

Administrator. Effective May 23, 2008.

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 3301 and 3302; E.O. 10577, 3 CFR 1954–1958 Comp., p. 218.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Howard C. Weizmann,
Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. E8–14150 Filed 6–20–08; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available
From: Securities and Exchange
Commission, Office of Investor
Education and Advocacy,
Washington, DC 20549–0213.

Extension:

Form 8–A; OMB Control No. 3235–0056;
SEC File No. 270–54.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Form 8–A (17 CFR 249.208a) is a registration statement for certain classes of securities pursuant to sections 12(b) and 12(g) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78l(b) and 78l(g)). Section 12(a) (15 U.S.C. 78l(a)) requires securities traded on national exchanges to be registered under the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*). Section 12(b) establishes the registration procedures. Section 12(g), and Rule 12g–1 (17 CFR 240.12g–1) promulgated thereunder, extended the Exchange Act registration requirements to issuers engaged in interstate commerce, or in a business affecting interstate commerce, and having total assets of \$10,000,000 or more and a class of equity security held or record by 500 or more persons. Form 8–A takes approximately 3 hours to prepare and is filed by approximately 1,170 respondents for a total of 3,510 annual burden hours.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether this collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden imposed by the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and

clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

Please direct your written comments to R. Corey Booth, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, C/O Shirley Martinson, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, Virginia 22312; or send an e-mail to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.

June 16, 2008.

Florence E. Harmon,
Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. E8–14079 Filed 6–20–08; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon written request, Copies available from: U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Investor Education and Advocacy, Washington, DC 20549–0213.

Extension:

Rule 15g–9; SEC File No. 270–325; OMB Control No. 3235–0385.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget a request for extension of the previously approved collection of information discussed below.

Section 15(c)(2) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*) (the “Exchange Act”) authorizes the Commission to promulgate rules that prescribe means reasonably designed to prevent fraudulent, deceptive, or manipulative practices in connection with over-the-counter (“OTC”) securities transactions. Pursuant to this authority, the Commission in 1989 adopted Rule 15a–6 (the “Rule”), which was subsequently redesignated as Rule 15g–9, 17 CFR 240.15g–9. The Rule requires broker-dealers to produce a written suitability determination for, and to obtain a written customer agreement to, certain recommended transactions in low-priced stocks that are not registered on a national securities exchange or authorized for trading on NASDAQ, and

whose issuers do not meet certain minimum financial standards. The Rule is intended to prevent the indiscriminate use by broker-dealers of fraudulent, high pressure telephone sales campaigns to sell low-priced securities to unsophisticated customers.

The Commission staff estimates that there are approximately 240 broker-dealers subject to the Rule. The burden of the Rule on a respondent varies widely depending on the frequency with which new customers are solicited. On the average for all respondents, the staff has estimated that respondents process three new customers per week, or approximately 156 new customer suitability determinations per year. We also estimate that a broker-dealer would expend approximately one-half hour per new customer in obtaining, reviewing, and processing (including transmitting to the customer) the information required by Rule 15g–9, and each respondent would consequently spend 78 hours annually (156 customers × .5 hours) obtaining the information required in the rule. We determined, based on the estimate of 240 broker-dealer respondents, that the current annual burden of Rule 15g–9 is 18,720 hours (240 respondents × 78 hours).

In addition, we estimate that if tangible communications alone are used to transmit the documents required by Rule 15g–9, each customer should take: (1) No more than eight minutes to review, sign and return the suitability determination document; and (2) no more than two minutes to either read and return or produce the customer agreement for a particular recommended transaction in penny stocks, listing the issuer and number of shares of the particular penny stock to be purchased, and send it to the broker-dealer. Thus, the total current customer respondent burden is approximately 10 minutes per response, for an aggregate total of 1,560 minutes for each broker-dealer respondent. Since there are 240 respondents, the annual burden for customer responses is 374,400 minutes (1,560 customer minutes per each of the 240 respondents) or 6,240 hours.

In addition, we estimate that, if tangible means of communications alone are used, broker-dealers could incur a recordkeeping burden under Rule 15g–9 of approximately two minutes per response. Since there are approximately 240 broker-dealer respondents and each respondent would have approximately 156 responses annually, respondents would incur an aggregate recordkeeping burden of 74,880 minutes (240 respondents × 156 responses × 2 minutes per response), or 1,248 hours. Accordingly, the aggregate

annual hour burden associated with Rule 15g-9 is 26,208 hours (18,720 hours to prepare the suitability statement and agreement + 6,240 hours for customer review + 1,248 recordkeeping hours).

We recognize that under the amendments to Rule 15g-9, the burden hours may be slightly reduced if the transaction agreement required under the rule is provided through electronic means such as e-mail from the customer to the broker-dealer (e.g., the customer may take only one minute, instead of the two minutes estimated above, to provide the transaction agreement by e-mail rather than regular mail). If each of the customer respondents estimated above communicates with his or her broker-dealer electronically, the total burden hours on the customers would be reduced from 10 minutes to 9 minutes per response, or an aggregate total of 1,404 minutes per respondent (156 customers \times 9 minutes for each customer). Since there are 240 respondents, the annual customer respondent burden, if electronic communications were used by all customers, would be approximately 336,960 minutes (240 respondents \times 1,404 minutes per each respondent), or 5,616 hours. We do not believe the hour burden on broker-dealers in obtaining, reviewing, and processing the suitability determination would change through use of electronic communications. In addition, we do not believe that, based on information currently available to us, recordkeeping burdens under Rule 15g-9 would change where the required documents were sent or received through means of electronic communication. Thus, if all broker-dealer respondents obtain and send the documents required under the rule electronically, the aggregate annual hour burden associated with Rule 15g-9 would be 25,584 hours (18,720 hours to prepare the suitability statement and agreement + 5,616 hours for customer review + 1,248 recordkeeping hours).

We cannot estimate how many broker-dealers and customers will choose to communicate electronically. If we assume that 50 percent of respondents would continue to provide documents and obtain signatures in tangible form, and 50 percent would choose to communicate electronically in satisfaction of the requirements of Rule 15g-9, the total aggregate hour burden would be 25,896 burden hours ((26,208 aggregate burden hours for documents and signatures in tangible form \times 0.50 of the respondents = 13,104 hours) + (25,584 aggregate burden hours for electronically signed and transmitted

documents \times 0.50 of the respondents = 12,792 hours)).

The broker-dealer must keep the written suitability determination and customer agreement required by the Rule for at least three years. Completing the suitability determination and obtaining the customer agreement in writing is mandatory for broker-dealers who effect transactions in penny stocks and do not qualify for an exemption, but does not involve the collection of confidential information. Please note that an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

Comments should be directed to (i) Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10102, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or by sending an e-mail to: Alexander_T._Hunt@omb.eop.gov; and (ii) R. Corey Booth, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Shirley Martinson, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, VA 22312 or send an e-mail to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov. Comments must be submitted within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: June 16, 2008.

Florence E. Harmon,
Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. E8-14080 Filed 6-20-08; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; "Tell Us How We're Doing!"

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Investor Education and Advocacy, Washington, DC 20549-0213.

SEC File No. 270-406; OMB Control No. 3235-0463.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget a request to approve the collection of information discussed below.

The title of the questionnaire is "Tell Us How We're Doing!"

The Commission currently sends the questionnaire to persons who have used

the services of the Commission's Office of Investor Education and Advocacy. The questionnaire consists mainly of eight (8) questions concerning the quality of services provided by OIEA. Most of the questions can be answered by checking a box on the questionnaire.

The Commission needs the information to evaluate the quality of services provided by OIEA. Supervisory personnel of OIEA use the information collected in assessing staff performance and for determining what improvements or changes should be made in OIEA operations for services provided to investors.

The respondents to the questionnaire are those investors who request assistance or information from OIEA. For 2007, for example, OIEA sent questionnaires to 2,724 investors, and received 571 responses, or about 21 percent.

The total reporting burden of the questionnaire in 2007 was approximately 142 hours and 45 minutes. This was calculated by multiplying the total number of investors who responded to the questionnaire times how long it is estimated to take to complete the questionnaire (571 respondents \times 15 minutes = 142 hours and 45 minutes).

Providing the information on the questionnaire is voluntary and responses are kept confidential.

Members of the public should be aware that an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless a currently valid Office of Management and Budget control number is displayed.

General comments regarding the above information should be directed to the following persons: (i) Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10102, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or send an e-mail to: Alexander_T._Hunt@omb.eop.gov; and (ii) R. Corey Booth, Director and Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Shirley Martinson, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, VA 22312, or send an e-mail to PRA_mailbox@sec.gov. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: June 16, 2008.

Florence E. Harmon,
Acting Secretary.

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