

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

Written comments were not and are not intended to be solicited with respect to the proposed rule change, and none have been received.

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

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to section 19(b)(3)(A)(i) of the Act<sup>6</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(1)<sup>7</sup> thereunder because it constitutes a stated policy, practice or interpretation with respect to the meaning, enforcement or administration of an existing rule. At any time within sixty days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate such 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.

**VI. 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 Section, 450 Fifth Street NW., Washington, DC 20549. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of OCC. All submissions should refer to the File No. SR-OCC-2001-17 and should be submitted by April 11, 2002.

For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>8</sup>

**Margaret H. McFarland,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

[Release No. 34-45558; File No. SR-OCC-2002-01]

**Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Options Clearing Corporation; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change Eliminating Clearing Fees**

March 14, 2002.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),<sup>1</sup> notice is hereby given that on January 11, 2002, The Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which items have been prepared primarily by OCC. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

**I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change**

The proposed rule change amends OCC's fee schedule to eliminate certain fees for discontinued or soon to be discontinued services.

**II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change**

In its filing with the Commission, OCC included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. OCC has prepared summaries, set forth in sections (A), (B), and (C) below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.<sup>2</sup>

*(A) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change*

The purpose of this rule change is to amend OCC's fee schedule in two

respects. First, OCC is eliminating ONN Fees, effective January 1, 2002. ONN is an electronic bulletin board service operated by OCC for clearing members and other subscribers to access pertinent information posted by OCC and the options exchanges.<sup>3</sup> Information posted on ONN includes information memos on contract adjustments, other notices to clearing members, statistical and volume information, and certain reports. Most of the information made available via ONN is now available on OCC's public web site, [www.optionsclearing.com](http://www.optionsclearing.com). Other information not currently available on OCC's web site will be made available via MyOCC,<sup>TM</sup> a new web site portal that OCC is creating for use by clearing members and other subscribers. When MyOCC<sup>TM</sup> is launched, ONN will no longer be offered and MyOCC<sup>TM</sup> will become the principal vehicle for disseminating options related information. At this time, OCC has determined not to charge fees to access MyOCC,<sup>TM</sup> and it would be inconsistent with that policy to continue to charge fees for ONN in the meantime.

Second, OCC is eliminating off-site microfiche retrieval charges. In 1996, OCC converted the media on which historical reports were made available to subscribing clearing members from microfiche to CD-ROM and amended its fee schedule to reflect the associated charges.<sup>4</sup> As stated in Filing SR-OCC-96-14, microfiche charges were to be eliminated after the conversion was completed. The conversion was finished some time ago, and accordingly, OCC is updating its fee schedule.

OCC believes the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 17A of the Act because it eliminates fees charged to clearing members and other subscribers for discontinued or soon to be discontinued services.

*(B) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition*

OCC does not believe that the proposed rule change would impose any burden on competition.

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

Written comments were not and are not intended to be solicited with respect to the proposed rule change, and none have been received.

<sup>3</sup> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 28669 (December 3, 1990), 55 FR 50793 [Filed No. SR-OCC-09-12].

<sup>4</sup> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 37993 (November 27, 1996), 61 FR 64407 [File No. SR-OCC-96-14].

<sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(i).

<sup>7</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(1).

<sup>8</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> The Commission has modified parts of these statements.

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

Because the foregoing rule change eliminates fees charged clearing members by OCC, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act<sup>5</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(2)<sup>6</sup> thereunder. At any time within sixty days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate such 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 Section, 450 Fifth Street NW, Washington, DC 20549. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of OCC. All submissions should refer to the File No. SR-OCC-2002-01 and should be submitted by April 11, 2002.

For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>7</sup>

**Margaret H. McFarland,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3939]

#### Bureau of Human Resources, Office of Recruitment; 30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Form DS-3091, Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship Program

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of State has submitted the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. Comments should be submitted to OMB within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

The following summarizes the information collection proposal submitted to OMB:

*Type of Request:* New collection.

*Originating Office:* HR/REE/REC.

*Title of Information Collection:*

Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship Program.

*Frequency:* Annual.

*Form Number:* DS-3091.

*Respondents:* College students.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 250.

*Average Hours Per Response:* 15.

*Total Estimated Burden:* 3,750.

*Public comments are being solicited to permit the agency to:*

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility.
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.
- Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of technology.

#### FOR FURTHER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Copies of the proposed information collection and supporting documents may be obtained from Richard Esper, Chief of Student Programs, Office of Recruitment, Bureau of Human Resources, U.S. Department of State, 2401 E Street, NW, Room H-518, Washington, DC 20522; 202-261-8924. Public comments and questions should be directed to the State Department Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB),

Washington, DC 20530, who may be reached on 202-395-3897.

Dated: February 26, 2002.

**Ruben Torres,**

*Executive Director, Bureau of Human Resources, Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 02-6862 Filed 3-20-02; 8:45 am]

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### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3913]

#### Advisory Committee for the Study of Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union; Notice of Meeting

The Department of State announces that the Advisory Committee for the Study of Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union (Title VIII) will convene on Friday, April 19, 2002, beginning at 10 a.m. in Room 1107, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, DC.

The Advisory Committee will recommend grant recipients for the FY 2002 competition of the Program for the Study of Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union in connection with the "Research and Training for Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union Act of 1983, as amended." The agenda will include opening statements by the Chairman and members of the Committee and, within the Committee, discussion, approval, and recommendation that the Department of State negotiate grant agreements with certain "national organizations with an interest and expertise in conducting research and training concerning the countries of Eastern Europe and the independent states of the former Soviet Union," based on the guidelines contained in the call for applications published in the **Federal Register** on November 23, 2001. Following committee deliberation, interested members of the public may make oral statements concerning the Title VIII program in general.

This meeting will be open to the public; however, attendance will be limited to the seating available. Entry into the Department of State building is controlled and must be arranged in advance of the meeting. Those planning to attend should notify Susan Nelson, INR/RES, U.S. Department of State, (202) 736-4610 by Tuesday, April 16, 2002, providing their date of birth, Social Security number, and any requirements for special needs. All attendees must use the 2201 C Street,

<sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

<sup>6</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

<sup>7</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).