

Pursuant to section 606(c) of the Act, the Board identified the following countries as candidate countries under the Act for FY 2012 at its March 22, 2012 meeting. In so doing, the Board referred to the prohibitions on assistance as applied to countries in the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2012 (SFOAA), Public Law 112-74, Div. I. All section references identified as prohibitions on assistance to a given country are taken from Title VII of the FY 2012 SFOAA, unless another statute is identified.

Candidate Countries: Low Income Category

Afghanistan*	Liberia
Bangladesh	Malawi
Benin	Mali
Bhutan	Mauritania
Bolivia	Micronesia
Burkina Faso	Moldova
Burundi	Mongolia
Cambodia*	Mozambique
Cameroon*	Nepal
Central African Republic*	Nicaragua*
Chad*	Niger*
Comoros	Nigeria
Côte D'Ivoire*	Pakistan
Congo, Democratic Republic of*	Papua New Guinea
Congo, Republic of the	Philippines
Djibouti	Rwanda
Egypt, Arab Republic*	Sao Tome and Principe
Ethiopia*	Senegal
Gambia, The	Sierra Leone
Georgia	Solomon Islands
Ghana	Somalia*
Guatemala	Sri Lanka
Guinea*	Swaziland*
Guinea-Bissau*	Tajikistan*
Haiti	Tanzania
Honduras	Timor-Leste
India	Togo
Indonesia	Tuvalu
Iraq	Uganda
Kenya	Vanuatu
Kiribati	Vietnam
Kyrgyz Republic*	Yemen*
Lao PDR	Zambia
Lesotho	

Candidate Countries: Lower Middle Income Category

Angola*	Marshall Islands
Armenia	Morocco
Belize	Paraguay
Cape Verde	Samoa
El Salvador	Tonga
Guyana	Turkmenistan*

Kosovo	Ukraine
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* Countries are currently prohibited from assistance due to Section 7031 of the SFOAA, which prohibits assistance to governments where there is a lack of financial management and budget transparency. However, with minor exception, they are expected to receive waivers. Where waivers are granted, these countries will be considered candidate countries for FY 2012.

Countries That Would Be Candidate Countries but for Legal Prohibitions That Prohibit Assistance

Countries that would be considered candidate countries for FY 2012, but are ineligible to receive United States economic assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act by reason of the application of any provision of the Foreign Assistance Act or any other provision of law are listed below. As noted above, this list is based on legal prohibitions against economic assistance that apply as of December 2011.

Prohibited Countries: Low Income Category

Burma is subject to numerous restrictions, including but not limited to section 570 of the FY 1997 Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act (Pub. L. 104-208), which prohibits assistance to the government of Burma until it makes measurable and substantial progress in improving human rights practices and implementing democratic government, and due to its status as a major drug-transit or major illicit drug producing country for FY 2012 (Presidential Determination No. 2011-16 (9/15/2011)).

Eritrea is subject to restrictions due to its status as a Tier III country under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, as amended, 22 U.S.C. section 7101 et seq.

Madagascar is subject to section 7008 of the SFOAA, which prohibits assistance to the government of a country whose duly elected head of government is deposed by military coup or decree and also section 7031(b) regarding budget transparency.

North Korea is subject to numerous restrictions, including section 7007 of the SFOAA which prohibits any direct assistance to the government.

Sudan is subject to numerous restrictions, including but not limited to section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act which prohibits assistance to governments supporting international terrorism, section 7012 of the SFOAA and section 620(q) of the Foreign Assistance Act, both of which prohibit assistance to countries in default in payment to the U.S. in certain

circumstances, section 7008 of the SFOAA, which prohibits assistance to the government of a country whose duly elected head of government is deposed by military coup or decree, and section 7043(f).

Syria is subject to numerous restrictions, including but not limited to 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act which prohibits assistance to governments supporting international terrorism, section 7007 of the SFOAA which prohibits direct assistance, and section 7012 of the SFOAA and section 620(q) of the Foreign Assistance Act, both of which prohibit assistance to countries in default in payment to the U.S. in certain circumstances.

Uzbekistan's central government is subject to section 7076(a) of the FY 2009 SFOAA, which is carried forward by section 7063 of the FY 2012 SFOAA. This may be waived for six months at a time by the Secretary of State. The restriction limits the provision of funds (other than expanded international military education and training funds).

Zimbabwe is subject to several restrictions, including section 7043(j)(2) which prohibits assistance (except for macroeconomic growth assistance) to the central government of Zimbabwe, unless the Secretary of State determines and reports to Congress that the rule of law has been restored in Zimbabwe.

Prohibited Countries: Lower Middle Income Category

Fiji is subject to section 7008 of the SFOAA, which prohibits assistance to the government of a country whose duly elected head of government is deposed by military coup or decree.

Countries identified above as candidate countries, as well as countries that would be considered candidate countries but for the applicability of legal provisions that prohibit U.S. economic assistance, may be the subject of future statutory restrictions or determinations, or changed country circumstances, that affect their legal eligibility for assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act by reason of application of the Foreign Assistance Act or any other provision of law for FY 2012.

[FR Doc. 2012-8443 Filed 4-6-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9211-03-P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Notice of Permits Issued Under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice of permit issued under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978, Public Law 95–541.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is required to publish notice of permits issued under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978. This is the required notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nadene G. Kennedy, Permit Office, Office of Polar Programs, Rm. 755, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 21, 2012, the National Science Foundation published a notice in the *Federal Register* of a permit application received. The permit was issued on April 3, 2012 to: Lockheed Martin Corporation, Permit No. 2012–016, Ms. Celia Lang (Principal in Charge).

Nadene G. Kennedy,
Permit Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012–8389 Filed 4–6–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Investor Education and Advocacy, Washington, DC 20549–0213.

Extension:

Rule 17g–1 and Form NRSRO, SEC File No. 270–563, OMB Control No. 3235–0625.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission (Commission) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget a request for approval of extension of the previously approved collection of information provided for in Rule 17g–1, Form NRSRO and Instructions to Form NRSRO, under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*).¹

Rule 17g–1, Form NRSRO and the Instructions to Form NRSRO contain certain recordkeeping and disclosure requirements for NRSROs. Currently, there are nine credit rating agencies registered as NRSROs with the Commission. The Commission estimates that the total burden for respondents to comply with Rule 17g–1 and Form NRSRO is 838 hours, which includes one-time reporting burdens for new registration applications, registration for

additional categories of credit ratings, withdrawals of NRSRO applications, and withdrawals of NRSRO registration.

The Commission may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the PRA that does not display a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number.

Background documentation for this information collection may be viewed at the following Web site, <http://www.reginfo.gov>. Comments should be directed to: (i) Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10102, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503, or by sending an email to: Shagufta_Ahmed@omb.eop.gov; and (ii) Thomas Bayer, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Remi Pavlik-Simon, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, VA 22312 or send an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: April 3, 2012.

Elizabeth M. Murphy,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2012–8432 Filed 4–6–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Investor Education and Advocacy, Washington, DC 20549–0213.

Extension:

Rule 17g–3; SEC File No. 270–565; OMB Control No. 3235–0626.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”) a request for approval of extension of the previously approved collection of information provided for in Rule 17g–3 (17 CFR 240.17g–3) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*).

Rule 17g–3 contains reporting requirements. The collection of information obligations imposed by the

rule is mandatory. The requirements of Rule 17g–3, however, apply only to credit rating agencies that are registered with the Commission as a nationally recognized statistical rating organization (“NRSRO”), and registration is voluntary. Under Rule 17g–3 each NRSRO must submit annual audited financial statements. The Commission previously estimated that approximately 30 credit rating agencies would register with the Commission as NRSROs under section 15E of the Exchange Act.¹ Currently, there are nine credit rating agencies which have registered with the Commission as NRSROs. Consequently, while the Commission expects more credit rating agencies may become registered as NRSROs over the next few years, the Commission believes that the estimated number of ten NRSROs should be used for purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act. Thus, the Commission estimates that the adjusted current industry-wide annual burden for Rule 17g–3 would be 2,033 hours, which includes a one-time reporting burden for processing reports.

The Commission may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the PRA that does not display a valid OMB control number.

Background documentation for this information collection may be viewed at the following Web site, <http://www.reginfo.gov>. Comments should be directed to: (i) Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10102, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503, or by sending an email to: Shagufta_Ahmed@omb.eop.gov; and (ii) Thomas Bayer, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Remi Pavlik-Simon, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, VA 22312 or send an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: April 3, 2012.

Elizabeth M. Murphy,
Secretary.

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¹ See *Oversight of Credit Rating Agencies Registered as Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations*, 34–55857 (June 5, 2007), 72 FR 33564 at 33607 (June 18, 2007).

¹ See 17 CFR 240.17g–1 and 17 CFR 249b.300.