

proposed rule change has been designed to enable the PCX to compete with other markets in attracting options business, and that the proposed rule change is therefore reasonable and equitable.

2. Basis

The PCX believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,⁵ particularly Section 6(b)(4) of the Act,⁶ in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its members.

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

The PCX does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

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

The PCX neither solicited nor received any written comments on the proposed rule change.

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

Because the PCX has designated the foregoing as a fee change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act⁷ and Rule 19b-4(f)(2) thereunder,⁸ the proposal has become effective immediately upon filing with the Commission. At any time within 60 days after the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate the 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.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Persons making written submissions 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, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the PCX. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-PCX-2001-49 and should be submitted by January 18, 2002.

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

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-31871 Filed 12-27-01; 8:45 am]

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Interest Rates

The Small Business Administration publishes an interest rate called the optional "peg" rate (13 CFR 120.214) on a quarterly basis. This rate is a weighted average cost of money to the government for maturities similar to the average SBA direct loan. This rate may be used as a base rate for guaranteed fluctuating interest rate SBA loans. This rate will be 4.625 (4 ⁵/₈) percent for the January-March quarter of FY 2002.

LeAnn M. Oliver,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Financial Assistance.

[FR Doc. 01-31951 Filed 12-27-01; 8:45 am]

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Region 1—Maine District Advisory Council; Public Meeting

The U.S. Small Business Administration Augusta, Maine District Advisory Council, will hold a public meeting at 10:00 a.m. February 5th, 2002 at 68 Sewall Street, Room 510, Augusta, Maine to discuss such matters as may be presented by members, staff of the U.S. Small Business Administration, or others present.

Anyone wishing to make an oral presentation to the Board must contact Mary MaAleney, in writing by letter or fax no later than January 25th, 2002, in order to be put on the agenda. Please direct questions to Mary MaAleney,

District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration, 68 Sewall Street, Room 512, Augusta, Maine 04330, (207) 622-8386 phone, (207) 622-8277 fax. For further information, write or call Mary MaAleney, District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration, 68 Sewall Street, Room 512, Augusta, Maine 04330, (207) 622-8386 phone, (207) 622-8277 fax.

Steve Tupper,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 01-31952 Filed 12-27-01; 8:45 am]

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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Modifications to the Disability Determination Procedures; Extension of Disability Claims Process Redesign Prototype and Test of Single Decisionmaker Model

AGENCY: Social Security Administration.

ACTION: Notice of the extension of two tests involving modifications to the disability determination procedures.

SUMMARY: We are announcing the extension of two tests of modifications to our disability determination procedures that we are conducting under the authority of current rules codified at 20 CFR 404.906 and 416.1406. These rules provide authority to test several modifications to the disability determination procedures that we normally follow in adjudicating claims for disability insurance benefits under title II of the Social Security Act (the Act) and for supplemental security income payments based on disability under title XVI of the Act. We have decided to extend selection of cases for six months while we identify the most positive elements of the tests for rollout, and to enable us to address transition issues.

DATES: We are extending our selection of cases to be included in these tests from December 31, 2001 until no later than June 28, 2002. If we decide to continue selection of cases for these tests beyond this date, we will publish another notice in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Phil Landis, Director, Disability Process Redesign Staff, Office of Disability, Social Security Administration, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland, 21235, 410-965-5388.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Current regulations at 20 CFR 404.906 and 416.1406 authorize us to test, individually or in any combination, several different modifications to the disability determination procedures. We

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁸ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f).

⁹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

have conducted several tests under the authority of these rules, including a prototype that incorporates a number of modifications to the disability determination procedures that the State agencies use. We also have conducted tests involving the use of a single decisionmaker who may make the initial disability determination in most cases without requiring the signature of a medical consultant. We are now announcing the extension of these two tests.

Extension of Test of Prototype Process

On August 28, 1999, we published in the **Federal Register** a notice announcing that we would test a new disability claims process in 10 States (64 FR 47218). In that notice, we stated that selection of cases to be included in the prototype would begin on or about October 1, 1999, and would be concluded on or about December 31, 2001. We also stated that, if we decided to continue the prototype beyond that date, we would publish another notice in the **Federal Register**. That is one of the purposes of this notice. We have decided to extend selection of cases for the prototype process beyond December 31, 2001, while we identify the most positive elements of the tests for rollout, and to enable us to address transition issues. We expect that our selection of cases under the prototype will end on or before June 28, 2002.

This extension also applies to the locations in the State of New York that we added to the test in a notice published in the **Federal Register** on December 26, 2000 (65 FR 81553).

Extension of Test of Single Decisionmaker Model

On December 23, 1999, we published a notice in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 72134) extending through December 31, 2001, the period during which we would select cases to be included in a test of the single decisionmaker feature. We have decided to extend selection of cases for the test of the single decisionmaker beyond December 31, 2001, to allow time for us to make decisions about this feature. We expect that our selection of cases for the test of the single decisionmaker will end on or before June 28, 2002.

Dated: December 19, 2001.

Martin H. Gerry,

Deputy Commissioner for Disability and Income Security Programs.

[FR Doc. 01-31895 Filed 12-27-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4191-02-U

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel Teleconference

AGENCY: Social Security Administration (SSA).

ACTION: Notice of teleconferences.

DATES: January 23, 2002 and January 24, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel Office, Social Security Administration, 400 Virginia Avenue, SW., Suite 700, Washington, DC 20024.

TELECONFERENCES: Wednesday, January 23, 2002, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday, January 24, 2002, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.:

Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel Conference Calls. Call-in number for both days: 1-888-793-1765. Pass code for both days: 12211. Leader/Host: Sarah Wiggins Mitchell.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Type of meeting: These teleconference meetings are open to the public. The interested public is invited to participate by coming to the address listed above or calling into the teleconferences. Public testimony will not be taken.

Purpose: In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Social Security Administration (SSA) announces these teleconference meetings of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel (the Panel). Section 101(f) of Public Law 106-170 establishes the Panel to advise the Commissioner of SSA, the President, and the Congress on issues related to work incentives programs, planning and assistance for individuals with disabilities as provided under section 101(f)(2)(A) of the TWWIA. The Panel is also to advise the Commissioner on matters specified in section 101(f)(2)(B) of that Act, including certain issues related to the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program established under section 101(a) of that Act.

Agenda: The Panel will deliberate on the implementation of TWWIA, conduct committee activities and administrative business. Topics of discussion may include the Panel's annual report and the Social Security Administration's adequacy of incentive study and \$1 for \$2 research. The agendas for these meetings will be posted on the Internet at <http://www.ssa.gov/work/panel/> one week prior to the teleconferences or can be received in advance electronically or by fax upon request.

Contact Information: Records are being kept of all Panel proceedings and

will be available for public inspection by appointment at the Panel office. Anyone requiring information regarding the Panel should contact the TWWIA Panel staff by:

- Mail addressed to Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel Staff, Social Security Administration, 400 Virginia Avenue, SW., Suite 700, Washington, DC, 20024;
- Telephone contact with Kristen Breland at (202) 358-6430;
- Fax at (202) 358-6440; or
- E-mail to TWWIAPanel@ssa.gov.

Dated: December 19, 2001.

Deborah M. Morrison,

Designated Federal Officer.

[FR Doc. 01-31896 Filed 12-27-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4191-02-U

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice #3834]

Notice of Meetings; United States International Telecommunication Advisory Committee, Telecommunication Sector

The Department of State announces a meeting of the U.S. International Telecommunication Advisory Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Department on policy and technical issues with respect to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

The ITAC will meet from 9:30 to 12:30 on Tuesday, January 3, 2002 to continue preparations for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP02). This meeting will be held in the IRAC Room (Room 1605) of the Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, Washington, DC. Individuals from the private sector who desire to attend should advise the State Department (jillsonad@state.gov) by name and affiliation. The ITAC PP02 meeting previously scheduled for January 15 has been cancelled.

The ITAC will meet as the ITAC-T from 9:30 to noon on Wednesday, January 9, 2002 to debrief the November 2001 Telecommunication Sector Advisory Group (TSAG) meeting and to start preparations for the next TSAG in June 2002. This meeting will be held at the Telecommunications Industry Association, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 350, Washington, DC.

The ITAC will meet as US Study Group B from about noon to 4:00 on Friday, January 11, 2002 to prepare for meetings of ITU Study Groups 13 and 16. This meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Savannah, 2 West Bay Street, Savannah, GA 31401.