burden hours for Form 20–F would increase 550 hours as a result of the Commission's proposal.

An estimated 3,031 small business issuers file 9,093 Form 10–QSBs each year. Approximately 265 such issuers are expected to include the proposed disclosure item in their Form 10–QSBs, and the burden hours for such Form 10–QSBs would increase by an average 5.5 hours per submission. The total annual burden hours for Form 10–QSB will increase from 1,191,183 hours to 1,195,555.5 hours.

Approximately 2,790 small business issuers file Form 10–KSB each year, and approximately 265 of these issuers are expected to include the proposed use of proceeds information in their Form 10–KSBs. The burden hours for the affected Form 10–KSBs would increase by an average 5.5 hours per submission. The total annual burden hours for Form 10–KSB will increase from 3,389,850 hours to 3,391,307.5 hours.

General comments regarding the estimated burden hours should be directed to the Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission at the address below. Any comments concerning the accuracy of the estimated average burden hours for compliance with Commission rules and forms should be directed to Michael E. Bartell, Associate Executive Director, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549 and 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.

Dated: June 18, 1996.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96–16168 Filed 6–24–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010–01–M

Issuer Delisting; Notice of Application To Withdraw From Listing and Registration; (Abatix Environmental Corp., Common Stock, $0.001 Par Value) File No. 1–10184

June 19, 1996.

Abatix Environmental Corp. (''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 Boston Stock Exchange, Inc. (''BSE'').

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

According to the Company, as of the April 30, 1996, the Company had 2,088,964 shares of Security outstanding. The Security constitutes the sole class of voting securities of the Company. Each share of Security entitles the holder thereof to one vote on all matters to come before a meeting of stockholders.

The trades of the Company's Security on the BSE since 1989 have been minimal. In addition to the indirect costs (filing of period reports, etc.) related to being listed on the BSE, the Company pays $1,000 per year in direct fees.

The Security is currently listed on The Nasdaq SmallCap Market tier of The Nasdaq Stock Market. The issuer cannot justify the expense of being listed on an exchange and the Nasdaq SmallCap system and thereby, wishes to withdraw from the BSE.

Any interested person may, on or before July 11, 1996 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 exchanges 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. 96–16060 Filed 6–24–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010–01–M

Issuer Delisting; Notice of Application To Withdraw From Listing and Registration; (CenterPoint Properties Corporation, Common Stock, $0.001, Par Value; 8.22% Convertible Subordinated Debentures Due 2004) File No. 1–12630

June 19, 1996.

CenterPoint Properties Corporation (''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 securities (''Securities'') from listing and registration on the American Stock Exchange, Inc. (''Amex'').

The reasons alleged in the application for withdrawing the Securities from listing and registration include the following:

According to the Company, it has listed the Security with the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. (''NYSE''). In making the decision to withdraw the Securities from listing on the Amex, the Company considered the direct and indirect costs and expenses attendant on maintaining the dual listing of the Securities on the NYSE and on the Amex. The Company does not see any particular advantage in the dual trading of the Securities and believes that dual listing would fragment the market for its Securities.

Any interested person may, on or before July 11, 1996, 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 exchanges and what terms, if any, should be imposed by the Commission for the protection 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. 96–16061 Filed 6–24–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010–01–M

[Rel. No. IC–22029; International Series Release No. 995; File No. 812–10176]

The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A. and Chemical Bank; Notice of Application

June 19, 1996.

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission (''SEC'').

ACTION: Notice of Application for Exemption under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the ''Act'').

APPLICANTS: The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A. (''Chase'') and Chemical Bank (''Chemical'').

RELEVANT ACT SECTIONS: Order requested under section 6(c) of the Act for an exemption from section 17(f) of the Act.

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION: Applicants request an order that would amend a

prior order that permits Chase, as custodian or subcustodian of registered U.S. investment company assets, to deposit such assets in foreign banks and foreign securities depositories. The requested order would substitute the entity surviving the anticipated merger of Chase and Chemical as the party to which relief is granted. Chemical will survive the merger and change its name to ''The Chase Manhattan Bank.''

FILING DATE: The application was filed on June 3, 1996.

HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING: An order granting the application will be issued unless the SEC orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing a writing to the SEC's Secretary and serving applicants with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the SEC by 5:30 p.m. on July 11, 1996 by proof of service on applicants, in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Hearing requests should state the nature of the writer'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 SEC's Secretary.

ADDRESSES: Secretary, SEC, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Applicants, c/o Daniel L. Goelzer, Esq., Baker & McKenzie, 815 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deepak T. Pai, Staff Attorney, at (202) 942–0574, or Robert A. Robertson, Branch Chief, at (202) 942–0564 (Division of Investment Management, Office of Investment Company Regulation).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following is a summary of the application. The complete application may be obtained for a fee at the SEC's Public Reference Branch.

Applicants' Representations

1. Chase is a national banking association, regulated by the Comptroller of the Currency under the National Bank Act. At December 31, 1995, Chase has shareholders' equity in excess of $8.065 billion. Through its Global Securities Services division, Chase provides custody and related services to global institutional investors, including U.S. Investment Companies.[1]

2. Chemical Bank is a banking institution, organized under the laws of the State of New York. It is regulated as a bank by the Superintendent of Banks of New York, and is a member bank of the Federal Reserve System. At December 31, 1995, Chemical had shareholders' equity in excess of $8.18 billion.

3. On March 31, 1996, Chase's parent holding company, The Chase Manhattan Corporation, and Chemical's parent holding company, Chemical Banking Corporation, merged. Chemical Banking Corporation was the surviving entity in the merger, and it has changed its name to ''The Chase Manhattan Corporation.'' During July 1996, it is anticipated that Chase will be merged into Chemical (the ''Merger''). Chemical will survive the Merger, and will change its name to ''The Chase Manhattan Bank'' (''New Chase''). New Chase will succeed by operation of law to the rights and obligations of Chase, including Chase's obligations under the various custody agreements with U.S. Investment Companies or their custodians.

4. Applicants request an order under section 6(c) for an exemption from section 17(f) that would amend a prior order (the ''Prior Order'').[2] The Prior Order granted an exemption to Chase to permit it, as custodian or subcustodian of such U.S. Investment Company assets, to deposit such assets in foreign banks and foreign securities depositories. Applicants request that New Chase be substituted for Chase as the party to which relief is granted. The amendment will permit New Chase to place U.S. Investment Company assets in the custody of foreign subcustodians under the same terms and conditions as Chase under the Prior Order.

5. The Prior order permits Chase to place U.S. Investment Company assets in the custody of foreign subcustodians under terms which include, among other things: (a) A subcustodian must be an ''eligible foreign custodian,'' as defined in rule 17f–5(c)(2);[3] (b) Chase must maintain a Bankers Blanket Bond for assets held outside the U.S. if such coverage is available at reasonable cost or, if such coverage is discontinued, must advise its U.S. Investment Company customers; and (c) the custody agreement must contain specific provisions including, among other things: (i) Assets will be identified on Chase's books as belonging to the U.S. Investment Company, and on the foreign bank's books and records as belonging to Chase, as agent for the U.S. Investment Company—Chase and its subcustodians must allow access to their books and records to the U.S. Investment Company; (ii) Chase will furnish auditor's reports (and similar reports concerning each foreign bank and foreign securities depository) to its U.S. Investment Company customers; (iii) securities will be held in an account containing only assets held by Chase for its customers, subject to the instructions of Chase or its agents; (iv) securities will not be subject to any right or other claim in favor of the foreign entity, except for charges for safe custody or administration; (v) Chase will exercise reasonable care in the performance of its duties; (vi) the law of New York will be the governing law of the contract; and (vii) Chase will indemnify and hold its U.S. Investment Company customer harmless from and against any loss that may occur as the result of the failure of a foreign bank or securities depository to the same extent as if Chase itself were holding such securities in New York.

Applicants' Legal Analysis

1. Section 17(f) of the Act requires every registered management investment company to place and maintain its securities and similar investments in the custody of certain entities, including ''banks'' having aggregate capital, surplus and undivided profits of at least $500,000. A ''bank,'' as defined in section 2(a)(5) of the Act, includes (a) A banking institution organized under the laws of the U.S.; (b) a member of the Federal Reserve System; and (c) any other banking institution or trust company doing business under the laws of any state or of the U.S., and meeting certain requirements. Therefore, the only entities located outside the U.S. which section 17(f) authorizes to serve as custodians for registered management investment companies are the overseas branches of U.S. banks.

2. Rule 17f–4 under the Act, at the time of the Prior Order, permitted U.S. Investment Company assets to be deposited with securities depositories registered with the SEC under section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. However, no foreign depository was registered under section 17A, and therefore rule 17f–4 did not authorize

[1] As used herein, ''U.S. Investment Company'' means any management investment company registered under the Act, other than an investment company registered under section 7(d) of the Act.

[2] Investment Company Act Release Nos. 12002 (Oct. 23, 1981) (notice) and 12053 (Nov. 20, 1981) (order). The order was granted before the adoption of rule 17f–5 under the Act. Following the adoption of rule 17f–5, the order was amended to conform it to certain conditions in the rule. Investment Company Act Release Nos. 14133 (Sept. 7, 1984) (notice) and 14184 (Oct. 9, 1984) (order).

[3] The rule defines the term ''Eligible Foreign Custodian'' to include (i) a banking institution or trust company, organized under the laws of a country other than the U.S., that is regulated by that country's government or an agency thereof, and that has shareholders; equity in excess of $200,000,000, or (ii) a majority-owned direct or indirect subsidiary of a qualified U.S. bank or bank-holding company that is organized under the laws of a country other than the U.S. and that has shareholders' equity in excess of $100 million.

the use of securities depositories outside the U.S.[4] Because of the limitations imposed by section 17(f) and rule 17f–4, Chase was required to obtain exemptive relief in order to utilize foreign banks and foreign securities depositories as subcustodians for the assets of U.S. Investment Companies.

3. Section 6(c) of the Act provides, in relevant part, that the SEC may exempt any person or class of persons from any provision of the Act or from any rule thereunder, if such exemption is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, consistent with the protection of investors, and consistent with the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the Act.

4. Applicants believe that the requested amendment is necessary and appropriate in the public interest to permit U.S. Investment Companies for which Chase serves as custodian or subcustodian to continue relying on the Prior Order after the Merger. Applicants state that the Merger, a transaction undertaken for reasons unrelated to the terms of Chase's foreign custody arrangements, should not have the unintended effect of terminating the ability of New Chase and its U.S. Investment Company customers to rely on the Prior Order. Chase has numerous longstanding contractual relationships with its U.S. Investment Company customers, and with numerous foreign subcustodians, predicated on the Prior Order. Applicants believe that, while the terms of these contracts do not differ materially from the requirements of rule 17f–5 (except in ways that are more favorable to U.S. Investment Companies), it would be administratively burdensome and expensive to amend these contracts to delete references to the Prior Order and to conform the contracts to rule 17f–5.

5. Applicants believe that the assets to which the Prior Order relates will be as effectively protected by New Chase as they have been by Chase. Following the Merger, New Chase will be required to indemnify U.S. Investment Companies for losses to the same extent that Chase is currently required to do so under the Prior Order. Applicants believe that, in certain respects, the Prior Order imposes more stringent requirements, and therefore provides a higher level of protection for U.S. Investment Company assets, than does rule 17f–5. Applicants state that this application does not seek to change in any manner the terms and protections applicable to U.S. Investment Company assets held in custody under the Prior Order.

6. Applicants state that the Prior Order is consistent with the purposes of section 17(f) and of rule 17f–5. The purpose of the section is to ensure that U.S. Investment Companies hold securities in a safe manner that protects the interests of their shareholders. The purpose of the rule is to relieve U.S. Investment Companies of the expense and inconvenience of transferring assets to the custody of a U.S. bank or other qualified custodian outside the jurisdiction in which the primary trading market for those assets is located and to reduce the risks inherent in maintaining assets outside the U.S. Applicants state that the requested amendment would permit New Chase and the U.S. Investment Companies for which it acts as custodian or subcustodian to continue relying on the Prior Order under the same terms and conditions of the Prior Order and is therefore consistent with these purposes.

7. Applicants state that in granting the Prior Order, the SEC determined that the arrangements which that order permits satisfy the standards of section 6(c). Applicants believe that the substitution of New Chase for Chase as the party to which the terms and conditions of the Prior Order applies in no way detracts from the continuing validity of the SEC's determination. Therefore, applicants believe the requested order satisfies these standards.

Condition

Applicants agree that the order granting the requested relief shall be subject to the condition that, following the merger of Chase and Chemical, New Chase will comply with all of the terms and conditions of the Prior Order as if such order had been granted to New Chase.

For the Commission, by the Division of Investment Management, under delegated authority.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96–16169 Filed 6–24–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010–01–M

[4] Rule 17f–4 was amended in 1984 (after the adoption of rule 17f–5) to permit the use of certain foreign securities depositories in accordance with rule 17f–5. Investment Company Act Release No. 14132 (Sept. 7, 1984).

[Investment Company Act Release No. 22032; International Series Release No. 997; 812–10172]

Commonwealth Bank of Australia; Notice of Application

June 19, 1996.

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission (''SEC'').

ACTION: Notice of application for exemption under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the ''Act'').

APPLICANT: Commonwealth Bank of Australia (''CBA'').

RELEVANT ACT SECTIONS: Order under section 6(c) of the Act for an exemption from section 17(f) of the Act.

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION: CBA requests an order that would permit registered investment companies other than investment companies registered under section 7(d) (a ''U.S. Investment Company''), for which CBA serves as custodian or subcustodian, to maintain foreign securities and other assets in Australia with CBA Nominees Limited (''CBA Nominees Ltd.''), a wholly-owned subsidiary of CBA.

FILING DATE: The application was filed on May 30, 1996.

HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING: An order granting the application will be issued unless the SEC orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the SEC's Secretary and serving applicant with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the SEC by 5:30 p.m. on July 15, 1996, and should be accompanied by proof of service on the applicant, in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Hearing requests should state the nature of the writer's interest, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons may request notification of a hearing by writing to the SEC's Secretary.

ADDRESSES: Secretary, SEC, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Applicant: 48 Martin Place, Sydney, New South Wales, 2000, Australia; cc: Thomas J. Rice, Esq., Coudert Brothers, 1114 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036–7703.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marianne H. Khawly, Staff Attorney, at (202) 942–0562, or Alison E. Baur, Branch Chief, at (202) 942–0564 (Division of Investment Management, Office of Investment Company Regulation).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following is a summary of the application. The complete application may be obtained for a fee from the SEC's Public Reference Branch.

Applicant's Representations

1. CBA is a bank organized and existing under the laws of Australia. CBA is authorized and regulated in Australia by the Reserve Bank of Australia, an agency of the Commonwealth Government, under the Banking Act of 1959. CBA carries out a