

is granted a waiver pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 8905(b) and the procedures described above, the FEHB enrollment will be effective the first day of the first pay period that begins after the date on which that OPM granted the waiver. The survivor annuitant may not be enrolled in FEHB retroactively, unless there is clear administrative error.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Beth F. Cobert,
Acting Director.

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POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. MC2016-17 and CP2016-23;
Order No. 2834]

New Postal Product

AGENCY: Postal Regulatory Commission.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commission is noticing a recent Postal Service filing concerning the addition of Priority Mail Contract 153 to the competitive product list. This notice informs the public of the filing, invites public comment, and takes other administrative steps.

DATES: *Comments are due:* December 1, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments electronically via the Commission's Filing Online system at <http://www.prc.gov>. Those who cannot submit comments electronically should contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section by telephone for advice on filing alternatives.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David A. Trissell, General Counsel, at 202-789-6820.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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I. Introduction

In accordance with 39 U.S.C. 3642 and 39 CFR 3020.30 *et seq.*, the Postal Service filed a formal request and associated supporting information to add Priority Mail Contract 153 to the competitive product list.¹

The Postal Service contemporaneously filed a redacted

contract related to the proposed new product under 39 U.S.C. 3632(b)(3) and 39 CFR 3015.5. Request, Attachment B.

To support its Request, the Postal Service filed a copy of the contract, a copy of the Governors' Decision authorizing the product, proposed changes to the Mail Classification Schedule, a Statement of Supporting Justification, a certification of compliance with 39 U.S.C. 3633(a), and an application for non-public treatment of certain materials. It also filed supporting financial workpapers.

II. Notice of Commission Action

The Commission establishes Docket Nos. MC2016-17 and CP2016-23 to consider the Request pertaining to the proposed Priority Mail Contract 153 product and the related contract, respectively.

The Commission invites comments on whether the Postal Service's filings in the captioned dockets are consistent with the policies of 39 U.S.C. 3632, 3633, or 3642, 39 CFR part 3015, and 39 CFR part 3020, subpart B. Comments are due no later than December 1, 2015. The public portions of these filings can be accessed via the Commission's Web site (<http://www.prc.gov>).

The Commission appoints Curtis E. Kidd to serve as Public Representative in these dockets.

III. Ordering Paragraphs

It is ordered:

1. The Commission establishes Docket Nos. MC2016-17 and CP2016-23 to consider the matters raised in each docket.
2. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505, Curtis E. Kidd is appointed to serve as an officer of the Commission to represent the interests of the general public in these proceedings (Public Representative).
3. Comments are due no later than December 1, 2015.
4. The Secretary shall arrange for publication of this order in the **Federal Register**.

By the Commission.

Stacy L. Ruble,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015-30225 Filed 11-27-15; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Public Input on the Triennial Update to the USGCRP Strategic Plan

ACTION: Request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Global Change Research Program is three years into the

implementation of its National Global Change Research Plan 2012-2021 (<http://www.globalchange.gov/strategic-plan>) hereafter called the Strategic Plan. That decadal Strategic Plan remains the continuing blueprint for USGCRP, with its strategic directions guiding the Program. There are areas, however, where the landscape has changed by virtue of significant progress, changing scientific or societal urgencies, or challenges. This Triennial Update to the Strategic Plan (hereafter simply "Update") addresses these areas and their implications for USGCRP. In accordance with the Global Change Research Act of 1990 (Sec 104, P.L. 101-606), this public comment period invites the public to provide comments and feedback on the Update.

DATES: Public comments will be accepted through January 30, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Comments from the public may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- Electronically via <http://www.globalchange.gov/notices>. Instructions for submitting comments are on the Web site.
- If you are unable to submit electronically, comments may be submitted by mail to Attn: Benjamin DeAngelo, U.S. Global Change Research Program, 1800 G Street NW., Suite 9100, Washington, DC 20006. Information submitted by postal mail should allow ample time for processing.

Instructions: Response to this Request for Public Comment is voluntary. Mailed comments should be less than 10 pages. Responses to this Request for Public Comment may be posted without change online. OSTP therefore requests that no business proprietary information, copyrighted information, or personally identifiable information be submitted in response to this Request for Public Comment. Please note that the U.S. Government will not pay for response preparation, or for the use of any information contained in the response.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Benjamin DeAngelo, (202) 419-3474, bdeangelo@usgcrp.gov, U.S. Global Change Research Program.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Background information, additional details, and instructions for submitting comments can be found at www.globalchange.gov/notices. For more information about the Strategic

¹ Request of the United States Postal Service to Add Priority Mail Contract 153 to Competitive Product List and Notice of Filing (Under Seal) of Unredacted Governors' Decision, Contract, and Supporting Data, November 20, 2015 (Request).

Plan, please see <http://www.globalchange.gov/strategic-plan>.

Ted Wackler,
Deputy Chief of Staff and Assistant Director.
[FR Doc. 2015-30292 Filed 11-27-15; 8:45 am]
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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-76510; File No. SR-DTC-2015-011]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Depository Trust Company; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change Regarding the Acknowledgment of End-of-Day Net-Net Settlement Balances by Settling Banks

November 23, 2015.

Pursuant to section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on November 16, 2015, The Depository Trust Company (“DTC”) 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 by DTC. DTC filed the proposed rule change pursuant to section 19(b)(2)³ of the Act thereunder. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Clearing Agency’s Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The proposed rule change would amend the DTC Settlement Service Guide (“Guide”) to provide that any Settling Bank that does not affirmatively acknowledge by the Acknowledgment Cutoff Time (as defined below) its end-of-day net-net settlement balance⁴ or notify DTC of its refusal to settle for one or more Participants for which it is the designated Settling Bank, would be deemed to have acknowledged its end-of-day net-net settlement balance.⁵ DTC

would also make other changes to the Guide as set forth below.

II. Clearing Agency’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, DTC 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. DTC has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

(A) Clearing Agency’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The purpose of this proposed rule change is to mitigate a risk to DTC in settlement relating to a Settling Bank’s failure to take the action required to acknowledge its end-of-day net-net settlement balance, or notify DTC of a refusal to settle for any Participant for which it is the designated Settling Bank, by the Acknowledgment Cutoff Time (as defined below).

Background

The DTC end-of-day net settlement structure depends upon the use of Settling Banks.⁶ Each Participant must designate a Settling Bank to settle on its behalf. Any Participant that is a bank may settle for itself.⁷ Today, a Settling Bank that settles for other Participants must acknowledge its end-of-day net-net settlement balance for the group of Participants for which it settles, or notify DTC if it refuses to settle for any Participant for which it is the designated Settling Bank, by the later of 4:15 p.m. and the time that is 30 minutes after the Settling Bank end-of-day net-net settlement balances are first made available by DTC (“Acknowledgment Cutoff Time”).⁸

If a Settling Bank notifies DTC that it refuses to settle for a Participant, DTC would recalculate the Settling Bank’s net-net settlement balance by excluding the net settlement balance of the Participant for which the Settling Bank

refused to settle.⁹ DTC would then provide the Settling Bank with its adjusted net-net settlement balance (“Post-Refusal Adjusted Balance”). The Settling Bank may not refuse to settle for any other Participant on that day and must immediately respond to DTC to acknowledge its Post-Refusal Adjusted Balance.

After the Acknowledgment Cutoff Time and any adjustments, DTC will prepare and submit to the National Settlement Service (“NSS”) provided by the Federal Reserve Banks (individually and collectively, the “Fed”) a file (“NSS File”) reflecting the net debits or credits from and to all Settling Banks. NSS will process a debit or credit of each Settling Bank’s Fed account (“Fed Account”), as applicable.¹⁰

Today, failure of a Settling Bank to timely respond to DTC after posting of final settlement figures creates uncertainty with respect to timely completion of settlement at DTC. The proposed rule change is intended to address this issue as discussed below.

Proposal

To promote settlement certainty, DTC is proposing to treat a Settling Bank that fails to timely provide its affirmative acknowledgement of its end-of-day net-net settlement balance or notify DTC of its refusal to settle for one or more Participants for which it is the designated Settling Bank, as having been deemed to acknowledge its end-of-day net-net settlement balance.

DTC proposes to modify the Guide to provide that a Settling Bank that (i) fails to affirmatively acknowledge its end-of-day net-net settlement balance, or (ii) does not notify DTC of its refusal to settle on behalf of a Participant or Participants for which it is the designated Settling Bank, by the Acknowledgment Cutoff Time, would be deemed to have acknowledged its end-of-day net-net settlement balance.¹¹

⁹ Any Participant for which its designated Settling Bank has refused to settle on its behalf remains obligated to DTC for the payment of any net debit balance and must make another arrangement to timely pay that amount by Fedwire.

¹⁰ The Guide currently provides that if NSS is unavailable then, if instructed by DTC, Settling Banks in a net-net debit balance must remit payments to DTC via Fedwire by the later of 5:00 p.m. or 1 hour after net settlement balances are first made available. This provision would be clarified to note an operational detail that all such payments must be remitted prior to the close of Fedwire.

¹¹ DTC would provide reminders to Settling Banks when they have not affirmatively acknowledged their settlement balance. Notwithstanding delivery of reminders, once a Settling Bank is deemed to have acknowledged its balance, it may not notify DTC of a refusal to settle for a Participant for which it is the designated Settling Bank.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

⁴ The end-of-day net-net settlement balance for each Settling Bank reflects (i) a net credit amount due to the Settling Bank from DTC, (ii) a net debit amount due from the Settling Bank to DTC, or (iii) a zero balance so that no payment is due to or from the Settling Bank. In accordance with the timeframes set forth in the Guide, DTC’s end-of-day funds settlement process begins with the posting by DTC of “final settlement figures” at approximately 3:45 p.m. each Business Day unless extended.

⁵ Terms not otherwise defined herein have the meaning set forth in the DTC Rules (the “Rules”), available at <http://www.dtcc.com/legal/rules-and-procedures.aspx>.

⁶ See the Guide at pp. 17–18, available at <http://www.dtcc.com/~media/Files/Downloads/legal/service-guides/Settlement.pdf> for an overview of the end-of-day net settlement process.

⁷ See Rule 9(B), *supra* note 5.

⁸ Currently, a Settling Bank that settles only for itself may opt out of the requirement to acknowledge its balance, but it cannot refuse to settle for itself.