

II. Description of the Proposal

The proposed rule change will modify the current requirement in PCX Rule 12.1 that any employment-related disputes between a registered representative and a member or member organization be addressed by arbitration. The proposal provides that claims related to employment, including sexual harassment, or any discrimination claim in violation of a statute, are eligible for arbitration at the Exchange only if the parties agree to arbitrate the claims after they arise.

The proposed rule change is the most recent in a series of rule changes implemented by self regulatory organizations ("SROs") which modify or clarify exchange rules with regard to arbitration of employment related claims, including claims of sexual harassment.⁴ The proposed rule change is substantially similar to the rule changes the Commission approved for the other SROs; however, PCX has broadened the scope of the previously approved rule changes, to mandate that all claims related to employment, including sexual harassment, or any discrimination claim in violation of a statute, are eligible for arbitration at the Exchange only if the parties agree to arbitrate the claims after they arise.

III. Discussion

Under the Act, SROs are assigned rulemaking and enforcement responsibilities to perform their role in regulating the securities industry for the protection of investors and other related purposes. Pursuant to section 19(b)(2) of the Act,⁵ the Commission is required to approve an SRO's proposed rule change if the Commission determines that the

proposal is consistent with applicable statutory standards. These standards include section 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁶ which provides that the Exchange's rules must be designed to, among other things, "promote just and equitable principles of trade," and "protect investors and the public interest." Section 6(b)(5) also provides that the Exchange's rules may not be designed to "regulate * * * matters not related to the purposes of the [Exchange Act] or the administration of the [Exchange]."

The Exchange's proposed rule change is consistent with section 6(b) of the Act in general, and furthers the objectives of section 6(b)(5) of the Act in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade and the protection of investors and the public interest by improving the administration of an impartial arbitration forum for the resolution of disputes between members and persons associated with members. Furthermore, the proposed rule change is intended to provide uniformity throughout the securities industry as other SROs have modified or clarified their rules with regard to the arbitration of employment related claims. It is reasonable for the Exchange to make a policy determination that in this unique area it will not, as an SRO, permit the use of arbitration unless there is a post-dispute agreement. It is also not improper under the Act for one SRO's policy determination to differ from that of another.

V. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to section 19(b)(2) of the Act,⁷ that the proposal, SR-PCX-99-02, be and hereby is approved.⁸

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁹

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-11599 Filed 5-07-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Wisconsin State Advisory Council; Public Hearing

The U.S. Small Business Administration Wisconsin State Advisory Council, located in the geographical area of Milwaukee,

Wisconsin, will hold a public meeting from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. May 20, 1999 at Metro Milwaukee Area Chamber (MMAC) Association of Commerce Building; 756 North Milwaukee Street, Fourth Floor, Milwaukee, Wisconsin to discuss such matters as may be presented by members, staff of the U.S. Small Business Administration, or others present.

For further information, write or call Yolanda Lassiter, U. S. Small Business Administration, 310 West Wisconsin Avenue Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203; (O) 414 297-1092; (F) 414 297-3928.

Shirl Thomas,

Director, Office of External Affairs.

[FR Doc. 99-11648 Filed 5-7-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3050]

Proposed Information Collection

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: 60-Day notice of proposed information collection; Foreign Service written examination registration form.

SUMMARY: The Department of State is seeking Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for the information collection described below. The purpose of this notice is to allow 60 days for public comment in the **Federal Register** preceding submission to OMB. This process is conducted in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

The following summarizes the information collection proposal submitted to OMB:

Type of Request: Regular submission (we are also submitting an emergency approval request).

Originating Office: PER/REE.

Title of Information Collection: Foreign Service Written Examination Registration Form.

Frequency: Annually.

Form Number: NA.

Respondents: Individuals who wish to register for the Foreign Service Written Examination.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 10,000.

Average Hours Per Response: 1/6.

Total Estimated Burden: 1,666 hours.

Public comments are being solicited to permit the agency to:

- Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency.
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the

⁴ See Exchange Act Release No. 40109 (June 22, 1998) 63 FR 35299 (June 29, 1998) (National Association of Securities Dealers ("NASD") no longer requires associated persons, solely by virtue of their association or registration with the NASD, to arbitrate claims of statutory employment discrimination); Exchange Act Release No. 40858 (December 29, 1998) 64 FR 1051 (January 7, 1999) (New York Stock Exchange removes mandatory arbitration of statutory employment discrimination claims from its rules, allowing arbitration only pursuant to a post-dispute agreement to arbitrate); Exchange Act Release No. 40861 (December 29, 1998) 64 FR 1039 (January 7, 1999) (Boston Stock Exchange excludes from mandatory arbitration any employee dispute between a registered representative or associated persons and a member organization alleging employment discrimination in violation of a statute, including sexual harassment, unless the parties agree to arbitrate the claim after it has arisen); Exchange Act Release No. 41080 (February 22, 1999) 64 FR 10033 (March 1, 1999) (Chicago Board Options Exchange adopts new Interpretation .03 under Exchange Rule 18.1 to clarify that a claim involving employment discrimination, including sexual harassment, is not appropriate for mandatory arbitration at the Exchange).

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

⁸ In approving the proposal, the Commission has considered the rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

⁹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.

- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.
- Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of technology.

For Additional Information: Public comments, or requests for additional information, regarding the collection listed in this notice should be directed to REE, 1800 North Kent Street (703) 875-7252, U.S. Department of State, Arlington, VA 22209.

Dated: April 27, 1999.

Ruben Torres,

Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 99-11725 Filed 5-7-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3051]

Information Collection Under Emergency Review

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Notice of information collection under emergency review: Foreign Service written examination registration form.

SUMMARY: The Department of State has submitted the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the emergency review procedures of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Type of Request: Emergency Review.

Originating Office: PER/REE.

Title of Information Collection:

Foreign Service Written Examination Registration Form.

Frequency: Annually.

Form Number: NA.

Respondents: Individuals who wish to register for the Foreign Service Written Exam.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 10,000.

Average Hours Per Response: 1/6.

Total Estimated Burden: 1,666 hours.

The proposed information collection is published to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies. Emergency review and approval of this collection has been requested from OMB by June 1, 1999. If granted, the emergency approval is only valid for 180 days. Comments should be directed to the State Department Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and

Budget (OMB), Washington, DC 20530, (202) 395-5871.

During the first 60 days of this same period a regular review of this information collection is also being undertaken. Comments are encouraged and will be accepted until 4/13/1999. The agency requests written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information. Your comments are being solicited to permit the agency to:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility.
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.
- Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of technology.

For Additional Information: Public comments, or requests for additional information, regarding the collection listed in this notice should be directed to PER/REE, 1800 N. Kent St., (703) 875-7252, U.S. Department of State, Arlington, VA 22209.

Dated: April 27, 1999.

Ruben Torres,

Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 99-11726 Filed 5-7-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

[OST-1999-5631]

Notice Concerning the Interagency Task Force on the Roles and Missions of the U.S. Coast Guard

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The President has directed, through Executive Order 13115, an independent study on the Roles and Missions of the U.S. Coast Guard. The Interagency Task Force shall report to the President through the Secretary of Transportation, providing advice and recommendations on the appropriate roles and missions for the U.S. Coast Guard through year 2020. The Task Force will seek ultimately to identify

and distinguish which Coast Guard roles, missions, and functions: (a) might be added or enhanced; (b) might be maintained at current levels of performance; or (c) might be reduced or eliminated. The Task Force will also consider whether current Coast Guard roles, missions, and functions might be better performed by private organizations, public authorities, local or State governments, or other federal agencies. The Task Force will also consider the impact on Coast Guard roles, missions, and functions of future prospects in the areas of technology, demographics, the law of the sea, national security, etc. The Task Force is seeking comments from the public and industry on the issues listed above concerning the appropriate roles and missions of the Coast Guard.

ADDRESSES: Your written comments must be signed and refer to docket number OST-1999-5631. Send them to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. To be considered for the report, comments should be received by 1 June 1999. All comments received will be available for public examination at this address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., ET. Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays. Persons who wish notification of the receipt of their comments must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or postcard.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: CAPT John Crowley, Jr., Interagency Task Force on the Roles and Missions of the U.S. Coast Guard, 1111 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 502 West Tower, Arlington, VA 22302, telephone (703) 416-0192, facsimile (703) 416-6793.

Issued in Washington, DC this 3rd day of May, 1999.

Mortimer L. Downey,

Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

[FR Doc. 99-11681 Filed 5-7-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-15-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

[FHWA Docket No. FHWA-98-4370]

Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21); Implementation for the Transportation and Community and System Preservation Pilot Program

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice; request for applications for Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 Transportation and Community and System