

officer review the notice of withdrawal before submitting it to the Commission, which will take approximately eight hours. Thus, we estimate that the annual, aggregate burden of withdrawing from Commission supervision as an SIBHC will be approximately 3.2 hours each year.⁶

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments should be directed to R. Corey Booth, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, C/O Shirley Martinson, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, Virginia 22312 or send an e-mail to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov. Comments must be submitted within 60 days of this notice.

Dated: August 14, 2006.

J. Lynn Taylor,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. E6-14020 Filed 8-23-06; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services; Washington, DC 20549.

Extension: Rule 17i-4; SEC File No. 270-530; OMB Control No. 3235-0594.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995¹ the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") intends to submit to the Office of Management and Budget a request for extension of the previously approved collection of information discussed below. The Code of Federal Regulation citation to this collection of information is the following rule: 17 CFR 240.17i-4.

Section 231 of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999² (the "GLBA") amended Section 17 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to create a regulatory framework under which a holding company of a broker-dealer ("investment bank holding company" or "IBHC") may voluntarily be supervised by the Commission as a supervised investment bank holding company (or "SIBHC").³ In 2004, the Commission promulgated rules, including Rule 17i-4, to create a framework for the Commission to supervise SIBHCs.⁴ This framework includes qualification criteria for SIBHCs, as well as recordkeeping and reporting requirements. Among other things, this regulatory framework for SIBHCs is intended to provide a basis for non-U.S. financial regulators to treat the Commission as the principal U.S. consolidated, home-country supervisor for SIBHCs and their affiliated broker-dealers.⁵

Rule 17i-4 requires an SIBHC to comply with present Exchange Act Rule 15c3-4⁶ as though it were a broker-dealer, which requires that the firm establish, document and maintain a system of internal risk management controls to assist it in managing the risks associated with its business activities (including market, credit, operational, funding, and legal risks). In addition, Rule 17i-4 requires that an SIBHC establish, document, and maintain procedures for the detection and prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing as part of its internal risk management control system. Finally, Rule 17i-4 requires that an SIBHC periodically review its internal risk management control system for integrity of the risk measurement, monitoring, and management process, and accountability, at the appropriate organizational level, for defining the permitted scope of activity and level of risk. The records required to be created pursuant to Rule 17i-4 must be preserved for a period of not less than three years.⁷

The collection of information required pursuant to Rule 17i-4 is needed so that the Commission can adequately supervise the activities of these SIBHCs, and to allow the Commission to

effectively determine whether supervision of an IBHC as an SIBHC is necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of § 17 of the Act. Without this information, the Commission would be unable to adequately supervise the SIBHC as provided for under the Exchange Act.

We estimate that three IBHCs will file Notices of Intention with the Commission to be supervised by the Commission as SIBHCs. An SIBHC will require, on average, about 3,600 hours to assess its present structure, businesses, and controls, and establish and document its risk management control system. In addition, an SIBHC will require, on average, approximately 250 hours each year to maintain its risk management control system. Consequently, the total initial burden for all SIBHCs is approximately 10,800 hours⁸ and the continuing annual burden is about 750 hours.⁹ Thus, the total burden relating to Rule 17i-4 for all SIBHCs is approximately 11,550 hours¹⁰ in the first year, and approximately 750 hours each year thereafter.¹¹

We believe that an IBHC likely would upgrade its information technology ("IT") systems in order to more efficiently comply with certain of the SIBHC framework rules (including Rules 17i-4, 17i-5, 17i-6 and 17i-7), and that this would be a one-time cost. Depending on the state of development of the IBHC's IT systems, it would cost an IBHC between \$1 million and \$10 million to upgrade its IT systems to comply with the SIBHC framework of rules. Thus, on average, it would cost each of the three SIBHCs about \$5.5 million to upgrade their IT systems, or approximately \$16.5 million in total. It is impossible to determine what percentage of the IT systems costs would be attributable to each Rule, so we allocated the total estimated upgrade costs equally (at 25% for each of the above-mentioned Rules), with \$4,125,000 attributable to Rule 17i-5.

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⁶ (1 SIBHC/every 10 years) × (24 hours to draft + 8 hours to review) = 3.2 hours.

¹ 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*

² Pub. L. 106-102, 113 Stat. 1338 (1999).

³ See 15 U.S.C. 78q(i).

⁴ See Exchange Act Release No. 49831 (Jun. 8, 2004), 69 FR 34472 (Jun. 21, 2004).

⁵ See—H.R. Conf. Rep. No. 106-434, 165 (1999). See also—Exchange Act Release No. 49831, at 6 (Jun. 8, 2004), 69 FR 34472, at 34473 (Jun. 21, 2004).

⁶ 17 CFR 240.15c3-4.

⁷ 17 CFR 240.17i-5(b)(5).

⁸ (3,600 hours × 3 SIBHCs) = 10,800 hours.

⁹ (250 hours per year × 3 SIBHCs) = 750 hours per year.

¹⁰ (3,600 hours × 3 SIBHCs) + (250 hours per year × 3 SIBHCs).

¹¹ (250 hours per year × 3 SIBHCs).

ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments should be directed to: R. Corey Booth, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, C/O Shirley Martinson, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, Virginia 22312 or send an e-mail to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov. Comments must be submitted within 60 days of this notice.

Dated: August 15, 2006.

J. Lynn Taylor,

Assistant Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

Extension: Rule 15c3-1; SEC File No. 270-197; OMB Control No. 3235-0200.

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") is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Rule 15c3-1 (17 CFR 240.15c3-1) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*) requires brokers and dealers to have at all times sufficient liquid assets to meet their current liabilities, particularly the claims of customers. The rule facilitates monitoring the financial condition of brokers and dealers by the Commission and the various self-regulatory organizations. It is estimated that approximately 6,100 active broker-dealer respondents registered with the Commission incur an aggregate burden of 88,181 hours per year to comply with this rule. Finally, the estimated cost for the annual hour burden for Rule 15c3-1 is approximately \$22.7 million.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the

information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

Comments should be directed to: R. Corey Booth, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, C/O Shirley Martinson, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, Virginia 22312 or send an e-mail to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 60 days of this notice.

Dated: August 16, 2006.

J. Lynn Taylor,

Assistant Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

Extension: Rule 17Ad-15; SEC File No. 270-360; OMB Control No. 3235-0409.

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") is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Rule 17Ad-15—Signature Guarantees

Rule 17Ad-15 (17 CFR 240.17Ad-15) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*) (the "Act") requires approximately 760 transfer agents to establish written standards for the acceptance or rejection of guarantees of securities transfers from eligible guarantor institutions. Transfer agents are required to establish procedures to ensure that those standards are used by the transfer agent to determine whether

to accept or reject guarantees from eligible guarantor institutions. Transfer agents must maintain, for a period of three years following the date of a rejection of transfer, a record of all transfers rejected, along with the reason for the rejection, identification of the guarantor, and whether the guarantor failed to meet the transfer agent's guarantee standard. These recordkeeping requirements assist the Commission and other regulatory agencies with monitoring transfer agents and ensuring compliance with the rule.

There are approximately 760 registered transfer agents. The staff estimates that every transfer agent will spend about 40 hours annually to comply with Rule 17Ad-15. The total annual burden for all transfer agents is 30,400 hours. The average cost per hour is approximately \$50. Therefore, the total cost of compliance for all transfer agents is \$1,520,000.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimates of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

Comments should be direct to: R. Corey Booth, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, C/O Shirley Martinson, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, Virginia 22312 or by sending an e-mail to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 60 days of this notice.

Dated: August 16, 2006.

J. Lynn Taylor,

Assistant Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and