as well as the division of the market for its Security, which would arise from maintaining simultaneous listings on the Amex and the NYSE. The Company believes that the NYSE listing will provide better marketplace visibility for its Security than the Amex did and thereby enhance its value for shareholders.

[1] 15 U.S.C. 78l(d).

[2] 17 CFR 240.12d2–2(d).