

from contract owners who are participating in that Fund.

7. Specifically, Applicants believe the fairness, reasonableness and absence of overreaching are evidenced and supported by the Board determinations set out above and the factors that the Boards considered in connection with that determination; by the terms of the mergers, as described above; by the absence of any negative impact on the value of any shareholder's or contract owner's interest; by the expected benefits to all of the Funds from the proposed mergers; and by the fact that, as applicants represent in the application, the mergers will be effected in compliance with all the requirements of Rule 17a-8, except for the existence of an impermissible affiliation through ownership of seed money shares by an investment adviser.

8. In view of the similarity of each Acquired Fund to its corresponding Acquiring Fund, Applicants contend that each merger will be consistent with the constituent Funds' policies as recited in their respective registration statements and reports filed under the Act.

9. Applicants also believe that each merger is consistent with the policies and purposes of the Act, particularly in view of the fact that each merger is subject to approval by the Acquired Fund's shareholders and that none of the mergers will result in any diminution or dilution of the value of any security holder's interests or any other loss or diminution of his or rights or privileges.

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

**Jonathan G. Katz,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 01-29164 Filed 11-20-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Sunshine Act Meeting

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the Government in the Sunshine Act, Pub. L. 94-409, that the Securities and Exchange Commission will hold the following meetings during the week of November 26, 2001: Closed meetings will be held on Tuesday, November 27, 2001, and Thursday, November 29, 2001, at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner, Counsel to the Commissioners, the Secretary to the Commission, and recording secretaries will attend the closed meetings. Certain staff members who have an interest in the matters may also be present.

The General Counsel of the Commission, or his designee, has certified that, in his opinion, one or more of the exemptions set forth in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(5), (6), (7), (9)(A), (9)(B), and (10) and 17 CFR 200.402(a)(5), (6), (7), 9(i), 9(ii) and (10), permit consideration of the scheduled matters at the closed meetings.

The subject matters of the closed meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 27, 2001 will be: Institution and settlement of injunctive actions; institution and settlement of administrative proceedings of an enforcement nature; and formal orders.

The subject matters of the closed meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 29, 2001, will be: Institution and settlement of injunctive actions; institution and settlement of administrative proceedings of an enforcement nature; and consideration of amicus participation.

At times, changes in Commission priorities require alterations in the scheduling of meeting items. For further information and to ascertain what, if any, matters have been added, deleted or postponed, please contact:

The Office of the Secretary at (202) 942-7070.

Dated: November 19, 2001.

**Jonathan G. Katz,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 01-29307 Filed 11-19-01; 3:52 pm]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-45059; File No. SR-CHX-2001-20]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change and Amendment No. 1 by the Chicago Stock Exchange, Incorporated To Extend Pilot Rules for Decimals

November 15, 2001.

Pursuant to section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on October 30, 2001, the Chicago Stock Exchange, Incorporated ("CHX" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. On November 6, 2001, the Exchange filed an amendment that completely

replaces and supersedes the original proposal.<sup>3</sup> The Exchange filed the proposal pursuant to section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act,<sup>4</sup> and rule 19b-4(f)(6)<sup>5</sup> thereunder, which renders the proposal effective upon filing with the Commission. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change, as amended, from interested persons.

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

The Exchange proposed to extend through January 14, 2002, the pilot amendments to certain CHX rules that were impacted by the securities industry transition to a decimal pricing environment. The pilot rules are due to expire on November 5, 2001. The CHX does not propose any substantive or typographical changes to the pilot; the only change is an extension of the pilot's expiration date through January 14, 2002. The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Commission and at the CHX.

### II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the CHX included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for its proposal and discussed any comments it received regarding the proposal. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The CHX has prepared summaries, set forth in Sections A, B and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

#### A. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

##### 1. Purpose

On August 24, 2000, the Commission approved, on a pilot basis through February 28, 2001, changes proposed by the Exchange to amend certain CHX rules that would be impacted by the securities industry transition to a

<sup>3</sup> See October 31, 2001 letter from Kathleen M. Boege, Associate General Counsel, CHX, to Alton S. Harvey, Division of Market Regulation ("Division"), Commission and attachments ("Amendment No. 1"). See November 13, 2001 telephone conversation between Kathleen M. Boege, CHX, and Joseph Morra, Special Counsel, Division, Commission.

<sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>5</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). The Commission waived the 5-day pre-filing notice requirement.

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

decimal pricing environment.<sup>6</sup> The pilot was extended twice.<sup>7</sup> The Exchange now requests an extension of the current pilot through January 14, 2002. Other than extending the date of the pilot through January 14, 2002, the Exchange does not propose to make any substantive or typographical changes to the pilot.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The CHX believes the proposal is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder that are applicable to a national securities exchange, and, in particular, with the requirements of section 6(b).<sup>8</sup> In particular, the CHX believes the proposal is consistent with section 6(b)(5) of the Act<sup>9</sup> in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to, and to perfect the mechanism of, a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

### *B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition*

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any inappropriate burden on competition.

### *C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants or Others*

No written comments were either solicited or received.

## III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not:

- (i) Significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest;
- (ii) Impose any significant burden on competition; and
- (iii) Become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>10</sup> and rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>6</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 43204 (August 24, 2000), 65 FR 53065 (August 31, 2000)(SR-CHX-00-22).

<sup>7</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 43974 (February 16, 2001), 66 FR 11621 (February 26, 2001)(SR-CHX-2001-03)(extending pilot through July 9, 2001) and 44488 (June 28, 2001), 66 FR 35684 (July 6, 2001)(SR-CHX-2001-13)(extending pilot through November 5, 2001).

<sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>11</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

The Exchange has requested that the Commission accelerate the operative date. The Commission finds good cause to designate the proposal both effective and operative upon filing with the Commission because such designation is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. Acceleration of the operative date will allow the pilot to continue uninterrupted through January 14, 2002, the deadline for which self-regulatory organizations must file proposed rule changes to set the minimum price variation for quoting in a decimals environment. For these reasons, the Commission finds good cause to designate that the proposal is both effective and operative upon filing with the Commission.<sup>12</sup>

## IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposal is consistent with the Act. Persons making written submission should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the CHX. All submissions should refer to file number SR-CHX-2001-20 and should be submitted by December 12, 2001.

<sup>12</sup> For purposes only of accelerating the operative date of this proposal, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>13</sup>

**Margaret H. McFarland,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 01-29118 Filed 11-20-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

## SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

### President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security

**AGENCY:** Social Security Administration (SSA).

**ACTION:** Announcement of meeting location.

**DATES:** November 29, 2001 10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Hampton Ballroom, the Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008, (202) 234-0700.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The **Federal Register** notice announcing the November 29 meeting of the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security did not include a meeting location. The purpose of this announcement is to provide the meeting location.

The Commission will meet commencing Thursday, November 29, at 10:00 a.m. and ending at 6:00 p.m., with a break for lunch between 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. The Commission will be deliberating on how to administer personal accounts and how to ensure long-term solvency in the Social Security program.

Dated: November 16, 2001.

**Michael A. Anzick,**

*Designated Federal Officer.*

[FR Doc. 01-29284 Filed 11-20-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4191-02-U

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice No. 3802]

### Notice of Declaration of Foreign Countries as Reciprocating Countries for the Enforcement of Family Support (Maintenance) Obligations

**AGENCY:** Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State.

This notice amends and supplements Department of State Public Notice 3315, 65 FR 31953 (May 19, 2000).

Section 459A of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 659A) authorizes the Secretary of State with the concurrence of the Secretary of Health and Human

<sup>13</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).