

*Electronic Comments*

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an e-mail to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-ISE-2009-43 on the subject line.

*Paper Comments*

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, Station Place, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-ISE-2009-43. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet Web site (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). 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 Room, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the ISE. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make publicly available. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-ISE-2009-43 and should be submitted on or before July 31, 2009.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>10</sup>

**Elizabeth M. Murphy,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E9-16316 Filed 7-9-09; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8010-01-P**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

[Investment Company Act Release No. 28808; 812-13545]

**GE Funds, et al.; Notice of Application**

July 2, 2009.

**AGENCY:** Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission").

**ACTION:** Notice of an application under section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("Act") for an exemption from section 15(a) of the Act and rule 18f-2 under the Act, as well as from certain disclosure requirements.

**SUMMARY OF APPLICATION:** Applicants request an order that would permit them to enter into and materially amend subadvisory agreements without shareholder approval and would grant relief from certain disclosure requirements.

**APPLICANTS:** GE Funds, GE Institutional Funds, GE Investments Funds, Inc. (each, a "Company" and collectively, the "Companies"), and GE Asset Management Incorporated (the "Adviser").

**FILING DATES:** The application was filed on July 9, 2008, and amended on November 8, 2008, May 8, 2009, and June 29, 2009. Applicants have agreed to file an amendment during the notice period, the substance of which is contained in this notice.

**HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING:** An order granting the applications will be issued unless the Commission orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the Commission's Secretary and serving applicants with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the Commission by 5:30 p.m. on July 27, 2009, and should be accompanied by proof of service on applicants, in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Hearing requests should state the nature of the writer's interest, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons who wish to be notified of a hearing may request notification by writing to the Commission's Secretary.

**ADDRESSES:** Secretary, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090. Applicants, GE Asset Management Incorporated, 3001 Summer Street, Stamford, CT 06905.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christine Y. Greenlees, Senior Counsel, at (202) 551-6879, or Mary Kay Frech, Branch Chief, at (202) 551-6821

(Division of Investment Management, Office of Investment Company Regulation).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following is a summary of the application. The complete application may be obtained via the Commission's Web site by searching for the file number, or an applicant using the Company name box, at <http://www.sec.gov/search/search.htm> or by calling (202) 551-8090.

*Applicants' Representations:*

1. GE Funds, a Massachusetts business trust, is registered under the Act as an open-end management investment company and currently offers sixteen series, each with separate investment objectives, policies and restrictions (each, a "Fund" and collectively, the "Funds"). GE Institutional Funds, a Delaware statutory trust, is registered under the Act as an open-end management investment company and currently offers nine Funds, each with separate investment objectives, policies and restrictions. GE Investments Funds, Inc., a Virginia corporation, is registered under the Act as an open-end management investment company and currently offers fourteen series, each with separate investment objectives, policies and restrictions.<sup>1</sup> The Adviser, a wholly owned subsidiary of General Electric Company, is registered as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 ("Adviser Act"). The Adviser serves as investment adviser to each Fund under an investment advisory agreement with each Company ("Advisory Agreement") that has been approved by the shareholders of each Fund and by the board of trustees or directors of the Companies ("Board"), including a majority of the trustees or directors who are not "interested persons," as defined in section 2(a)(19) of the Act, of any Company or the Adviser ("Independent Board Members").

2. Under the terms of each Advisory Agreement, the Adviser provides a Fund with investment research, advice and

<sup>1</sup> Applicants also request relief with respect to future Funds and any other existing or future registered open-end management investment company or series thereof that: (a) is advised by the Adviser or a person controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Adviser (included in the term "Adviser"); (b) uses the investment management structure described in the application; and (c) complies with the terms and conditions of the application (included in the term "Funds"). The only existing registered open-end management companies that currently intend to rely on the requested order are named as applicants. If the name of any Fund contains the name of a Subadviser (as defined below), the name of the Adviser will precede the name of the Subadviser.

<sup>10</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

supervision, and furnishes an investment program for the Fund consistent with the Fund's investment objectives and policies. For the investment management services it provides to each Fund, the Adviser receives the fee specified in the Advisory Agreement from the Fund. The Advisory Agreements also permit, or would be amended (with appropriate Board and shareholder approval) to permit, the Adviser to enter into investment subadvisory agreements ("Subadvisory Agreements") with one or more subadvisers ("Subadvisers"). Pursuant to its authority under certain Advisory Agreements, the Adviser (having obtained appropriate Board and shareholder approval) has entered into Subadvisory Agreements with various Subadvisers to provide investment advisory services to certain Funds. Each Subadviser is, and every future Subadviser will be, registered as an investment adviser under the Advisers Act. The Adviser will monitor and evaluate the Subadvisers and recommend to the Board their hiring, retention or termination. Subadvisers recommended to the Board by the Adviser will be selected and approved by the Board, including a majority of the Independent Board Members. Each Subadviser will have discretionary authority to invest all or a portion of the assets of a particular Fund, subject to the general supervision of the Adviser and the Board. The Adviser will compensate each Subadviser out of the fees paid to the Adviser by the Fund.

3. Applicants request an order to permit the Adviser, subject to the Board approval, to enter into and materially amend Subadvisory Agreements without obtaining shareholder approval. The requested relief will not extend to any Subadviser who is an affiliated person, as defined in section 2(a)(3) of the Act, of the Companies or the Adviser, other than by reason of serving as a Subadviser to one or more of the Funds ("Affiliated Subadviser").

4. Applicants also request an exemption from the various disclosure provisions described below that may require the Funds to disclose fees paid by the Adviser to each Subadviser. An exemption is requested to permit a Fund to disclose (as both a dollar amount and as a percentage of the Fund's net assets): (a) the aggregate fees paid to the Adviser and any Affiliated Subadvisers; and (b) the aggregate fees paid to Subadvisers other than Affiliated Subadvisers ("Aggregate Fee Disclosure"). Any Fund that employs an Affiliated Subadviser will provide separate disclosure of any fees paid to the Affiliated Subadviser.

#### *Applicants' Legal Analysis:*

1. Section 15(a) of the Act provides, in relevant part, that it is unlawful for any person to act as an investment adviser to a registered investment company except pursuant to a written contract that has been approved by a vote of a majority of the company's outstanding voting securities. Rule 18f-2 under the Act provides that each series or class of stock in a series investment company affected by a matter must approve that matter if the Act requires shareholder approval.

2. Form N-1A is the registration statement used by open-end investment companies. Item 14(a)(3) of Form N-1A requires disclosure of the method and amount of the investment adviser's compensation.<sup>2</sup>

3. Rule 20a-1 under the Act requires proxies solicited with respect to an investment company to comply with Schedule 14A under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("1934 Act"). Items 22(c)(1)(ii), 22(c)(1)(iii), 22(c)(8) and 22(c)(9) of Schedule 14A, taken together, require a proxy statement for a shareholder meeting at which the advisory contract will be voted upon to include the "rate of compensation of the investment adviser," the "aggregate amount of the investment adviser's fees," a description of the "terms of the contract to be acted upon," and, if a change in the advisory fee is proposed, the existing and proposed fees and the difference between the two fees.

4. Form N-SAR is the semi-annual report filed with the Commission by registered investment companies. Item 48 of Form N-SAR requires investment companies to disclose the rate schedule for fees paid to their investment advisers, including the Subadvisers.

5. Regulation S-X sets forth the requirements for financial statements required to be included as part of investment company registration statements and shareholder reports filed with the Commission. Section 6-07(2)(a), (b), and (c) of Regulation S-X require that investment companies include in their financial statements information about investment advisory fees.

6. Section 6(c) of the Act provides that the Commission may exempt any person, security, or transaction or any class or classes of persons, securities, or transactions from any provisions of the Act, or from any rule thereunder, if such exemption is necessary or appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the

purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the Act. Applicants state that their requested relief meets this standard for the reasons discussed below.

7. Applicants assert that the shareholders rely on the Adviser's experience to select one or more Subadvisers best suited to achieve the Fund's investment objectives. Applicants assert that, from the perspective of the investor, the role of the Subadvisers is comparable to that of the individual portfolio managers employed by traditional investment company advisory firms. Applicants state that requiring shareholder approval of each Subadvisory Agreement would impose costs and unnecessary delays on the Funds, and may preclude the Adviser from acting promptly in a manner considered advisable by the Board. Applicants note that the Advisory Agreements and any Subadvisory Agreement with an Affiliated Subadviser will remain subject to section 15(a) of the Act and rule 18f-2 under the Act.

8. Applicants assert that many Subadvisers used a "posted" rate schedule to set their fees. Applicants state that while Subadvisers are willing to negotiate fees that are lower than those posted on the schedule, they are reluctant to do so where the fees are disclosed to other prospective and existing customers. Applicants submit that the requested relief will allow the Adviser to negotiate more effectively with each Subadviser.

#### *Applicants' Conditions*

Applicants agree that any order granting the requested relief will be subject to the following conditions:

1. Before a Fund may rely on the order requested in the application, the operation of the Fund in the manner described in the application will be approved by a majority of the Fund's outstanding voting securities, as defined in the Act, or, in the case of a Fund whose public shareholders purchase shares on the basis of a prospectus containing the disclosure contemplated by condition 2 below, by the sole initial shareholder before offering the Fund's shares to the public.

2. The prospectus for each Fund will disclose the existence, substance, and effect of any order granted pursuant to the application. Each Fund will hold itself out to the public as employing the management structure described in the application. The prospectus will prominently disclose that the Adviser has ultimate responsibility (subject to oversight by the Board) to oversee the Subadvisers and recommend their hiring, termination, and replacement.

<sup>2</sup> Form N-1A was recently amended by the Commission, effective March 31, 2009, and Item 14(a)(3) should be read to refer to Item 19(a)(3) for each Fund when that Fund begins using the revised form.

3. Within 90 days of the hiring of a new Subadviser, the affected Fund's shareholders will be furnished all information about the new Subadviser that would be included in a proxy statement, except as modified to permit Aggregate Fee Disclosure.

This information will include Aggregate Fee Disclosure and any change in such disclosure caused by the addition of the new Subscriber. To meet this obligation, the Fund will provide shareholders within 90 days of the hiring of a new Subadviser with an information statement meeting the requirements of Regulation 14C, Schedule 14C, and Item 22 of Schedule 14A under the 1934 Act, except as modified by the order to permit Aggregate Fee Disclosure.

4. The Adviser will not enter into a Subadvisory Agreement with any Affiliated Subadviser without that agreement, including the compensation to be paid thereunder, being approved by the shareholders of the applicable Fund.

5. At all times, at least a majority of the Board will be Independent Board Members, and the nomination of new or additional Independent Board Members will be placed within the discretion of the then-existing Independent Board Members.

6. When a Subadviser change is proposed for a Fund with an Affiliated Subadviser, the Board, including a majority of the Independent Board Members, will make a separate finding, reflected in the applicable Board minutes, that such change is in the best interests of the Fund and its shareholders and does not involve a conflict of interest from which the Adviser or the Affiliated Subadviser derives an inappropriate advantage.

7. Independent legal counsel, as defined in rule 0-1(a)(6) under the Act, will be engaged to represent the Independent Board Members. The selection of such counsel will be within the discretion of the then existing Independent Board Members.

8. The Adviser will provide the Board, no less frequently than quarterly, with information about the profitability of the Adviser on a per-Fund basis. The information will reflect the impact on profitability of the hiring or termination of any Subadviser during the applicable quarter.

9. Whenever a Subadviser is hired or terminated, the Adviser will provide the Board with information showing the expected impact on the profitability of the Adviser.

10. The Adviser will provide general management services to each Fund, including overall supervisory

responsibility for the general management and investment of the fund's assets and, subject to review and approval of the Board, will: (a) set each Fund's overall investment strategies; (b) evaluate, select and recommend Subadvisers to manage all or a part of a Fund's assets; (c) when appropriate, allocate and reallocate a Fund's assets among multiple Subadvisers; (d) monitor and evaluate the performance of Subadvisers; and (e) implement procedures reasonably designed to ensure that the Subadvisers comply with each Fund's investment objective, policies and restrictions.

11. No director, trustee or officer of any Company, or director or officer of the Adviser, will own directly or indirectly (other than through a pooled investment vehicle that is not controlled by such person) any interest in a Subadviser, except for: (a) ownership of interests in the Adviser or any entity that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with the Adviser; or (b) ownership of less than 1% of the outstanding securities of any class of equity or debt of a publicly traded company that is either a Subadviser or an entity that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with a Subadviser.

12. Each Fund will disclose in its registration statement the Aggregate Fee Disclosure.

13. In the event the Commission adopts a rule under the Act providing substantially similar relief to that in the order requested in the application, the requested order will expire on the effective date of that rule.

For the Commission, by the Division of Investment Management, under delegated authority.

**Elizabeth M. Murphy,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. E9-16332 Filed 07/09/2009 at 8:45 am; Publication Date: 07/10/2009]

#### BILLING CODE

### SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Request and Comment Request

The Social Security Administration (SSA) publishes a list of information collection packages requiring clearance by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in compliance with Public Law 104-13, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, effective October 1, 1995. This notice includes revisions and extensions of OMB-approved information collections and a new collection.

SSA is soliciting comments on the accuracy of the agency's burden estimate; the need for the information; its practical utility; ways to enhance its quality, utility, and clarity; and ways to minimize the burden on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Mail, e-mail, or fax your comments and recommendations on the information collection(s) to the OMB Desk Officer and the SSA Reports Clearance Officer to the addresses or fax numbers shown below.

(OMB), Office of Management and Budget, *Attn:* Desk Officer for SSA,  
*Fax:* 202-395-6974, *E-mail address:*  
*OIRA\_Submission@omb.eop.gov.*

(SSA), Social Security Administration, DCBPM, *Attn:* Reports Clearance Officer, 1332 Annex Building, 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235,  
*Fax:* 410-965-6400, *E-mail address:*  
*OPLM.RCO@ssa.gov.*

I. The information collection below is pending at SSA. SSA will submit it to OMB within 60 days from the date of this notice. To be sure we consider your comments, we must receive them no later than September 8, 2009.

Individuals can obtain copies of the collection instrument by calling the SSA Reports Clearance Officer at 410-965-3758, or by writing to the e-mail address we list above.

1. Statement of Reclamation Action—31 CFR 210-0960-0734. SSA uses Form SSA-1713 to collect information to determine if a Canadian bank is able to return erroneous payments, and to determine how and when it can return the payments made after the death of a beneficiary who elected to have payments sent to Canada. Form SSA-1712 (or SSA-1712 CN) is the cover sheet SSA prepares to request return of a payment erroneously made after the death of the recipient. SSA sends Form SSA-1712 with Form SSA-1713. The respondents are Canadian financial institutions that received Social Security payments.

*Type of Request:* Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.  
*Number of Respondents:* 15.

*Frequency of Response:* 1.

*Average Burden per Response:* 5 minutes.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 1 hour.

II. SSA has submitted the information collections we list below to OMB for clearance. Your comments on the information collections would be most useful if OMB and SSA receive them within 30 days from the date of this publication. To be sure we consider your comments, we must receive them