

Dated this 10th day of December 1999 at Rockville, Maryland.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Ronald D. Hauber,

Deputy Director, Office of International Programs.

[FR Doc. 99-32638 Filed 12-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

DATE: Weeks of December 13, 20, 27, 1999 and January 3, 2000.

PLACE: Commissioners' Conference Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

STATUS: Public and Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Week of December 13

Wednesday, December 15

9:25 a.m.

Affirmation Session (Public Meeting)
a: Final rule—AP600 Design Certification (Tentative) (Contact: Ken Hart, 301-415-1659)

9:30 a.m.

Meeting with Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) (Public Meeting) (Contact: Dr. John Larkins, 301-415-7360)

Thursday, December 16

9:00 a.m.

Meeting on NRC Response to Stakeholders' Concerns Location: (NRC Auditorium, Two White Flint North)

Friday, December 17

9:30 a.m.

Briefing on Status of RES Programs, Performance, and Plans (Including Status of Thermo-Hydraulics) (Public Meeting) (Contact: Jocelyn Mitchell, 301-415-5289)

Week of December 20—Tentative

Wednesday, December 22

11:30 a.m.

Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (if needed)

Week of December 27—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of December 27.

Week of January 3 - Tentative

Wednesday, January 5

9:55 a.m.

Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (if needed)

The schedule for Commission meetings is subject to change on short notice. To verify the status of meetings call (recording)—(301) 415-1292.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Bill Hill (301) 415-1661.

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The NRC Commission Meeting Schedule can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.nrc.gov/SECY/smi/schedule.htm>

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This notice is distributed by mail to several hundred subscribers; if you no longer wish to receive it, or would like to be added to it, please contact the Office of the Secretary, Attn: Operations Branch, Washington, DC 20555 (301-415-1661). In addition, distribution of this meeting notice over the Internet system is available. If you are interested in receiving this Commission meeting schedule electronically, please send an electronic message to wmbh@nrc.gov or dkw@nrc.gov.

Dated: December 10, 1999.

William M. Hill, Jr.,

Secy Tracking Officer, Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-32739 Filed 12-14-99; 3:15 pm]

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PANAMA CANAL COMMISSION

Vital Statistics Records Transferred to the Commission From the Panama Canal Zone Government; Change of Location

AGENCY: Panama Canal Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This action notifies the general public the Panama Canal Commission records of birth, death, or marriage received from the Panama Canal Zone Government in 1979 have been transferred to either the Department of State or the National Archives and Records Administration. **DATES:** Effective 1 December 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Francisco Loaiza, Chief Information Officer, Telephone 011-507-272-3460.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In compliance with the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977 and Public Law 96-70, as amended, (22 U.S.C. 3601 *et seq.*) the United States Government will turn over the operation, maintenance, and management of the Panama Canal to the Government of Panama at 11:59 am, December 31, 1999. As a result of this transfer, and the subsequent closure of the Commission, the Commission has transferred all the records on births, deaths, and marriages to other U.S. Government agencies.

Authority: 22 U.S.C. 3602.

Therefore, under the authority of 22 U.S.C. 3602, the Commission hereby

gives notice after December 1, 1999, all persons or organizations seeking copies or information regarding the birth and death records originally issued by the Canal Zone Government for the period 1904 to September 31, 1979, and maintained by the Commission until 29 October 1999, shall direct their requests, in writing, to the address shown below: Correspondence Branch, Passport Services 1111—19th Street NW, Suite 510, Washington, DC 20522-1705, United States of America, Telephone: 001-202-955-0307.

The following information must be included in the request:

1. Date of request
2. Purpose of request
3. Name at birth/death
4. Date of birth/death
5. City and country of birth/death
6. Signature of requestor, if subject of request, or guardian or parent (as appropriate)

In addition, for birth records, include:

1. Father's name
2. Father's date and place of birth, including country
3. Mother's name
4. Mother's date and place of birth, including country
5. Any U.S. passport information available

The fee for documents is \$20.00 for the first copy, \$10.00 for each additional copy requested at the same time. The check or money order must be signed, dated and made payable to the Department of State. Remittance must be payable in U.S. dollars through a U.S. bank. Do not send cash. Further, the Commission hereby gives notice all records of marriages originally maintained by the former Canal Zone Government have been transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, Maryland. All persons or organizations seeking copies or information regarding the marriage records originally issued by the Canal Zone Government for the period 1904 to September 31, 1979, and maintained by the Commission until June, 1998, shall direct their requests, in writing, to the address shown below: National Archives at College Park, Civilian Reference Branch (NWCTC), Textual Archives Services Division, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001, United States of America, Accession Number NN3-185-98-009.

The fee for documents is \$20.00 per copy. The check or money order must be signed, dated, and made payable to the National Archives Trust Fund. Remittance must be payable in U.S. dollars through a U.S. bank. Do not send cash.

Dated: November 22, 1999.

John L. Haines, Jr.,

General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 99-32619 Filed 12-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3640-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-42212; File No. 4-208]

RIN 3235-AH49

Adoption of Amendments to the Intermarket Trading System Plan To Expand the ITS/Computer Assisted Execution System Linkage to All Listed Securities

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission.

ACTION: Adoption of amendments to national market system plan.

SUMMARY: The Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is adopting amendments to the plan governing the operation of the Intermarket Trading System ("ITS Plan" or "Plan"). The amendments expand the ITS/Computer Assisted Execution System ("CAES") linkage to all listed securities, including non-Rule 19c-3 securities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 14, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Katherine A. England, Assistant Director, at (202) 942-0154; or Christine Richardson, Attorney, at (202) 942-0748, Office of Market Supervision, Division of Market Regulation, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549-1001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background and Description

The Commission is adopting amendments to the ITS Plan to expand the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc.'s ("NASD") ITS/CAES linkage to all listed securities. The Commission believes that these amendments, adopted by the Commission on its own initiative pursuant to Rule 11Aa3-2 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act" or "Act"),¹ are

¹ Rule 11Aa3-2 (17 CFR 240.11Aa3-2) establishes procedures for initiating or approving amendments to national market system plans such as the ITS Plan. Paragraph (b)(2) of Rule 11Aa3-2 states that the Commission may propose amendments to an effective national market system plan by publishing the text thereof together with a statement of purpose of the amendments. Paragraph (c)(1) requires the Commission to publish notice of any amendments initiated by the Commission and provide interested parties an opportunity to submit written comments.

necessary to encourage the statutory goals of efficient execution of securities transactions and opportunities for best execution of customer orders. The Commission is adopting these amendments only after the ITS Participants² have been unable to reach agreement.

A. History of ITS

Section 11A(a)(2) of the Exchange Act³ directs the Commission, having due regard for the public interest, the protection of investors, and the maintenance of fair and orderly markets, to use its authority under the Act to facilitate the establishment of a National Market System ("NMS") for securities in accordance with the Congressional findings and objectives set forth in Section 11A(a)(1) of the Act. Among those findings and objectives is the "linking of all markets for qualified securities through communication and data processing facilities."⁴

On January 26, 1978, the Commission issued a statement on the national market system calling for, among other things, the prompt development of comprehensive market linkage and order routing systems to permit the efficient transmission of orders among the various markets for qualified securities, whether on an exchange or over-the-counter.⁵ In particular, the Commission stated that an intermarket order routing system was necessary to "permit orders for the purchase and sale of multiply-traded securities to be sent directly from any qualified market to another such market promptly and efficiently."⁶ The Commission further stated that "[t]he need to develop and implement a new intermarket order routing system to link all qualified markets could be obviated if

Paragraph (c)(2) of Rule 11Aa3-2 requires that promulgation of an amendment to an effective national market system plan initiated by the Commission be by rule.

² Current signatories to the ITS Plan include American Stock Exchange LLC ("Amex"), Boston Stock Exchange, Inc. ("BSE"), Chicago Board Options Exchange, Inc. ("CBOE"), Chicago Stock Exchange ("CHX"), Cincinnati Stock Exchange ("CSE"), NASD, New York Stock Exchange, Inc. ("NYSE"), Pacific Exchange, Inc. ("PCX"), and Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. ("Phlx"), collectively, the "Participants."

³ Section 11A(a)(2) was adopted by the Securities Acts Amendments of 1975 ("1975 Amendments"). Pub. L. No. 94-29 (June 4, 1975).

⁴ Section 11A(a)(1)(D) of the Act, 15 U.S.C. 78k-1(a)(1)(D).

⁵ Exchange Act Release No. 14416 (January 26, 1978) ("1978 Statement"), at 26, 43 FR 4354, 4358. Previously, on June 23, 1977, the Commission had indicated that a national market system would include those "regulatory and technological steps [necessary] to achieve a nationwide interactive market system." See Exchange Act Release No. 13662 (June 23, 1977), at 20, 42 FR 33510, 33512.

⁶ 1978 Statement, *supra* note 5, at 4358.

participation in the ITS market linkage currently under development were made available on a reasonable basis to all qualified markets and if all qualified markets joined that linkage."⁷

As requested by the Commission, in March 1978, various exchanges⁸ filed jointly with the Commission a "Plan for the Purpose of Creating and Operating an Intermarket Communications Linkage," now known as the ITS Plan. On April 14, 1978, the Commission, noting that ITS might provide the basis for an appropriate market linkage facility, issued a provisional order, pursuant to Section 11A(a)(3)(B) of the Act,⁹ authorizing the filing exchanges (and any other self-regulatory organization ("SRO") which agreed to become a participant in the ITS Plan) to act jointly in planning, developing, operating and regulating the ITS in accordance with the terms of the ITS Plan for a period of 120 days.¹⁰

Subsequently, during the Commission's hearings regarding proposed Rule 19c-3 under the Act,¹¹ the NASD announced plans to enhance its Nasdaq System to include, among other things, a computer assisted execution system that would enable participating firms to route their orders for listed securities through the system to obtain automatic executions against quotations of third market makers.¹² This system later came to be known as CAES. The NASD also contemplated an automated interface between the ITS and CAES ("ITS/CAES") to permit automated execution of commitments sent from participating exchanges and to permit market makers participating in the enhanced Nasdaq to route commitments efficiently to exchange markets for execution.¹³

⁷ In this connection, the Commission specifically indicated that "qualified markets" would include not only exchanges but OTC market makers as well. *Id.*

⁸ The exchanges involved were the Amex, BSE, NYSE, PCX (then called the "PSE"), and Phlx.

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78k-1(a)(3)(B).

¹⁰ See Exchange Act Release No. 14661 (April 14, 1978), 43 FR 17419. In authorizing the implementation of ITS, the Commission urged those SROs not yet ITS participants to participate in ITS. *Id.* at 7 n.15, 43 FR 17421. On August 11, 1978, the Commission extended ITS authority for an additional period of one year. See Exchange Act Release No. 15058 (August 11, 1978), 43 FR 36732. In the interim the ITS Plan had been amended to include the Midwest Stock Exchange ("MSE") as a participant. The MSE is now the CHX.

¹¹ Exchange Act Release No. 15769 (April 26, 1979), 44 FR 26688. Rule 19c-3 precludes exchange off-board trading restrictions from applying to securities listed after April 26, 1979.

¹² The term third market makers refers to OTC market makers in listed securities.

¹³ In its discussions with the ITS Participants, the NASD indicated that the enhanced Nasdaq would

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