

general, to protect investors and the public interest.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

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

The Exchange has neither solicited nor received written comments on the proposed rule change.

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

Because the foregoing rule change does not: (1) Significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (2) impose any significant burden on competition; and (3) become operative for 30 days after the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹⁵ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.¹⁶

NYSE has requested that the Commission waive the 30-day operative delay.¹⁷ The Commission believes that waiver of the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest because rescission of NYSE Rule 80A would remove restrictions on index arbitrage, the appropriateness of which the Commission has previously questioned.¹⁸ For this reason, the Commission designates the proposed rule change to be effective and operative upon filing with the Commission.¹⁹

At any time within 60 days of the filing of such proposed rule change the

Commission may summarily abrogate such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

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. Please include File Number SR-NYSE-2007-96 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Nancy M. Morris, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NYSE-2007-96. 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 NYSE. 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 available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NYSE-2007-96 and should

be submitted on or before November 27, 2007.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.²⁰

Florence E. Harmon,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. E7-21773 Filed 11-5-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Disaster Declaration # 11081 and # 11082]

Connecticut Disaster # CT-00009

AGENCY: U.S. Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is a notice of an Administrative declaration of a disaster for the State of Connecticut dated 10/25/2007.

Incident: Severe Storms and Flooding.
Incident Period: 10/11/2007.

Effective Date: 10/25/2007.

Physical Loan Application Deadline Date: 12/24/2007.

Economic Injury (EIDL) Loan Application Deadline Date: 07/25/2008.

ADDRESSES: Submit completed loan applications to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A. Escobar, Office of Disaster Assistance, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street, SW., Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that as a result of the Administrator's disaster declaration, applications for disaster loans may be filed at the address listed above or other locally announced locations.

The following areas have been determined to be adversely affected by the disaster:

Primary Counties: Fairfield.

Contiguous Counties:

Connecticut: Litchfield, New Haven.

New York: Dutchess, Putnam,

Westchester.

The Interest Rates are:

	Percent
Homeowners With Credit Available Elsewhere	6.250
Homeowners Without Credit Available Elsewhere	3.125
Businesses With Credit Available Elsewhere	8.000
Businesses and Small Agricultural Cooperatives Without Credit Available Elsewhere	4.000

²⁰ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹⁵ U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁶ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹⁷ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii). Rule 19b-4(f)(6) also requires the self-regulatory organization to give the Commission notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change, along with a brief description and text of the proposed rule change, at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. The Exchange has satisfied the five-day pre-filing requirement.

¹⁸ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 41041, *supra* note 18, at 8426. There, the Commission also noted that it "may make little sense to single out index arbitrage, which ensures that markets are aligned economically, from all other types of program trading. Indeed, the restrictions on index arbitrage may tend to disconnect the securities and futures markets and impose unnecessary costs on market participants." *Id.*

¹⁹ For the purposes only of waiving the 30-day operative delay, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

	Percent
Other (Including Non-Profit Organizations) With Credit Available Elsewhere	5.250
Businesses and Non-Profit Organizations Without Credit Available Elsewhere	4.000

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 11081 6 and for economic injury is 11082 0.

The States which received an EIDL Declaration # are Connecticut, New York.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers 59002 and 59008)

Steven C. Preston,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. E7-21818 Filed 11-5-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

[Docket No. SSA-2007-0086]

Social Security Claims Data Exchange Announcement

AGENCY: Social Security Administration.

ACTION: Notice of Invitation to Social Security Benefits Service Providers for Web Service Beta Test.

SUMMARY: The Social Security Administration (SSA) is pleased to announce that, in 2008, the agency will develop and implement a Beta test of a web service which will allow the submission of Initial-level claims, including Disability applications and Adult Disability Reports, from companies who assist the public with filing for benefits.

In 2008, SSA plans to develop the web service to initially collect data on the Internet Social Security Benefit Application and Disability Report. Note that when a third party submits an application, SSA must contact the claimant before it is considered valid. In the initial phase, organizations will be able to submit claims data in bulk and receive a confirmation of receipt of the submitted data. In subsequent phases, the systems interface will also include the ability for organizations to check on the status of previously submitted claims information.

SSA would like to extend an invitation to companies who assist individuals with their Social Security benefit applications, to participate in this web service claims data exchange Beta test. The Beta test is structured to use the "consolidator" model, where the participating company serves as a conduit to receive claims data from their

client base and electronically transfer the data to SSA.

After the initial disability claims data collection effort in 2008 is evaluated, SSA will add functional capabilities in future years to collect data on electronic appeal forms and integrated claims applications. This multi-year initiative will provide a comprehensive systems interface for companies to send claims data (including Title II Retirement and Spouse application data, disability data, and medical evidence) to SSA on behalf of their clients. The envisioned long-range solution beyond 2008 is a web service that will facilitate the collection of data through the entire life-cycle of Internet applications, including Title II and Title XVI initial claims and appeals.

DATES: Companies which are interested in participating in this web service beta test and meet the criteria should send an e-mail to Claims.Data.Transfer@ssa.gov by November 8, 2007. Upon receipt of your e-mail we will invite you to a teleconference that is planned for November 15, 2007 to discuss any questions that you may have. Please note that prior to the teleconference all companies will be expected to sign a participation agreement attesting that the selection criteria is met. Reference *Web Service Beta Test* in the subject field of your e-mail and include the following information: Contact name, mailing address, phone and facsimile numbers, and e-mail address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tammy Joyner, 410-966-2838.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Basic Functionality

SSA is interested in expanding the relationship with businesses by allowing the submission of claims-related data to SSA for multiple applicants using standardized data exchange protocols. SSA would like to leverage the data that businesses may already have in their records, without requiring the labor-intensive process of keying information into a web interface one claim at a time.

Technical Information

The Social Security Benefits Data Web Service will be a J2EE application which uses Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) and Web Services Description Language (WSDL) specifications. The secure offering adheres to Version 1.0 of the Web Services-Interoperability Organization (WS-I) Basic Profile. SOAP message integrity will be ensured by following Web Services Security Version 1.0 standards. Because of this approach to standardization, Third Party Bulk Claims Providers can

program in their environment of choice (e.g., Java, Visual Studio, .NET, and Perl) to invoke the service and feel confident that their claims data submissions will not be compromised upon delivery to SSA. The Web Service will be integrated into SSA's existing Secure Web Services Architecture which requires the WS-Security Username Token Profile and Digital Signature standards.

The claims data Web service will accept XML file format as input, and these files may be optionally compressed. Files may be attached to the message using the SOAP Message Transmission Optimization Mechanism, or they may be transmitted inline as base64 encoded data.

Throughout 2008, SSA will be finalizing this Social Security Benefits Data Web Service offering and allowing businesses to participate in planned Beta tests. The WSDL which is required to invoke the service will be made available to the public next year with a developer's guide to follow shortly thereafter. The participating businesses will need to register with SSA to obtain a Secure Web Service Integrated Registration Services (IRES) PIN/password and are prepared to support the Beta test period.

Tentative key dates for the Social Security Benefits Data Web Service are: Design and Development (November 2007-July 2008). Validation and Integration (July 2008-December 2008). Beta Implementation of Internet Social Security Benefit Application data (September 2008). Beta Implementation of Internet Disability Report data (December 2008).

Businesses must meet the following criteria in order to participate in this Beta Test:

1. Companies must have the current capability to write their own claims software, user guide and documentation.

2. Companies must have the current capability to electronically submit Initial-level disability claims to SSA for processing or provide the ability for their customers to equally do so.

3. Companies must have the ability to modify their claims submission environment in time to participate in testing with SSA beginning July 2008.

Participating organizations must also adhere to SSA's policies, procedures and laws relative, but not limited to: Disclaimers, liability, security, integrity, privacy, entitlement factors, and benefit eligibility. The sole intention is to provide a facilitating web service to