

suspending the right of redemption or postponing the date of payment of redemption proceeds for more than seven days after the tender of a security for redemption. Applicants state that the settlement of redemptions for the Foreign Funds is contingent not only on the settlement cycle of the markets in the United States, but also on currently practicable delivery cycles in local markets for the foreign securities held by the Foreign Funds. Applicants state that local market delivery cycles for transferring certain foreign securities to investors redeeming Creation Units, together with local market holiday schedules, will under certain circumstances require a delivery process in excess of seven calendar days for the Foreign Funds. Applicants request relief under section 6(c) of the Act from section 22(e) in such circumstances to allow the Foreign Funds to pay redemption proceeds up to 14 calendar days after the tender of any Creation Unit for redemption. Except as disclosed in the Foreign Fund's prospectus or statement of additional information ("SAI"), applicants expect that each Foreign Fund will be able to deliver redemption proceeds within seven days.⁴ With respect to Future Foreign Funds, applicants seek the same relief from section 22(e) only to the extent that circumstances similar to those described in the application exist.

2. Applicants state that section 22(e) was designed to prevent unreasonable, undisclosed and unforeseen delays in the payment of redemption proceeds. Applicants assert that the requested relief will not lead to the problems that section 22(e) was designed to prevent. Applicants state that the SAI for each Foreign Fund will disclose those local holidays (over the period of at least one year following the date of the SAI), if any, that are expected to prevent the delivery of redemption proceeds in seven calendar days, and the maximum number of days needed to deliver the proceeds for the relevant Foreign Fund. Applicants are not seeking relief from section 22(e) of the Act with respect to Foreign Funds that do not effect creations and redemptions of Creation Units in-kind.

Applicants' Conditions

Applicants agree that any order granting the requested relief will be

subject to the same conditions as the Prior Order.

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

Florence E. Harmon,

Acting Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Investment Company Act Release No. 28419; 812-13458]

WisdomTree Asset Management, Inc. and WisdomTree Trust; Notice of Application

September 29, 2008.

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

ACTION: Notice of an application for an order under section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("Act") for an exemption from sections 2(a)(32), 5(a)(1) and 22(d) of the Act and rule 22c-1 under the Act, and under sections 6(c) and 17(b) of the Act for an exemption from section 17(a) of the Act, and under section 12(d)(1)(j) for an exemption from sections 12(d)(1)(A) and (B) of the Act.

APPLICANTS: WisdomTree Asset Management, Inc. (the "Advisor") and WisdomTree Trust (the "Trust").

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION: Applicants request an order that permits: (a) Series of certain open-end management investment companies that utilize active management investment strategies to issue shares ("Shares") redeemable in large aggregations only ("Creation Units"); (b) secondary market transactions in Shares to occur at negotiated market prices; (c) certain affiliated persons of the series to deposit securities into, and receive securities from, the series in connection with the purchase and redemption of Creation Units; and (d) certain registered management investment companies and unit investment trusts outside of the same group of investment companies as the series to acquire Shares.

FILING DATES: The application was filed on December 5, 2007 and amended on April 15, 2008 and September 26, 2008.

HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING: An order granting the requested relief 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 October 24, 2008, 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, 380 Madison Avenue, 21st Floor, New York, New York 10017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laura J. Riegel, Senior Counsel at (202) 551-6873, or Marilyn Mann, 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 for a fee at the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549-1520 (tel. 202-551-5850).

Applicants' Representations

1. The Trust is an open-end management investment company registered under the Act and organized as a Delaware statutory trust. The Trust will offer four new series: WisdomTree U.S. Equity Fund, WisdomTree International Equity Fund, WisdomTree Domestic Total Return Bond Fund, and WisdomTree International Total Return Bond (collectively, the "New Funds"). The New Funds may invest in equity securities or fixed income securities traded in the U.S. or non-U.S. markets. Applicants request that the order apply to any future series of the Trust or of other open-end management companies that also may invest in equity securities or fixed-income securities traded in the U.S. or non-U.S. markets ("Future Funds"). Any Future Fund will be (a) advised by the Advisor or an entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Advisor, and (b) comply with the terms and conditions of the order. The New Funds and Future Funds together are the "Funds." Each Fund will operate as an actively-managed exchange-traded fund ("ETF").

2. The Advisor, a Delaware corporation, is registered as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 ("Advisers Act") and serves as investment adviser to each Fund. The Advisor and the Trust may retain one or

⁴ Rule 15c6-1 under the Exchange Act requires that most securities transactions be settled within three business days of the trade. Applicants acknowledge that no relief obtained from the requirements of section 22(e) will affect any obligations applicants may have under rule 15c6-1.

more subadvisers to the Funds (each, a "Subadvisor"). Any Subadvisor will be registered as an investment adviser under the Advisers Act. ALPS Distributors, Inc., a Colorado corporation, is registered as a broker-dealer under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act") and will serve as the principal underwriter and distributor for the Funds ("Distributor").¹

3. Shares of the Funds will be sold at a price of between \$25 and \$100 per Share in Creation Units of between 50,000 and 100,000 Shares. All orders to purchase Creation Units must be placed with the Distributor by or through a party that has entered into an agreement with the Trust, the Distributor and the transfer agent to the Trust ("Authorized Participant"). An Authorized Participant must be either: (a) A broker-dealer or other participant in the continuous net settlement system of the National Securities Clearing Corporation ("NSCC"), or (b) a participant in the Depository Trust Company ("DTC," and such participant, "DTC Participant"). Shares of each Fund generally will be sold in Creation Units in exchange for an in-kind deposit by the purchaser of a portfolio of securities designated by the Advisor (the "Deposit Securities"), together with the deposit of a specified cash payment ("Cash Component"). The Cash Component is an amount equal to the difference between (a) the net asset value ("NAV") per Creation Unit of the Fund and (b) the total aggregate market value per Creation Unit of the Deposit Securities.² Applicants state that in some circumstances it may not be practicable or convenient for a Fund to operate exclusively on an "in-kind" basis. The Trust reserves the right to permit, under certain circumstances, a purchaser of Creation Units to substitute cash in lieu of depositing some or all of the Deposit Securities.

4. An investor purchasing a Creation Unit from a Fund will be charged a fee

("Transaction Fee") to prevent the dilution of the interests of the remaining shareholders resulting from costs in connection with the purchase of Creation Units.³ The maximum Transaction Fees relevant to each Fund will be fully disclosed in the prospectus ("Prospectus") of such Fund and the method of calculating these Transaction Fees will be fully disclosed in its statement of additional information ("SAI"). All orders to purchase Creation Units will be placed with the Distributor by or through an Authorized Participant and it will be the Distributor's responsibility to transmit such orders to the Trust. The Distributor also will be responsible for delivering the Prospectus to those persons purchasing Creation Units, and for maintaining records of both the orders placed with it and the confirmations of acceptance furnished by it. In addition, the Distributor will maintain a record of the instructions given to the Trust to implement the delivery of Shares.

5. Purchasers of Shares in Creation Units may hold such Shares or may sell such Shares into the secondary market. Shares will be listed and traded at negotiated prices on a national securities exchange as defined in section 2(a)(26) of the Act ("Exchange"). It is expected that one or more member firms of a listing Exchange will be designated to act as a specialist and maintain a market for Shares on the Exchange (the "Specialist"), or if Nasdaq is the listing Exchange, one or more member firms of Nasdaq will act as a market maker ("Market Maker") and maintain a market for Shares.⁴ Prices of Shares trading on an Exchange will be based on the current bid/offer market. Shares sold in the secondary market will be subject to customary brokerage commissions and charges.

6. Applicants expect that purchasers of Creation Units will include institutional investors and arbitrageurs. The Specialist, or Market Maker, in providing a fair and orderly secondary market for the Shares, also may purchase Creation Units for use in its market-making activities. Applicants

expect that secondary market purchasers of Shares will include both institutional investors and retail investors.⁵ Applicants expect that the price at which the Shares trade will be disciplined by arbitrage opportunities created by the ability to continually purchase or redeem Creation Units at their NAV, which should ensure that the Shares will not trade at a material discount or premium in relation to their NAV.

7. Shares will not be individually redeemable, and owners of Shares may acquire those Shares from a Fund, or tender such Shares for redemption to the Fund, in Creation Units only. To redeem, an investor will have to accumulate enough Shares to constitute a Creation Unit. Redemption orders must be placed by or through an Authorized Participant. An investor redeeming a Creation Unit generally will receive (a) a portfolio of securities designated to be delivered for Creation Unit redemptions on the date that the request for redemption is submitted ("Fund Securities"), which may not be identical to the Deposit Securities required to purchase Creation Units on that date, and (b) a "Cash Redemption Amount," that is cash in an amount equal to the difference between the NAV of the Shares being redeemed and the market value of the Fund Securities. An investor may receive the cash equivalent of a Fund Security in certain circumstances, such as if the investor is constrained from effecting transactions in the security by regulation or policy. A redeeming investor will pay a Transaction Fee, calculated in the same manner as a Transaction Fee payable in connection with purchases of Creation Units.

8. Neither the Trust nor any individual Fund will be marketed or otherwise held out as an "open-end investment company" or a "mutual fund." Instead, each Fund will be marketed as an "actively-managed exchange-traded fund." All marketing materials that describe the method of obtaining, buying or selling Shares, or refer to redeemability, will prominently disclose that Shares are not individually redeemable and that the owners of Shares may purchase or redeem Shares from a Fund in Creation Units only. The same approach will be followed in the SAI, shareholder reports and any marketing or advertising materials issued or circulated in connection with the Shares. The Funds will provide

¹ All entities that currently intend to rely on the order are named as applicants. Any other entity that relies on the order in the future will comply with the terms and conditions of the application. An Investing Fund (as defined below) may rely on the order only to invest in Funds and not in any other registered investment company.

² In addition to the list of names and amount of each security constituting the current Deposit Securities, it is intended that, on each day that a Fund is open, including as required by section 22(e) of the Act ("Business Day"), the Cash Component effective as of the previous Business Day, will be made available. The Exchange (as defined below) intends to disseminate, every 15 seconds, during regular trading hours, through the facilities of the Consolidated Tape Association, an approximate amount per Share representing the sum of the estimated Cash Component, plus the current value of the Deposit Securities, on a per Share basis.

³ Where a Fund permits a purchaser to substitute cash in lieu of depositing a portion of the requisite Deposit Securities, the purchaser may be assessed a higher Transaction Fee to cover the cost of purchasing such Deposit Securities, including brokerage costs.

⁴ If Shares are listed on the Nasdaq, no particular Market Maker will be contractually obligated to make a market in Shares, although Nasdaq's listing requirements stipulate that at least two Market Makers must be registered as Market Makers in Shares to maintain the listing. Registered Market Makers are required to make a continuous, two-sided market at all times or be subject to regulatory sanctions.

⁵ Shares will be registered in book-entry form only. DTC or its nominee will be the registered owner of all outstanding Shares. DTC or DTC Participants will maintain records reflecting beneficial owners of Shares.

copies of their annual and semi-annual shareholder reports to DTC Participants for distribution to beneficial owners of Shares.

9. The Funds' Web site will include the Prospectus and information about the Funds that is updated on a daily basis, including the mid-point of the bid-ask spread at the time of the calculation of NAV ("Bid/Ask Price"). On each Business Day, before the commencement of trading in Shares on the Exchange, each Fund will disclose the identities and quantities of the securities ("Portfolio Securities") and other assets held in the Fund portfolio that will form the basis for the Fund's calculation of NAV at the end of the Business Day.⁶

Applicants' Legal Analysis

1. Applicants request an order under section 6(c) of the Act granting an exemption from sections 2(a)(32), 5(a)(1) and 22(d) of the Act and rule 22c-1 under the Act; and under sections 6(c) and 17(b) of the Act granting an exemption from sections 17(a) of the Act, and under section 12(d)(1)(f) for an exemption from sections 12(d)(1)(A) and (B) of the Act.

2. Section 6(c) of the Act provides that the Commission may exempt any person, security or transaction, or any class of persons, securities or transactions, from any provision of the Act, if and to the extent that 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. Section 17(b) of the Act authorizes the Commission to exempt a proposed transaction from section 17(a) of the Act if evidence establishes that the terms of the transaction, including the consideration to be paid or received, are reasonable and fair and do not involve overreaching on the part of any person concerned, and the proposed transaction is consistent with the policies of the registered investment company and the general provisions of the Act. Section 12(d)(1)(f) 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 provision of section 12(d)(1) if the

exemption is consistent with the public interest and the protection of investors.

Sections 5(a)(1) and 2(a)(32) of the Act

3. Section 5(a)(1) of the Act defines an "open-end company" as a management investment company that is offering for sale or has outstanding any redeemable security of which it is the issuer.

Section 2(a)(32) of the Act defines a redeemable security as any security, other than short-term paper, under the terms of which the holder, upon its presentation to the issuer, is entitled to receive approximately his proportionate share of the issuer's current net assets, or the cash equivalent. Because Shares will not be individually redeemable, applicants request an order that would permit each Fund, as a series of an open-end management investment company, to issue Shares that are redeemable in Creation Units only. Applicants state that investors may purchase Shares in Creation Units from each Fund and redeem Creation Units from each Fund. Applicants further state that because the market price of Shares will be disciplined by arbitrage opportunities, investors should be able to sell Shares in the secondary market at prices that do not vary substantially from their NAV.

Section 22(d) of the Act and Rule 22c-1 Under the Act

4. Section 22(d) of the Act, among other things, prohibits a dealer from selling a redeemable security that is currently being offered to the public by or through a principal underwriter, except at a current public offering price described in the prospectus. Rule 22c-1 under the Act generally requires that a dealer selling, redeeming, or repurchasing a redeemable security do so only at a price based on its NAV. Applicants state that secondary market trading in Shares will take place at negotiated prices, not at a current offering price described in the Prospectus, and not at a price based on NAV. Thus, purchases and sales of Shares in the secondary market will not comply with section 22(d) of the Act and rule 22c-1 under the Act. Applicants request an exemption under section 6(c) from these provisions.

5. Applicants assert that the concerns sought to be addressed by section 22(d) of the Act and rule 22c-1 under the Act with respect to pricing are equally satisfied by the proposed method of pricing Shares. Applicants maintain that while there is little legislative history regarding section 22(d), its provisions, as well as those of rule 22c-1, appear to have been designed to (a) prevent dilution caused by certain riskless-

trading schemes by principal underwriters and contract dealers, (b) prevent unjust discrimination or preferential treatment among buyers resulting from sales at different prices, and (c) assure an orderly distribution of investment company shares by eliminating price competition from dealers offering shares at less than the published sales price and repurchasing shares at more than the published redemption price.

6. Applicants believe that none of these purposes will be thwarted by permitting Shares to trade in the secondary market at negotiated prices. Applicants state that (a) secondary market trading in Shares does not involve the Funds as parties and cannot result in dilution of an investment in Shares, and (b) to the extent different prices exist during a given trading day, or from day to day, such variances occur as a result of third-party market forces, such as supply and demand. Therefore, applicants assert that secondary market transactions in Shares will not lead to discrimination or preferential treatment among purchasers. Finally, applicants contend that the proposed distribution system will be orderly because arbitrage activity will ensure that the difference between the market price of Shares and their NAV remains narrow.

Section 12(d)(1) of the Act

7. Section 12(d)(1)(A) of the Act prohibits a registered investment company from acquiring shares of an investment company if the securities represent more than 3% of the total outstanding voting stock of the acquired company, more than 5% of the total assets of the acquiring company, or, together with the securities of any other investment companies, more than 10% of the total assets of the acquiring company. Section 12(d)(1)(B) of the Act prohibits a registered open-end investment company, its principal underwriter, or any other broker or dealer from selling its shares to another investment company if the sale will cause the acquiring company to own more than 3% of the acquired company's voting stock, or if the sale will cause more than 10% of the acquired company's voting stock to be owned by investment companies generally.

8. Applicants request that the order permit certain investment companies registered under the Act to acquire Shares beyond the limitations in section 12(d)(1)(A) and permit the Funds, any principal underwriter for the Funds, and any broker or dealer registered under the Exchange Act ("Brokers"), to sell Shares beyond the limitations in

⁶ Applicants note that under accounting procedures followed by the Funds, trades made on the prior Business Day ("T") will be booked and reflected in NAV on the current Business Day ("T + 1"). Accordingly, the Funds will be able to disclose at the beginning of the Business Day the portfolio that will form the basis for the NAV calculation at the end of the Business Day.

section 12(d)(1)(B). Applicants request that these exemptions apply to: (1) any Fund that is currently or subsequently part of the same "group of investment companies" as the New Funds within the meaning of section 12(d)(1)(G)(ii) of the Act as well as any principal underwriter for the Funds and any Brokers selling Shares of a Fund to an Investing Fund (as defined below); and (2) each management investment company or unit investment trust registered under the Act that is not part of the same "group of investment companies" as the Funds within the meaning of section 12(d)(1)(G)(ii) of the Act and that enters into a FOF Participation Agreement (as defined below) with a Fund (such management investment companies are referred to herein as "Investing Management Companies," such unit investment trusts are referred to herein as "Investing Trusts," and Investing Management Companies and Investing Trusts are "Investing Funds"). Investing Funds do not include the Funds. Each Investing Trust will have a sponsor ("Sponsor") and each Investing Management Company will have an investment adviser within the meaning of Section 2(a)(20)(A) of the Act ("Investing Fund Advisor") that does not control, is not controlled by or under common control with the Advisor. Each Investing Management Company may also have one or more investment advisers within the meaning of Section 2(a)(20)(B) of the Act (each, an "Investing Fund Subadvisor").

9. Applicants assert that the proposed transactions will not lead to any of the abuses that section 12(d)(1) was designed to prevent. Applicants submit that the proposed conditions to the requested relief address the concerns underlying the limits in section 12(d)(1), which include concerns about undue influence, excessive layering of fees and overly complex structures.

10. Applicants believe that neither the Investing Funds nor an Investing Fund Affiliate would be able to exert undue influence over the Funds.⁷ To limit the control that an Investing Fund may have over a Fund, applicants propose a condition prohibiting the Investing Fund Advisor or Sponsor; any person controlling, controlled by, or under common with the Investing Fund

Advisor or Sponsor; and any investment company or issuer that would be an investment company but for sections 3(c)(1) or 3(c)(7) of the Act that is advised or sponsored by the Investing Fund Advisor or advised or sponsored by the Sponsor, or any person controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Investing Fund Advisor or Sponsor ("Investing Fund's Advisory Group") from controlling (individually or in the aggregate) a Fund within the meaning of section 2(a)(9) of the Act. The same prohibition would apply to any Investing Fund Subadvisor; any person controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Investing Fund Subadvisor; and any investment company or issuer that would be an investment company but for section 3(c)(1) or 3(c)(7) of the Act (or portion of such investment company or issuer) advised or sponsored by the Investing Fund Subadvisor or any person controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Investing Fund Subadvisor ("Investing Fund's Subadvisory Group").

11. Applicants propose other conditions to limit the potential for undue influence over the Funds, including that no Investing Fund or Investing Fund Affiliate (except to the extent it is acting in its capacity as an investment adviser to a Fund) will cause a Fund to purchase a security in any offering of securities during the existence of any underwriting or selling syndicate of which a principal underwriter is an Underwriting Affiliate ("Affiliated Underwriting"). An "Underwriting Affiliate" is a principal underwriter in any underwriting or selling syndicate that is an officer, director, member of an advisory board, Investing Fund Advisor, Investing Fund Subadvisor, employee or Sponsor of an Investing Fund, or a person of which any such officer, director, member of an advisory board, Investing Fund Advisor, Investing Fund Subadvisor, employee, or Sponsor is an affiliated person (except any person whose relationship to the Fund is covered by section 10(f) of the Act is not an Underwriting Affiliate).

12. Applicants do not believe that the proposed arrangement will involve excessive layering of fees. The board of directors or trustees of each Investing Management Company, including a majority of the disinterested directors or trustees, before approving any advisory contract under section 15 of the Act, will be required to determine that the advisory fees charged to the Investing Management Company are based on services provided that will be in

addition to, rather than duplicative of, the services provided under the advisory contract(s) of any Fund in which the Investing Management Company may invest. In addition, the Investing Fund Advisor, trustee of an Investing Trust ("Trustee") or Sponsor, as applicable, will waive fees otherwise payable to it by the Investing Fund in an amount at least equal to any compensation received from a Fund by the Investing Fund Advisor, Trustee or Sponsor, or an affiliated person of the Investing Fund Advisor, Trustee or Sponsor (other than any advisory fees), in connection with the investment by the Investing Fund in the Funds. Applicants also state that any sales charges and/or service fees charged with respect to shares of an Investing Fund will not exceed the limits applicable to a fund of funds set forth in Conduct Rule 2830 of the NASD ("Rule 2830").

13. Applicants submit that the proposed arrangement will not create an overly complex fund structure. Applicants note that a Fund will be prohibited from acquiring securities of any investment company, or of any company relying on section 3(c)(1) or 3(c)(7) of the Act, in excess of the limits contained in section 12(d)(1)(A) of the Act.

14. To ensure that Investing Funds are aware of the terms and conditions of the requested order, the Investing Funds must enter into an agreement with the respective Funds ("FOF Participation Agreement"). The FOF Participation Agreement will include an acknowledgement from the Investing Fund that it may rely on the order only to invest in the Funds and not in any other investment company. The FOF Participation Agreement will further require any Investing Fund that exceeds the 5% or 10% limitation in section 12(d)(1)(A)(ii) or (iii), respectively, to disclose in its Prospectus that it may invest in ETFs and disclose, in "plain English," in its Prospectus the unique characteristics of the Investing Funds, including but not limited to the expense structure and any additional expenses of investing in investment companies.

Section 17(a) of the Act

15. Section 17(a) of the Act generally prohibits an affiliated person of a registered investment company, or an affiliated person of such a person ("second tier affiliate"), from selling any security to or purchasing any security from the company. Section 2(a)(3) of the Act defines "affiliated person" to include any person directly or indirectly owning, controlling, or holding with power to vote 5% or more of the outstanding voting securities of the

⁷ An "Investing Fund Affiliate" is an Investing Fund Advisor, Investing Fund Subadvisor, Sponsor, promoter, and principal underwriter of an Investing Fund, and any person controlling, controlled by, or under common control with any of those entities. A "Fund Affiliate" is an investment adviser, promoter, or principal underwriter of a Fund, and any person controlling, controlled by, or under common control with any of those entities.

other person and any person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by, or under common control with, the other person. Section 2(a)(9) of the Act provides that a control relationship will be presumed where one person owns more than 25% of another person's voting securities. The Funds may be deemed to be controlled by the Advisor or an entity controlling, controlled by or under common control with the Advisor and hence affiliated persons of each other. In addition, the Funds may be deemed to be under common control with any other registered investment company (or series thereof) advised by the Advisor or an entity controlling, controlled by or under common control with the Advisor (an "Affiliated Fund").⁸

16. Applicants request an exemption from section 17(a) under sections 6(c) and 17(b), to permit in-kind purchases and redemptions by persons that are affiliated persons or second tier affiliates of the Funds solely by virtue of one or more of the following: (1) Holding 5% or more, or more than 25%, of the Shares of the Trust or one or more Funds; (2) an affiliation with a person with an ownership interest described in (1); or (3) holding 5% or more, or more than 25%, of the shares of one or more Affiliated Funds. Applicants also request an exemption in order to permit each Fund to sell Shares to and redeem Shares from, and engage in the in-kind transactions that would accompany such sales and redemptions with, any Investing Fund of which it is an affiliated person or second tier affiliate because of one or more of the following: (1) The Investing Fund holds 5% or more of the Shares of the Trust or one or more Funds; (2) an Investing Fund described in (1) is an affiliated person of the Investing Fund; or (3) the Investing Fund holds 5% or more of the shares of one or more Affiliated Funds.

17. Applicants contend that no useful purpose would be served by prohibiting affiliated persons or second tier affiliates of a Fund from purchasing or redeeming Creation Units through "in-kind" transactions. The deposit procedure for in-kind purchases and the redemption procedure for in-kind redemptions will be the same for all purchases and redemptions. Deposit Securities and Fund Securities will be

valued under the same objective standards applied to valuing Portfolio Securities. Therefore, applicants state that in-kind purchases and redemptions will afford no opportunity for the affiliated persons and second tier affiliates described above to effect a transaction detrimental to the other holders of Shares. Applicants also believe that in-kind purchases and redemptions will not result in abusive self-dealing or overreaching by these persons of the Fund.

18. Applicants also submit that the sale of Shares to and redemption of Shares from an Investing Fund satisfies the standards for relief under sections 17(b) and 6(c) of the Act. Applicants note that the consideration paid for the purchase or received for the redemption of Shares directly from a Fund by an Investing Fund (or any other investor) will be based on the NAV of the Shares. In addition, the securities received or transferred by the Fund in connection with the purchase or redemption of Shares will be valued in the same manner as the Fund's Portfolio Securities and thus the transactions will not be detrimental to the Investing Fund. Applicants also state that the proposed transactions will be consistent with the policies of each Investing Fund and Fund and with the general purposes of the Act. Applicants state that the FOF Participation Agreement will require an Investing Fund to represent that its ownership of Shares issued by a Fund is consistent with the investment policies set forth in the Investing Fund's registration statement.

Applicants' Conditions

The applicants agree that any order of the Commission granting the requested relief will be subject to the following conditions:

A. Actively-Managed Exchange-Traded Fund Relief

1. Each Prospectus will clearly disclose that, for purposes of the Act, Shares are issued by a registered investment company and that the acquisition of Shares by investment companies and companies relying on sections 3(c)(1) or 3(c)(7) of the Act is subject to the restrictions of section 12(d)(1) of the Act, except as permitted by an exemptive order that permits registered investment companies to invest in a Fund beyond the limits in section 12(d)(1), subject to certain terms and conditions, including that the registered investment company enter into a FOF Participation Agreement with the Fund regarding the terms of the investment.

2. As long as the Funds operate in reliance on the requested order, the Shares of the Funds will be listed on an Exchange.

3. Neither the Trust nor any Fund will be advertised or marketed as an open-end investment company or a mutual fund. Each Fund's Prospectus will prominently disclose that the Fund is an actively managed exchange-traded fund. Each Prospectus will prominently disclose that the Shares are not individually redeemable shares and will disclose that the owners of the Shares may acquire those Shares from the Fund and tender those Shares for redemption to the Fund in Creation Units only. Any advertising material that describes the purchase or sale of Creation Units or refers to redeemability will prominently disclose that the Shares are not individually redeemable and that owners of the Shares may acquire those Shares from the Fund and tender those Shares for redemption to the Fund in Creation Units only.

4. The Web site for the Funds, which is and will be publicly accessible at no charge, will contain the following information, on a per Share basis, for each Fund: (a) the prior Business Day's NAV and the Bid/Ask Price, and a calculation of the premium or discount of the Bid/Ask Price against such NAV; and (b) data in chart format displaying the frequency distribution of discounts and premiums of the daily Bid/Ask Price against the NAV, within appropriate ranges, for each of the four previous calendar quarters (or for the life of the Fund, if shorter).

5. The Prospectus and annual report for each Fund will also include: (a) the information listed in condition A.4(b), (i) in the case of the Prospectus, for the most recently completed year (and the most recently completed quarter or quarters, as applicable) and (ii) in the case of the annual report, for the immediately preceding five years (or for the life of the Fund, if shorter), and (b) calculated on a per Share basis for one-, five- and ten-year periods (or for the life of the Fund, if shorter), the cumulative total return and the average annual total return based on NAV and Bid/Ask Price.

6. On each Business Day, before commencement of trading in Shares on the Exchange, the Fund will disclose on its Web site the identities and quantities of the Portfolio Securities and other assets held by the Fund that will form the basis for the Fund's calculation of NAV at the end of the Business Day.

7. The Advisor or Subadvisor, directly or indirectly, will not cause any Authorized Participant (or any investor on whose behalf an Authorized

⁸ Applicants acknowledge that the receipt of compensation by (a) an affiliated person of an Investing Fund, or an affiliated person of such person, for the purchase by the Investing Fund of Shares of a Fund of Shares of a Fund or (b) an affiliated person of a Fund, or an affiliated person of such person, for the sale by the Fund of Shares to an Investing Fund, is subject to section 17(e)(1) of the Act. The FOF Participation Agreement will also include this acknowledgement.

Participant may transact with the Fund) to acquire any Deposit Security for the Fund through a transaction in which the Fund could not engage directly.

8. The requested order will expire on the effective date of any Commission rule under the Act that provides relief permitting the operation of actively-managed exchange-traded funds.

B. Section 12(d)(1) Relief

1. The members of the Investing Fund's Advisory Group will not control (individually or in the aggregate) a Fund within the meaning of section 2(a)(9) of the Act. The members of the Investing Fund's Subadvisory Group will not control (individually or in the aggregate) a Fund within the meaning of section 2(a)(9) of the Act. If, as a result of a decrease in the outstanding voting securities of a Fund, the Investing Fund's Advisory Group or the Investing Fund's Subadvisory Group, each in the aggregate, becomes a holder of more than 25 percent of the outstanding voting securities of a Fund, it will vote its Shares of the Fund in the same proportion as the vote of all other holders of the Fund's Shares. This condition does not apply to the Investing Fund's Subadvisory Group with respect to a Fund for which the Investing Fund Subadvisor or a person controlling, controlled by or under common control with the Investing Fund Subadvisor acts as the investment adviser within the meaning of section 2(a)(20)(A) of the Act.

2. No Investing Fund or Investing Fund Affiliate will cause any existing or potential investment by the Investing Fund in a Fund to influence the terms of any services or transactions between the Investing Fund or an Investing Fund Affiliate and the Fund or a Fund Affiliate.

3. The board of directors or trustees of an Investing Management Company, including a majority of the disinterested directors or trustees, will adopt procedures reasonably designed to assure that the Investing Fund Advisor and any Investing Fund Subadvisor are conducting the investment program of the Investing Management Company without taking into account any consideration received by the Investing Management Company or an Investing Fund Affiliate from a Fund or a Fund Affiliate in connection with any services or transactions.

4. Once an investment by an Investing Fund in the securities of a Fund exceeds the limit in section 12(d)(1)(A)(i) of the Act, the board of trustees ("Board") of a Fund, including a majority of the disinterested Board members, will determine that any consideration paid

by the Fund to the Investing Fund or an Investing Fund Affiliate in connection with any services or transactions: (i) Is fair and reasonable in relation to the nature and quality of the services and benefits received by the Fund; (ii) is within the range of consideration that the Fund would be required to pay to another unaffiliated entity in connection with the same services or transactions; and (iii) does not involve overreaching on the part of any person concerned. This condition does not apply with respect to any services or transactions between a Fund and its investment adviser(s), or any person controlling, controlled by or under common control with such investment adviser(s).

5. The Investing Fund Advisor, or Trustee or Sponsor, as applicable, will waive fees otherwise payable to it by the Investing Fund in an amount at least equal to any compensation (including fees received pursuant to any plan adopted by a Fund under rule 12b-1 under the Act) received from a Fund by the Investing Fund Advisor, or Trustee or Sponsor, or an affiliated person of the Investing Fund Advisor, or Trustee or Sponsor, other than any advisory fees paid to the Investing Fund Advisor, or Trustee or Sponsor, or its affiliated person by the Fund, in connection with the investment by the Investing Fund in the Fund. Any Investing Fund Subadvisor will waive fees otherwise payable to the Investing Fund Subadvisor, directly or indirectly, by the Investing Management Company in an amount at least equal to any compensation received from a Fund by the Investing Fund Subadvisor, or an affiliated person of the Investing Fund Subadvisor, other than any advisory fees paid to the Investing Fund Subadvisor or its affiliated person by the Fund, in connection with the investment by the Investing Management Company in the Fund made at the direction of the Investing Fund Subadvisor. In the event that the Investing Fund Subadvisor waives fees, the benefit of the waiver will be passed through to the Investing Management Company.

6. No Investing Fund or Investing Fund Affiliate (except to the extent it is acting in its capacity as an investment adviser to a Fund) will cause a Fund to purchase a security in an Affiliated Underwriting.

7. The Board of the Fund, including a majority of the disinterested Board members, will adopt procedures reasonably designed to monitor any purchases of securities by the Fund in an Affiliated Underwriting, once an investment by an Investing Fund in the securities of the Fund exceeds the limit of section 12(d)(1)(A)(i) of the Act,

including any purchases made directly from an Underwriting Affiliate. The Board will review these purchases periodically, but no less frequently than annually, to determine whether the purchases were influenced by the investment by the Investing Fund in the Fund. The Board will consider, among other things: (i) Whether the purchases were consistent with the investment objectives and policies of the Fund; (ii) how the performance of securities purchased in an Affiliated Underwriting compares to the performance of comparable securities purchased during a comparable period of time in underwritings other than Affiliated Underwritings or to a benchmark such as a comparable market index; and (iii) whether the amount of securities purchased by the Fund in Affiliated Underwritings and the amount purchased directly from an Underwriting Affiliate have changed significantly from prior years. The Board will take any appropriate actions based on its review, including, if appropriate, the institution of procedures designed to assure that purchases of securities in Affiliated Underwritings are in the best interest of shareholders.

8. Each Fund will maintain and preserve permanently in an easily accessible place a written copy of the procedures described in the preceding condition, and any modifications to such procedures, and will maintain and preserve for a period of not less than six years from the end of the fiscal year in which any purchase in an Affiliated Underwriting occurred, the first two years in an easily accessible place, a written record of each purchase of securities in Affiliated Underwritings once an investment by an Investing Fund in the securities of the Fund exceeds the limit of section 12(d)(1)(A)(i) of the Act, setting forth from whom the securities were acquired, the identity of the underwriting syndicate's members, the terms of the purchase, and the information or materials upon which the Board's determinations were made.

9. Before investing in a Fund in excess of the limits in section 12(d)(1)(A), an Investing Fund will execute a FOF Participation Agreement with the Fund stating that their respective boards of directors or trustees and their investment advisers, or Trustee and Sponsor, as applicable, understand the terms and conditions of the order, and agree to fulfill their responsibilities under the order. At the time of its investment in shares of a Fund in excess of the limit in section 12(d)(1)(A)(i), an Investing Fund will

notify the Fund of the investment. At such time, the Investing Fund will also transmit to the Fund a list of the names of each Investing Fund Affiliate and Underwriting Affiliate. The Investing Fund will notify the Fund of any changes to the list as soon as reasonably practicable after a change occurs. The Fund and the Investing Fund will maintain and preserve a copy of the order, the FOF Participation Agreement, and the list with any updated information for the duration of the investment and for a period of not less than six years thereafter, the first two years in an easily accessible place.

10. Before approving any advisory contract under section 15 of the Act, the board of directors or trustees of each Investing Management Company, including a majority of the disinterested directors or trustees, will find that the advisory fees charged under such contract are based on services provided that will be in addition to, rather than duplicative of, the services provided under the advisory contract(s) of any Fund in which the Investing Management Company may invest. These findings and their basis will be recorded fully in the minute books of the appropriate Investing Management Company.

11. Any sales charges and/or service fees charged with respect to shares of an Investing Fund will not exceed the limits applicable to a fund of funds as set forth in Rule 2830 of the NASD.

12. No Fund will acquire securities of any investment company or company relying on section 3(c)(1) or 3(c)(7) of the Act in excess of the limits contained in section 12(d)(1)(A) of the Act.

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

Florence E. Harmon,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. E8-23411 Filed 10-2-08; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Investment Company Act Release No. 28421; 812-13477]

First Trust Advisors L.P., et al.; Notice of Application

September 29, 2008.

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

ACTION: Notice of an application for an order under section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("Act") for an exemption from sections 2(a)(32), 5(a)(1), 22(d) and 22(e) of the

Act and rule 22c-1 under the Act and under sections 6(c) and 17(b) of the Act for an exemption from sections 17(a)(1) and (a)(2) of the Act.

APPLICANTS: First Trust Advisors L.P. (the "Advisor"), First Trust Portfolios L.P. (the "Distributor") and First Trust Exchange-Traded Fund III (the "Initial Trust").

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION: Applicants request an order that permits: (a) Series of certain open-end management investment companies to issue shares ("Shares") redeemable in large aggregations only ("Creation Units"); (b) secondary market transactions in Shares to occur at negotiated market prices; (c) certain series to pay redemption proceeds, under certain circumstances, more than seven days after the tender of Shares for redemption; and (d) certain affiliated persons of the series to deposit securities into, and receive securities from, the series in connection with the purchase and redemption of Creation Units.

FILING DATES: The application was filed on January 14, 2008, and amended on July 14, 2008. Applicants have agreed to file an amendment during the notice period, the substance of which is reflected in the notice.

HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING: An order granting the requested relief 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 October 24, 2008, 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: 100 Warrenville Rd., Lisle, IL 60532.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bruce R. MacNeil, Senior Counsel, at (202) 551-6817, or Marilyn Mann, 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 for a fee at the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549-1520 (tel. 202-551-5850).

Applicants' Representations

1. The Initial Trust is an open-end management investment company registered under the Act and organized as a Massachusetts business trust. The Initial Trust will offer three initial series: the First Trust BRIC Equal Weight Fund, the First Trust Target Mega Cap Fund, and the First Trust Target International Mega Cap Fund (the "Initial Funds"). Each Initial Fund's investment objective will be to provide capital appreciation by investing in stocks selected according to a quantitative screening methodology developed by the Advisor.

2. Applicants request that the order apply to any existing or future series ("Future Funds") of any existing or future open-end management investment companies ("Future Trusts") that will invest in equity securities traded in the U.S. markets and/or foreign equity securities. Any Future Fund will be (a) advised by the Advisor or an entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Advisor, and (b) comply with the terms and conditions of the order. The Initial Funds and Future Funds together are the "Funds" and the Initial Trust and the Future Trusts together are the "Trusts." Funds that invest all or a portion of their assets in foreign equity securities are each an "International Fund." Each Fund will operate as an actively-managed exchange-traded fund ("ETF").

3. The Advisor is registered as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 ("Advisers Act") and will serve as the investment adviser to the Funds. The Advisor may in the future retain one or more subadvisers ("Subadvisers") to manage the Funds' portfolios. Any Subadviser will be registered under the Advisers Act. The Distributor, a broker-dealer registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act"), will serve as the principal underwriter and distributor for the Funds.¹

4. Shares of the Funds will be sold at a price of between \$20 and \$50 per Share in Creation Units of between 25,000 and 150,000 Shares. All orders to purchase Creation Units must be placed with the Distributor by or through a

¹ All entities that currently intend to rely on the order are named as applicants. Any other entity that relies on the order in the future will comply with the terms and conditions of the application.