

expiring the E-Mani Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Price Index (E-Mini S&P 500) futures and futures option contracts. The Director of the Division of Economic Analysis (Division) of the Commission, acting pursuant to the authority delegated by Commission Regulation 140.96, has determined that publication of the proposals for comment is in the public interest, will assist the Commission in considering the views of interested persons, and is consistent with the purposes of the Commodity Exchange Act.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before November 21, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons should submit their views and comments to Jean A. Webb, Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 1155 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581. In addition, comments may be sent by facsimile transmission to facsimile number (202) 418-5521 or by electronic mail to secretary@cftc.gov. Reference should be made to the proposed amendments to the termination of trading provision of the E-Mini S&P 500 futures and futures option contracts.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Please contact Michael Penick of the Division of Economic Analysis, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 1155 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581, telephone 202-418-5279. Facsimile number: (202) 418-5527. Electronic mail: mpenick@cftc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under current rules, trading in expiring CME E-Mini S&P 500 futures and options terminates at the close of the regular trading session (*i.e.*, 4:15 p.m. Eastern time) on the business day immediately preceding the day scheduled for determination of the final settlement price.¹ That is, trading in expiring futures contracts ceases on the business day before the third Friday of the contract month. Under the proposal, trading in expiring futures and options would terminate on the following day—*i.e.*, at the opening of trading at the New York Stock Exchange (9:30 a.m. Eastern time) on the third Friday of the contract month, which is the day scheduled for determination of the final settlement price. The Division requests comment on this proposed change to the termination of trading provision.

Copies of the proposed amendments will be available for inspection at the Office of the Secretariat, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 1155 21st

Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20581. Copies of the terms and conditions can be obtained through the Office of the Secretariat by mail at the above address or by phone at (202) 418-5100.

Other materials submitted by the CME in support of the proposals may be available upon request pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Commission's regulations thereunder (17 CFR Part 145 (1987)), except to the extent they are entitled to confidential treatment as set forth in 17 CFR 145.5 and 145.9. Requests for copies of such materials should be made to the FOI, Privacy and Sunshine Act Compliance Staff of the Office of the Secretariat at the Commission's headquarters in accordance with 17 CFR 145.7 and 145.8.

Any person interested in submitting written data, views, or arguments on the proposed amendments, or with respect to other materials submitted by the CME should send such comments to Jean A. Webb, Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 1155 21st Street, NW, Washington, DC 20581 by the specified date.

Issued in Washington, DC, on October 31, 1997.

John R. Mielke,
Acting Director.

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COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Proposed Amendments to Minneapolis Grain Exchange Barley Futures Contract

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed amendments.

SUMMARY: The Minneapolis Grain Exchange (MGE or Exchange) has proposed amendments to Minneapolis Grain Exchange barley futures contract. The primary amendment will change the par delivery location for barley from Tulare, California, to Portland, Oregon. Another amendment will provide the issuers of barley shipping certificates the opportunity to declare unit train delivery. The proposal was submitted under the Commission's 45-day Fast Track procedures. The Acting Director of the Division of Economic Analysis (Division) of the Commission, acting pursuant to the authority delegated by Commission Regulation 140.96, has determined that publication of the proposals for comment is in the public interest, will assist the Commission in

considering the views of interested persons, and is consistent with the purpose of the Commodity Exchange Act.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before November 21, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons should submit their views and comments to Jean A. Webb, Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581. In addition, comments may be sent by facsimile transmission to facsimile number (202) 418-5521, or by electronic mail to secretary@cftc.gov. Reference should be made to the MGE barley.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Please contact John Bird of the Division of Economic Analysis, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 21st Street NW, Washington, 20581, telephone (202) 418-5274. Facsimile number: (202) 418-5527. Electronic mail: jbird@cftc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed amendments were submitted pursuant to the Commission's Fast Track procedures for streamlining the review of futures contract rule amendments (62 FR 10434). Under those procedures, the proposal, absent any contrary action by the Commission, may be deemed approved at the close of business on December 15, 1997, 45 days after receipt of the proposal. In view of the limited review period provided under the Fast Track procedures, the Commission has determined to publish for public comment notice of the availability of the terms and conditions for 15 days, rather than 30 days as provided for proposals submitted under the regular review procedures.

Copies of the proposed amendments will be available for inspection at the Office of the Secretariat, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581. Copies of the proposed amendments can be obtained through the Office of the Secretariat by mail at the above address, by phone at (202) 418-5100, or via the internet on the CFTC website at www.cftc.gov under "What's Pending".

Other materials submitted by the MGE in support of the proposal may be available upon request pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Commission's regulations thereunder (17 CFR Part 145 (1987)), except to the extent they are entitled to confidential treatment as set forth in 17 CFR 145.5 and 145.9. Requests for copies of such materials should be made to the FOI, Privacy and Sunshine Act Compliance Staff of the Office of

¹ The final settlement price is a special opening quotation of the S&P 500 index and reflects the opening prices of the component stocks.

Secretariat at the Commission's headquarters in accordance with 17 CFR 145.7 and 145.8.

Any person interested in submitting written data, views, or arguments on the proposed amendments, or with respect to other materials submitted by the MGE, should send such comments to Jean A. Webb, Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581 by the specified date.

Issued in Washington, DC, on October 31, 1997.

John R. Mielke,

Acting Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, DOD.

ACTION: Notice.

In accordance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs announces the proposed public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by January 5, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations on the information collection should be sent to TRICARE Support Office, Program Development Branch, U.S. Army Garrison, Fitzsimons, ATTN: Tariq Shahid, Aurora, CO 80045-6900.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on this proposed information collection, please

write to the above address or call TRICARE Support Office, Program Development Branch, at (303) 361-1401.

Title: *Associated Form; and OMB Number:* Reimbursement Information, Psychiatric Residential Treatment Centers Serving Children and Adolescents, TRICARE Form 771, OMB Number 0704-0295.

Needs and Uses: The information collection requirement is necessary to obtain individual residential treatment center (RTC) data that will be used in calculating the prospective per diem rates for new RTCs seeking certifications under the TRICARE program.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit; non-profit institutions.

Annual Burden Hours: 240.

Number of Respondents: 20.

Responses per Respondents: 1.

Average Burden per Response: 12 hours.

Frequency: On occasion.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Summary of Information Collection

Respondents are psychiatric residential treatment centers (RTCs) seeking certification under the TRICARE program to provide needed services to eligible children and adolescents. The data collection instrument, i.e., TRICARE Form 771, will collect the necessary reimbursement information that will be used in calculating prospective all-inclusive per diem rates for new RTCs under the TRICARE program. Based on current trends, it is estimated that about 20 forms will be completed and submitted to the TRICARE program per fiscal year for RTCs seeking certification under the program.

The TRICARE Support Office (TSO), formerly known as OCHAMPUS, published a proposed rule on 4 December 1987, (52 FR 46098), and final rule on 1 August 1988, (53 FR 28873), in the **Federal Register** clarifying participation requirements and establishing a new reimbursement system for payment of RTCs. These amendments outlined the methodology used in calculating the individual RTC rates along with the capped amount. The amendments also described the data collection elements and responded to 23 distinct categories of comments.

The TRICARE program will be responsible for: (1) sending out the data collection instrument (TRICARE Form 771) to all RTCs seeking certification under the TRICARE program; (2) answering all inquiries regarding the data collection; (3) compiling and analyzing the submitted data; (4) following up on missing or incomplete

data; (5) calculating the individual prospective all-inclusive per diem rates; and (6) sending out RTC participation agreements with the calculated rates.

The TRICARE's failure to collect the information will jeopardize fulfillment of the program requirements and would result in the agency's inability to collect the necessary data for establishment of RTC rates. The agency's inability to establish prospective per diem rates could also result in a reduction in availability of RTCs for TRICARE beneficiaries.

The prospective payment methodology: (1) provides the potential for control over rapidly increasing costs for mental health care within the Department of Defense; (2) ensures that TRICARE beneficiaries are not subject to exaggerated or unjustified costs for RTC care solely because of the TRICARE entitlement; and (3) provides for a rate of reimbursement for all participating RTCs which reflects a reasonable amount consistent with rates charged by their peers nationally and with reimbursement they are accepting from other third-party payers.

The use of improved information technology has been a consideration in capturing RTC charge data necessary to calculate new rates; however, this would create an excessive administrative burden on the agency for the relatively small number of providers affected by the request. RTCs represent less than 0.13 percent of TRICARE institutional providers and less than 0.04 percent of TRICARE individual professional providers. The agency would have to make major modifications to its payment records and data files in order to retrieve this information.

In the data collection form design, we have made every effort to eliminate any duplication. The form consists of two major categories of data collection: (1) institutional per diem rates; and (2) additional ancillary or professional charges not included in the per diem rates. All data information systems have been queried to determine if there was any duplication of data collection elements. None of the routine data collection reports maintained by the agency have the information formatted in a way that can be used to calculate the new RTC rates.

While TSO generates RTC reports, these reports do not include professional claims which are billed separately from the institutional component. Since the professional charges are not married up with institutional charges, an all-inclusive rate cannot be determined under the existing reporting system. The marrying