

The PBGC estimates that plan sponsors each year (1) give benefit reduction notices for 1 plan, (2) give notices of insolvency for 2 plans, (3) give notices of insolvency benefit level and annual updates for 23 plans, and (4) submit requests for financial assistance for 18 plans. The estimated annual burden of the collection of information is 1 hour and \$66,900.

Issued in Washington, DC, this 18th day of June 1998.

Stuart A. Sirkin,

*Director, Corporate Policy and Research
Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty
Corporation.*

[FR Doc. 98-16679 Filed 6-22-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7708-01-P

POSTAL RATE COMMISSION

Facility Visit

AGENCY: Postal Rate Commission.

ACTION: Notice of visit.

SUMMARY: Arrangements have been made for members of the Commission and certain advisory staff members to visit the World Headquarters and Technology Center of Pitney Bowes in Stamford, Connecticut. The purpose is to gain a better understanding of new and evolving technologies and their potential impact on the nature of the mailstream and postal operations. Information obtained during the visit will assist Commissioners and staff in the execution of their duties.

DATES: The tour is scheduled for Monday, July 20, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven L. Sharfman, General Counsel, (202) 789-6820.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A report of the visit will be filed in the Commission's Docket Room.

(Authority: 39 U.S.C. 404(b), 3603, 3622-3624, 3661, 3662)

Dated: June 17, 1998.

Margaret P. Crenshaw,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-16611 Filed 6-22-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710-FW-M

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Sunshine Act Meeting

TIMES AND DATES: 1:00 p.m., Monday, June 29, 1998; 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, June 30, 1998.

PLACE: Washington, D.C., at U.S. Postal Service Headquarters, 475 L'Enfant

Plaza, S.W., in the Benjamin Franklin Room.

STATUS: June 29 (Closed); June 30 (Open).

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Monday, June 29—1:00 p.m. (Closed)

1. Postal Rate Commission Opinion and Recommended Decision in Docket No. R97-1.
2. Post Office Online.
3. Compensation Issues.

Tuesday, June 30—8:30 a.m. (Open)

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting, June 1-2, 1998.
2. Remarks of the Postmaster General/Chief Executive Officer.
3. Consideration of Board Resolution on Audit Committee Charter.
4. Capital Investments.
 - a. Delivery Operations Information System (DOIS)—R&D.
 - b. 546 Delivery Bar Code Sorter (DBCS) Output Subsystem Kits.
5. Tentative Agenda for the August 3-4, 1998, meeting in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Thomas J. Koerber, Secretary of the Board, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20260-1000. Telephone (202) 268-4800.

Thomas J. Koerber,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-16722 Filed 6-18-98; 4:19 pm]

BILLING CODE 7710-12-M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-40096; File No. SR-CBOE-98-13]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Order Granting Accelerated Approval of Proposed Rule Change By the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Inc. Relating to the Automatic Execution of Small Retail Orders in Equity Options

June 16, 1998.

I. Introduction

On April 6, 1998, the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Inc. ("CBOE" or "Exchange") submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission"), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² a proposed rule change to amend Interpretation and Policy .02 under CBOE Rule 6.8 governing the operations of the Exchange's Retail

Automatic Execution System ("RAES"). On May 13, 1998, the CBOE filed with the Commission Amendment No. 1 to the proposed rule change.³ The proposed rule change, as amended, was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on May 21, 1998.⁴ The Commission received no comments regarding the proposal. This order approves the proposal, as amended, on an accelerated basis.

II. Description of the Proposal

Presently, under CBOE Rule 6.8(a)(ii), the execution price automatically attached to an equity option order executed in RAES is the prevailing market quote on the CBOE at the time the order is entered into the system. If at that same time another market is displaying a better quote for the option, under CBOE Rules the order is not automatically executed, but instead, pursuant to Interpretation and Policy .02 under CBOE Rule 6.8, is rerouted for non-automated handling. In most cases, especially where the market away from the CBOE is better by only one "tick" (i.e., by one minimum quote interval), the order is usually manually executed on the CBOE at the better price.

The CBOE now proposes to amend Interpretation and Policy .02 to automate the process of filling equity option orders through RAES at any better price being quoted in another market, so long as the price is better by no more than one tick ("RAES Auto-Step-Up"). If the market away from the CBOE is better than the CBOE's quoted market by more than one tick, the existing procedure will continue to apply whereby the order is rerouted out of RAES to the Designated Primary Market Maker or Order Book Official for non-automated handling.

While the Exchange expects that eventually the Floor Procedure Committees will determine to apply the RAES Auto-Step-Up to all or nearly all option classes traded on the floor, the proposed rule change would permit the program to be initiated on a class by class or trading station by trading station basis.⁵ To provide for the orderly introduction of this change to the Exchange's RAES procedures and to measure its effect before expanding it to equity options floor-wide, the Exchange intends to introduce the changed RAES procedure to selected classes of equity

³ See Letter from Timothy Thompson, Director, Regulatory Affairs, Legal Department, CBOE, to Ken Rosen, Attorney, Division of Market Regulation, Commission, dated May 11, 1998 ("Amendment No. 1").

⁴ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 39992 (May 14, 1998), 63 FR 28019.

⁵ See Amendment No. 1.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

options during an initial evaluation period, and then over time to expand the changed procedure to cover a larger number of equity options unless, upon evaluation, such expansion appears not to be warranted. Members will be given advance notice of each class of options to which these revised procedures apply.

In addition, the proposed rule change authorizes the Chairman of the appropriate Floor Procedure Committee or his or her designee to disable RAES Auto-Step-Up for specified classes or series of options or in respect of specified markets when "quotes in such options or markets are deemed not to be reliable." This authority would be expected to be exercised in circumstances such as communication or system problems, fast markets, and similar situations that could make quotes unreliable. For instance, the Exchange is infrequently faced with delays in the dissemination of quotes because of queues on the Options Price Reporting Authority ("OPRA"). When the Exchange is made aware of OPRA delays, it knows that there is a delay in the dissemination of quotes from the other exchanges. As a result, those quotes likely would be stale. Under that circumstance, the Chairmen of the Floor Procedure Committees might decide to exercise their exemptive authority under the proposal. The Exchange has represented to the Commission that it expects such authority to be exercised infrequently.⁶

III. Discussion

After careful review, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act. In particular, the Commission believes the proposal is consistent with Section 3(f)⁷ and Section 6(b)(5)⁸ of the Act. Section 6(b)(5) requires, among other things, that the rules of an exchange be designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade and to protect investors and the public interest.

By automating the execution of eligible retail orders for equity options through the RAES Auto-Step-Up, the amended Interpretation and Policy .02 should help to insure that investors receive prompt, automatic execution of RAES orders at the best available prices, even if those prices are being quoted in a market other than the Exchange, when the better prices in other markets do not improve on the CBOE's market by more

than one tick. This proposal should minimize the delay inherent in manually handling orders in this circumstance, and thereby reduce the risk to investors that, as a result of an adverse move in the market while their orders are being manually handled, they may receive an inferior execution.

Moreover, the amendment to Interpretation and Policy .02 is consistent with Section 3(f) of the Act. Among other things, that Section requires the Commission to consider whether proposed rule changes will promote competition. The RAES Auto-Step-Up feature, when activated, should enhance competition by requiring executions on the CBOE at better prices found on other exchanges.

The Commission finds good cause for approving the proposed rule change, as amended, prior to the thirtieth day after the date of publication of notice thereof in the **Federal Register**. This will permit customers to receive the benefits of automatic price improvement under the proposed rule change more quickly. In addition, the Commission recognizes that orders are already eligible for manual price improvement when routed to the floor. This proposal merely automates that price improvement for those options to which the Auto-Step-Up feature applies. Moreover, the Commission notes that the full 21 day comment period has expired, and no adverse comments were received.

IV. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to section 19(b)(2) of the Act,⁹ that the proposed rule change (SR-CBOE-98-13), as amended, is hereby approved on an accelerated basis.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁰

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-16583 Filed 6-22-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of The Secretary

Reports, Forms and Recordkeeping Requirements Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

¹⁰ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

announces that the Information Collection Requests (ICRs) abstracted below have been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICRs describe the nature of the information collection and their expected burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on (1) Incident and Annual Reports for Gas Pipeline Operators 2137-0522, was published on April 14, 1998 [63 FR 18251-18252]; (2) Transportation of Hazardous Liquids by Pipeline: Recordkeeping and Accident Reporting 2137-0047, was published on April 14, 1998 [63 FR 18251-18252]; and (3) Reporting of Safety-Related Conditions on Gas, Hazardous Liquid, and Carbon Dioxide Pipelines and Liquefied Natural Gas Facilities 2137-0578, was published on April 14, 1998 [63 FR 18251-18252].

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before July 23, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marvin Fell, Office of Pipeline Safety Research and Special Programs Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, D.C. 20590, (202) 366-6205, or fax (202) 36604566 or by electronic mail "marvin.fell@rspa.dot.gov".

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA)

(1). *Title:* Incident and Annual Reports for Gas Pipeline Operators. *OMB Control Number:* 2137-0522. *Form(s):* 7100.1, 7100.2, 7100.1-1, 7100.2-1.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Gas pipeline operators.

Abstract: 49 CFR 191 requires that gas pipeline operators report certain pipeline incidents that involve injuries, fatalities, fires, property damage or environmental damage. Additionally, gas pipeline operators must submit annual reports on their operations to the Department of Transportation.

Estimated Annual Burden Hours: 6717 hours.

(2). *Title:* Transportation of Hazardous Liquids by Pipeline: Recordkeeping and Accident Reporting.

OMB Number: 2137-0047.

Form(s): DOT 7000-1.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Operators.

Abstract: Federal statute requires that hazardous liquid pipeline operators prepare and maintain written records

⁶ See Amendment No. 1.

⁷ In approving this rule, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).