hearing held would take place while the amendment is in effect.

A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, by the above date. A copy of the petition should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, and to the attorney for the licensee.

Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for a hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1)(i)–(v) and 2.714(d).

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 15th day of September, 1999.

**Elinor G. Adensam,**

*Acting Director, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 99–24573 Filed 9–21–99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7590–01–P**

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

**[Investment Company Act Release No. 24016; 812–11502]**

## Franklin Gold Fund, et al., Notice of Application

September 16, 1999.

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

**ACTION:** Notice of application for an order under the Investment Company Act of 1949 (the ''Act'') under (i) section 6(c) of the Act granting an exemption from sections 18(f) and 21(b) of the Act; (ii) section 12(d)(1)(J) of the Act granting an exemption from section 12(d)(1) of the Act; (iii) sections 6(c) and 17(b) of the Act granting an exemption from sections 17(a) (1) and 17(a)(3) of the Act; and (iv) section 17(d) of the Act and rule 17d–1 under the Act to permit certain joint arrangements.

**SUMMARY OF APPLICATION:** Applicants request an order that would permit certain registered investment companies to participate in a joint lending and borrowing facility.

**APPLICANTS:** Franklin Gold fund, Franklin Asset Allocation Fund, Franklin Equity Fund, Franklin High Income Trust, Franklin Custodian Funds, Inc., Franklin California Tax-Free Income Fund, Inc., Franklin New York Tax-Free Income Fund, Franklin Federal Tax-Free Income Fund, Franklin Tax-Free Trust, Franklin California Tax-Free Trust, Franklin New York Tax-Free Trust, Franklin Investors Securities Trust, Institutional Fiduciary Trust, Franklin Value Investors Trust, Franklin Strategic Mortgage Portfolio, Franklin Municipal Securities Trust, Franklin Managed Trust, Franklin Strategic Series, Adjustable Rate Securities Portfolios, Franklin Templeton International Trust, Franklin Real Estate Securities Trust, Franklin Templeton Global Trust, Franklin Valuemark Funds, Franklin Universal Trust, Franklin Multi-income Trust, Franklin Templeton Fund Allocator Series, Franklin Money Fund, Franklin Money Fund Trust, Franklin Federal Money Fund, Franklin Tax-Exempt Money Fund, Franklin Mutual Series Fund Inc., Franklin Floating Rate Trust, The Money Market Portfolios, Templeton Growth Fund, Inc., Templeton Funds, Inc., Templeton Global Smaller Companies Fund, Inc., Templeton Income Trust, Templeton Global Real Estate Fund, Templeton Capital Accumulator Fund, Inc., Templeton Global Opportunities Trust, Templeton Institutional Funds, Inc., Templeton Developing Markets Trust, Templeton Global Investment Trust, Templeton Emerging Markets Fund, Inc., Templeton Emerging Markets Appreciation Fund, Inc., Templeton Global Income Fund, Inc., Templeton Global Governments Income Trust, Templeton Emerging Markets Income Fund, Inc., Templeton China World Fund, Inc., Templeton Dragon Fund, Inc., Templeton Vietnam and Southeast Asia Fund, Inc., Templeton Russia Fund, Inc., Templeton Variable Products Series Fund (collectively, the ''Franklin Templeton Funds''), Franklin Advisers, Inc., Franklin Advisory Services, LLC, Franklin Investment Advisory Services, Inc., Templeton Asset Management, Ltd., Templeton Global Advisors Limited, Franklin Mutual Advisers, LLC, Templeton Investment Counsel, Inc., (collectively, the Franklin Templeton Advisers''), and any future registered management investment company advised by the Franklin Templeton Advisers or an entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with one of the Franklin Templeton Advisers (together with the Franklin Templeton Funds, the ''Funds'').[1]

*Filing Dates:* The application was filed on February 5. 1999 and amended on July 6, 1999 and on September 2, 1999.

*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 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 October 12, 1999 and should be accompanied by proof of service on applicants in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers a certificate or 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 by writing to the SEC's Secretary.

**ADDRESSES:** Secretary, SEC, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549–0609. Applicants, 777 Mariners Island Boulevard, San Mateo, California, 94404.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Janet M. Grossnickle, Attorney-Adviser, (202) 942–0526, or Mary Kay Frech, Branch Chief, (202) 942–0564 (Division of Investment Management, Office of Investment Company Regulation).

**SUPPLEMENTAL 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, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549–0102 (telephone (202) 942–8090).

### Applicants' Representations

1. Each Franklin Templeton Fund is registered under the Act as a management investment company and organized as a Massachusetts business trust, a Delaware business trust, a Maryland corporation, or a California corporation. Each Franklin Templeton Adviser is or will be registered as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 and serves as an investment adviser to the Funds.

2. Some Funds may lend money to banks or other entities by entering into repurchase agreements or purchasing other short-term instruments, either directly or through a joint account. Certain of the Funds and Franklin

[1] All existing funds that currently intend to rely on the order are named as applicants. Any other existing Fund and any future Fund will rely on the order only in accordance with the terms and conditions of the application.

Templeton Advisers obtained an order to permit them to deposit uninvested cash balances that remain at the end of a trading day in one or more joint trading accounts (each a ''Joint Account'') to be used to enter into short-term investments.[2] The Funds and the Franklin Templeton Advisers obtained an order to permit them to invest their cash balances in one or more of the Funds that are money market funds that comply with rule 2a-7 under the Act (''Money market Funds'').[3] Other Funds may borrow money from the same or other banks for temporary purposes to satisfy redemption requests or to cover unanticipated cash shortfalls such as a trade ''fail'' in which cash payment for a portfolio security sold by a Fund has been delayed.

3. If the Funds were to borrow money under credit arrangements with a bank, the Funds would pay interest on the borrowed cash at a rate which would be significantly higher than the rate would be earned by other (non-borrowing) Funds on investments in repurchase agreements and other short-term instruments of the same maturity as the bank loan. Applicants state that this differential represents the bank's profit for serving as a middleman between a borrower and lender. Other bank loan arrangements, such as committed lines of credit would require the Funds to pay substantial commitment fees in addition to the interest rate to be paid by the borrowing Fund.

4. Applicants request an order that would permit the Funds to enter into lending agreements (''Interfund Lending Agreements'') under which the Funds would lend money directly to and borrow money directly from each other through a credit facility for temporary purposes (''Interfund Loan''). Applicants believe that the proposed credit facility would substantially reduce the Funds' potential borrowing costs and enhance their ability to earn higher rates of interest on short-term lendings. Although the proposed credit facility would substantially reduce the Funds' need to borrow from banks, the Funds would be free to establish committed lines of credit or other borrowing arrangements with banks. The Funds also would continue to maintain overdraft protection, if any, currently provided by their custodians. Applicants state that closed-end Funds will participate in the credit facility only as lenders.

5. Applicants anticipate that the credit facility would provide a borrowing Fund with significant savings when the cash position of the Fund is insufficient to meet temporary cash requirements. This situation could arise when redemptions exceed anticipated volumes and the Funds have insufficient cash on hand to satisfy such redemptions. When the Funds liquidate portfolio securities to meet redemption requests, which normally are effected immediately, they often do not receive payment in settlement for up to three days (or longer for certain foreign transactions). The credit facility would provide a source of immediate, short-term liquidity pending settlement of the sale of portfolio securities.

6. Applicants also propose using the credit facility when a sale of securities ''fails'' due to circumstances such as a delay in the delivery of cash to the Fund's custodian or improper delivery instructions by the broker effecting the transaction. ''Sales fails'' may present a cash shortfall if the Fund has undertaken to purchase a security with the proceeds from securities sold. When the Fund experiences a cash shortfall due to a sales fail, the custodian typically extends temporary credit to cover the shortfall and the Fund incurs overdraft charges. Alternatively, the Fund could fail on its intended purchase due to lack of funds from the previous sale, resulting in additional cost to the Fund, or sell a security on a same day settlement basis, earning a lower return on the investment. Use of the credit facility under these circumstances would enable the Fund to have access to immediate short-term liquidity without incurring custodian overdraft or other charges.

7. While borrowing arrangements with banks could generally supply needed cash to cover unanticipated redemptions and sales fails, applicants state that under the proposed credit facility a borrowing Fund would pay lower interest rates than those offered by banks on short term loans. In addition, Funds making loans to other Funds would earn interest at a rate higher than they otherwise could obtain from investing their cash through the Joint Account in repurchase agreements or in the Money Market Funds. Thus, applicants believe that the proposed credit facility would benefit both borrowing and lending Funds.

8. The interest rate charged to the Funds on any Interfund Loan would be the average of the Repo Rate and the Bank Loan Rate, as defined below. The Repo Rate for any day would be the highest rate available to the Joint Account participants from investments in overnight repurchase agreements. The Bank Loan Rate for any day would be calculated by the Franklin Templeton Advisers each day an Interfund Loan is made according to a formula established by the directors or trustees of the Funds (the ''Trustees'') designed to approximate the lowest interest rate at which bank short-term loans would be available to the Funds. The formula would be based upon a publicly available rate (*e.g.*, Federal Funds plus 25 basis points) and would vary with this rate so as to reflect changing bank loan rates. Each Fund's Trustees periodically would review the continuing appropriateness of using the publicly available rate, as well as the relationship between the Bank Loan Rate and current bank rates that would be available to the Funds. The initial formula and any subsequent modifications to the formula would be subject to the approval of each Fund's Trustees.

9. The credit facility would be administered by the Franklin Templeton Advisers' money market investment professionals (including the portfolio manager(s) for the Money Market Funds) and fund accounting department (collectively, the ''Cash Management Team''). Under the proposed credit facility, the portfolio managers for each participating Fund may provide standing instructions to participate daily as a borrower or lender. The Franklin Templeton Advisers on each business day would collect data on the uninvested cash and borrowing requirements of all participating Funds from the Funds' custodians. Applicants expect far more available uninvested cash each day than borrowing demand. Once it had determined the aggregate amount of cash available for loans and borrowing demand, the Cash Management Team would allocate loans among borrowing Funds without any further communication from portfolio managers (other than the Money Market Fund portfolio managers on the Cash Management Team). All allocations will require approval of at least one member of the Cash Management Team who is not a Money Market Fund's portfolio manager. After the Cash Management Team has allocated cash for Interfund Loans, the Franklin Templeton Advisers will invest any remaining cash in accordance with the standing instructions from portfolio managers or return remaining amounts for investment to the Funds. The Money Market Funds typically would not participate as borrowers because they rarely need to borrow cash to meet redemptions.

[2] AGE High Income Fund, Investment Company Act Release Nos. 15485 (Dec. 17, 1986) (notice) and 15534 (Jan. 13, 1987) (order).

[3] Franklin Gold Fund, Investment Company Act Release Nos. 23633 (Jan. 5, 1999) (notice) and 23675 (Feb. 2, 1999) (order.)

10. The Cash Management Team would allocate borrowing demand and cash available for lending among the Funds on what the Cash Management Team believed to be an equitable basis, subject to certain administrative procedures applicable to all Funds, such as the time of filing requests to participate, minimum loan lot sizes, and the need to minimize the number of transactions and associated administrative costs. To reduce transaction costs, each loan normally would be allocated in a manner intended to minimize the number of Funds necessary to complete the loan transaction. The method of allocation and related administrative procedures would be approved by each Fund's Trustees, including a majority of Trustees who are not ''interested persons'' of the Funds, as defined in section 2(a)(19) of the Act (''Independent Trustees''), to ensure that the borrowing and lending Funds participate on an equitable basis.

11. The Franklin Templeton Advisers would (i) monitor the interest rates charged and the other terms and conditions of the Interfund Loans, (ii) ensure compliance with each Fund's investment policies and limitations, (iii) ensure equitable treatment of each Fund, and (iv) make quarterly reports to the Trustees concerning any transactions by the Funds under the credit facility and the interest rates charged.

12. The Franklin Templeton Advisers would administer the credit facility as part of their duties under existing contracts with each Fund and would receive no additional fee as compensation for their services. The Franklin Templeton Advisers or companies affiliated with them may collect standard pricing, recordkeeping, bookkeeping and accounting fees applicable to repurchase and lending transactions generally, including transactions effected through the credit facility. Fees would be no higher than those applicable for comparable bank loan transactions.

13. Each Fund's participation in the proposed credit facility will be consistent with its organizational documents and its investment policies and limitations. The prospectus of each Fund discloses the individual borrowing and lending limitations of the Fund. Each Fund will notify shareholders of its intended participation in the proposed credit facility prior to relying upon any relief granted pursuant to the application. The Statement of Additional Information (''SAI'') of each Fund will disclose all material facts about the Fund's intended participation in the credit facility.

14. In connection with the credit facility, applicants request an order under (i) section 6(c) of the Act granting relief from sections 18(f) and 21(b) of the Act; (ii) section 12(d)(1(J) of the Act granting relief from section 12(d)(1) of the Act; (iii) sections 6(c) and 17(b) of the Act granting relief from sections 17(a)(1) and 17(a)(3) of the Act; and (iv) section 17(d) of the Act and rule 17d–1 under the Act to permit certain joint arrangements.

**Applicant's Legal Analysis**

1. Section 17(a)(3) generally prohibits any affiliated person, or affiliated person of an affiliated person, from borrowing money or other property from a registered investment company. Section 21(b) generally prohibits any registered management investment company from lending money or other property to any person if that person controls or is under common control with the company. Section 2(a)(3)(C) of the Act defines an ''affiliated person'' of another person, in part, to by any person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by, or under common control with, the other person. Applicants state that the Funds may be under common control by virtue of having the Franklin Templeton Advisers as their common investment advisers.

2. Section 6(c) provides that an exemptive order may be granted where an exemption is necessary or appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the Act. Section 17(b) authorizes the SEC to exempt a proposed transaction from section 17(a) provided that the terms of the transaction, including the consideration to be paid or received, are fair and reasonable and do not involve overreaching on the part of any person concerned, and the transaction is consistent with the policy of the investment company as recited in its registration statement and with the general purposes of the Act. Applicants believe that the proposed arrangements satisfy these standards for the reasons discussed below.

3. Applicants submit that sections 17(a)(3) and 21(b) of the Act were intended to prevent a party with potential adverse interests to and influence over the investment decisions of a registered investment company from causing or inducing the investment company to engage in lending transactions that unfairly inure to the benefit of such party and that are detrimental to the best interests of the investment company and its shareholders. Applicants assert that the proposed credit facility transactions do not raise these concerns because (i) the Franklin Templeton Advisers would administer the program as disinterested fiduciaries; (ii) all Interfund Loans would consist only of uninvested cash reserves that the Fund otherwise would invest in short-term repurchase agreements or other short-term instruments either directly or through the Joint Account or in the Money Market Funds; (iii) the Interfund Loans would not involve a greater risk than such other investments; (iv) the lending Fund would receive interest at a rate higher than it could obtain through such other investments; and (v) the borrowing Fund would pay interest at a rate lower than otherwise available to it under any bank loan agreements and avoid the up-front commitment fees associated with committed lines of credit. Moreover, applicants believe that the other conditions in the application would effectively preclude the possibility of any Fund obtaining an undue advantage over any other Fund.

4. Section 17(a)(1) generally prohibits an affiliated person of a registered investment company, or an affiliated person of an affiliated person, from selling any securities or other property to the company. Section 12(d)(1) of the Act generally makes it unlawful for a registered investment company to purchase or otherwise acquire any security issued by any other investment company except in accordance with the limitations set forth in that section. Applicants believe that the obligation of a borrowing Fund to repay an Interfund Loan may constitute a security under sections 17(a)(1) and 12(d)(1). Section 12(d)(1)(J) provides that the SEC may exempt persons or transactions from any provision of section 12(d)(1) if and to the extent such exception is consistent with the public interest and the protection of investors. Applicants contend that the standards under sections 6(c), 17(b) and 12(d)(1) are satisfied for all the reasons set forth above in support of their request for relief from sections 17(a)(3) and 21(b) and for the reasons discussed below.

5. Applicants state that section 12(d)(1) was intended to prevent the pyramiding of investment companies in order to avoid duplicative costs and fees attendant upon multiple layers of investment companies. Applicants submit that the proposed credit facility does not involve these abuses. Applicants note that there would be no duplicative costs or fees to the Funds or shareholders, and that the Franklin Templeton Advisers would receive no

additional compensation for their services in administering the credit facility. Applicants also note that the purpose of the proposed credit facility is to provide economic benefits for all the participating Funds.

6. Section 18(f)(1) prohibits open-end investment companies from issuing any senior security except that a company is permitted to borrow from any bank; provided, that immediately after any such borrowing there is an asset coverage of at least 300 per centum for all borrowings of the company. Under section 18(g) of the Act, the term ''senior security'' includes any bond, debenture, note, or similar obligation or instrument constituting a security and evidencing indebtedness. Applicants request relief from section 18(f)(1) to the limited extent necessary to implement the credit facility (because the lending Funds are not banks).

7. Applicants believe that granting relief under section 6(c) is appropriate because the Funds would remain subject to the requirement of section 18(f)(1) that all borrowings of the Fund, including combined credit facility and bank borrowings, have at least 300% asset coverage. Based on the conditions and safeguards described in the application, applicants also submit that to allow the Funds to borrow from other Funds pursuant to the proposed credit facility is consistent with the purposes and policies of section 18(f)(1).

8. Section 17(d) and rule 17d–1 generally prohibit any affiliated person of a registered investment company, or affiliated person of an affiliated person, when acting as principal, from effecting any joint transaction in which the company participates unless the transaction is approved by the SEC. Rule 17d–1 provides that in passing upon applications for exemptive relief from section 17(d), the SEC will consider whether the participation of a registered investment company in a joint enterprise on the basis proposed is consistent with the provisions, policies, and purposes of the Act and the extent to which the company's participation is on a basis different from or less advantageous than that of other participants.

9. Applicants submit that the purpose of section 17(d) is to avoid overreaching by and unfair advantage to investment company insiders. Applicants believe that the credit facility is consistent with the provisions, policies and purposes of the Act in that it offers both reduced borrowing costs and enhanced returns on loaned funds to all participating Funds and their shareholders. Applicants note that each Fund would have an equal opportunity to borrow and lend on equal terms consistent with its investment policies and fundamental investment limitations. Applicants therefore believe that each fund's participation in the credit facility will be on terms which are no different from or less advantageous than that of other participating Funds.

**Applicants' Conditions**

Applicants agree that the order granting the requested relief will be subject to the following conditions:

1. The interest rates to be charged to the Funds under the credit facility will be the average of the Repo Rate and the Bank Loan Rate.

2. On each business day, the Franklin Templeton Advisers will compare the Bank Loan Rate with the Repo Rate and will make cash available for Interfund Loans only if the Interfund Loan Rate is (i) more favorable to the lending Fund than the Repo Rate; (ii) more favorable to the lending Fund than the yield on the Money Market Funds (''MMF Yield'') (for those Funds that invest in the Money Market Funds); and (iii) more favorable to the borrowing Fund than the Bank Loan Rate.

3. If a Fund has outstanding borrowings, any Interfund Loans to the Fund: (a) Will be at an interest rate equal to or lower than any outstanding bank loan, (b) will be secured at least on an equal priority basis with at least an equivalent percentage of collateral to loan value as any outstanding bank loan that requires collateral, (c) will have a maturity no longer than any outstanding bank loan (and in any event not over seven days), and (d) will provide that, if an event of default occurs under any agreement evidencing an outstanding bank loan to the Fund, that event of default will automatically (without need for action or notice by the lending Fund) constitute an immediate event of default under the Interfund Lending Agreement entitling the lending Fund to call the Interfund Loan (and exercise all rights with respect to any collateral) and that such call will be made if the lending bank exercises its right to call its loan under its agreement with the borrowing Fund.

4. A Fund may make an unsecured borrowing through the credit facility if its outstanding borrowings from all sources immediately after the interfund borrowing total less than 10% of its total assets, provided that if the Fund has a secured loan outstanding from any other lender, including but not limited to another fund, the Fund's interfund borrowing will be secured on at least an equal priority basis with at least an equivalent percentage of collateral to loan value as any outstanding loan that requires collateral. If a Fund's total outstanding borrowings immediately after interfund borrowing would be greater than 10% of its total assets, the Fund may borrow through the credit facility on a secured basis only. A Fund may not borrow through the credit facility or from any other source if its total outstanding borrowings immediately after the interfund borrowing would be more than 33⅓% of its total assets.

5. Before any Fund that has outstanding interfund borrowings may, through additional borrowings, cause its outstanding borrowings from all sources to exceed 10% of its total assets, the Fund must first secure each outstanding Interfund Loan by the pledge of segregated collateral with a market value at least equal to 102% of the outstanding principal value of the loan. If the total outstanding borrowings of a Fund with outstanding Interfund Loans exceeds 10% of its total assets for any other reason (such as decline in net asset value or because of shareholder redemptions), the Fund will within one business day thereafter: (a) Repay all its outstanding Interfund Loans, (b) reduce its outstanding indebtedness to 10% or less of its total assets, or (c) secure each outstanding Interfund Loan by the pledge of segregated collateral with a market value at least equal to 102% of the outstanding principal value of the loan until the Fund's total outstanding borrowings cease to exceed 10% of its total assets, at which time the collateral called for by this condition (5) shall no longer be required. Until each Interfund Loan that is outstanding at any time that a Fund's total outstanding borrowings exceeds 10% is repaid or the Fund's total outstanding borrowings cease to exceed 10% of its total assets, the Fund will mark the value of the collateral to market each day and will pledge such additional collateral as is necessary to maintain the market value of the collateral that secures each outstanding Interfund Loan at least equal to 102% of the outstanding principal value of the loan.

6. No equity, taxable bond or Money Market Fund may lend to another Fund through the credit facility if the loan would cause its aggregate outstanding loans through the credit facility to exceed 5%, 7.5% or 10%, respectively, of its net assets at the time of the loan.

7. A Fund's Interfund Loans to any one Fund shall not exceed 5% of the lending Fund's net assets.

8. The duration of Interfund Loans will be limited to the time required to receive payment for securities sold, but in no event more than seven days. Loans effected within seven days of each other

will be treated as separate loan transactions for purposes of this condition.

9. A Fund's borrowings through the credit facility, as measured on the day the most recent loan was made, will not exceed the greater of 125% of the Fund's total net cash redemptions and 102% of sales fails for the preceding seven calendar days.

10. Each Interfund Loan may be called on one business day's notice by the lending Fund and may be repaid on any day by the borrowing Fund.

11. A Fund's participation in the credit facility must be consistent with its investment policies and limitations and organizational documents.

12. The Cash Management Team will calculate total Fund borrowing and lending demand through the credit facility, and allocate loans on an equitable basis among the Funds without intervention of the portfolio manager of a Fund (except a portfolio manager of the Money Market Funds acting in his or her capacity as a member of the Cash Management Team). All allocations will require approval of at least one member of the Cash Management Team who is not a portfolio manager of the Money Market Funds. The Cash Management Team will not solicit cash for the credit facility from any Fund or prospectively publish or disseminate loan demand data to portfolio managers (except to the extent that the portfolio managers of the Money Market Funds on the Cash Management Team have access to loan demand data). The Franklin Templeton Advisers will invest any amounts remaining after satisfaction of borrowing demand in accordance with the standing instructions from portfolio managers or return remaining amounts for investment to the Funds.

13. The Franklin Templeton Advisers will monitor the interest rates charged and the other terms and conditions of the Interfund Loans and will make a quarterly report to the Trustees concerning the participation of the Funds in the credit facility and the terms and other conditions of any extensions of credit thereunder.

14. The Trustees of each Fund, including a majority of the Independent Trustees: (a) will review no less frequently than quarterly the Fund's participation in the credit facility during the preceding quarter for compliance with the conditions of any order permitting such transactions; (b) will establish the Bank Loan Rate formula used to determine the interest rate on Interfund Loans and review no less frequently than annually the continuing appropriateness of the Bank Loan Rate formula; and (c) will review no less frequently than annually the continuing appropriateness of the Fund's participation in the credit facility.

15. In the event an Interfund Loan is not paid according to its terms and such default is not cured within two business days from its maturity or from the time the lending Fund makes a demand for payment under the provisions of the Interfund Lending Agreement, the Franklin Templeton Advisers will promptly refer such loan for arbitration to an independent arbitrator selected by the Trustees of any Fund involved in the loan who will serve as arbitrator of disputes concerning Interfund Loans.[4] The arbitrator will resolve any problem promptly, and the arbitrator's decision will be binding on both Funds. The arbitrator will submit, at least annually, a written report to the Trustees setting forth a description of the nature of any dispute and the actions taken by the Funds to resolve the dispute.

16. Each Fund will maintain had preserve for a period of not less than six years from the end of the fiscal year in which any transaction under the credit facility occurred, the first two years in an easily accessible place, written records of all such transactions setting forth a description of the terms of the transaction, including the amount, the maturity, and the rate of interest on the loan, the rate of interest available at the time on short-term repurchase agreements and bank borrowings, the MMF Yield, and such other information presented to the Trustees in connection with the review required by conditions 13 and 14 above.

17. The Franklin Templeton Advisers will prepare and submit to the Trustees for review an initial report describing the operations of the credit facility and the procedures to be implemented to ensure that all Funds are treated fairly. After the credit facility commences operations, the Franklin Templeton Advisers will report on the operations of the credit facility at the Trustees' quarterly meetings. in addition, for two years following the commencement of the credit facility, the independent public accountant for each Fund shall prepare an annual report that evaluates the Franklin Templeton Adviser's assertion that it has established procedures reasonably designed to achieve compliance with the conditions of the order. The report shall be prepared in accordance with the Statements on Standards for Attestation Engagements No. 3 and it shall be filed pursuant to Item 77Q3 of Form N–SAR. In particular, the report shall address procedures designed to achieve the following objectives: (a) that the Interfund Rate will be higher than the Repo Rate, and than the MMF Yield, but lower than the Bank Loan Rate; (b) compliance with the collateral requirements as set forth in the application; (c) compliance with the percentage limitations on interfund borrowing and lending; (d) allocation of interfund borrowing and lending demand in an equitable manner and in accordance with procedures established by the Trustees; and (e) that the interest rate on any Interfund Loan does not exceed the interest rate on any third party borrowings of a borrowing Fund at the time of the Interfund Loan. After the final report is filed, the Fund's external auditors, in connection with their Fund audit examinations, will continue to review the operation of the credit facility for compliance with the conditions of the application and their review will form the basis, in part, of the auditor's report on internal accounting controls in Form N–SAR.

18. No fund will participate in the credit facility upon receipt of requisite regulatory approval unless it has fully disclosed in its SAI all material facts about its intended participation.

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

**Margaret H. McFarland,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99–24602 Filed 9–21–99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8010–01–M**

[4] If the dispute involves Funds with separate boards of Trustees, the Trustees of each Fund will select an independent arbitrator that is satisfactory to each party.

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

**[Release No. 34–41879; File No. SR–DTC–99–15]**

## Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Depository Trust Company; Order Approving a Proposed Rule Change Relating to Procedures When Settling Banks Fail To Settle

September 15, 1999.

On June 11, 1999, The Depository Trust Company (''DTC'') filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (''Commission'') a proposed rule change (File No. SR–DTC–99–15) pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (''Act'').[1] Notice of the proposal was published in the **FEDERAL REGISTER** on August 6, 1999.[2] No comment letters were received. For

[1] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

[2] Securities Exchange Act Release No. 41678 (July 30, 1999), 64 FR 43004.