

Dated: December 26, 2002.

**Mark S. Quigley,**

*Director of Communications and Acting Executive Director.*

[FR Doc. 02-33086 Filed 12-31-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6820-MA-P**

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### Notice of Availability of Draft Review Standard for Early Site Permit Applications

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has published a draft review standard for early site permit (ESP) applications. The ESP process is intended, under Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) Part 52, to permit resolution of site-related issues regarding possible future construction and operation of a nuclear power plant at a site that is the subject of the ESP application. The draft review standard is primarily intended to guide the Commission staff in its review of an ESP application, with a secondary purpose of informing potential applicants for an ESP and other stakeholders of information the staff needs to perform its review. The Commission is publishing this draft version of the review standard for public comment and interim use. The Commission plans to issue a final version of the review standard by the end of 2003.

The draft review standard is available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland, or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS # ML023530045). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Any interested party may submit comments on the draft review standard for consideration by the NRC staff. To be certain of consideration, comments on the draft review standard must be received by March 31, 2003. Comments received after the due date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the NRC staff is able to assure consideration only for comments received on or before this date. Written comments on the review standard should be sent to:

Director, New Reactor Licensing Project Office, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Mailstop O-4D9A, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001.

Comments may be hand-delivered to the NRC at 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, between 7:45 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. on Federal workdays. Comments may be submitted electronically by the Internet to the NRC at [esprs@nrc.gov](mailto:esprs@nrc.gov). All comments received by the Commission, including those made by Federal, State, and local agencies, Indian tribes, or other interested persons, will be made available electronically at the Commission's Public Document Room in Rockville, Maryland or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Mr. Michael L. Scott, Project Manager, New Reactor Licensing Project Office, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555. Mr. Scott may be contacted at (301) 415-1421 or by e-mail at [mlls3@nrc.gov](mailto:mlls3@nrc.gov).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 26th day of December 2002.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**James E. Lyons,**

*Director, New Reactor Licensing Project Office, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 02-33113 Filed 12-31-02; 8:45 am]

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Issuer Delisting; Notice of Application To Withdraw From Listing and Registration (HSBC Bank plc, To Withdraw From Listing and Registration Its \$500M 7.625% Subordinated Notes (Due June 15, 2006) and \$300M 6.95% Subordinated Notes (Due March 15, 2011)) From the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. File No., 1-87110

December 27, 2002.

HSBC, a public limited company incorporated under the laws of England and Wales ("Issuer" or "Company"), has filed an application with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to section 12(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>1</sup> and Rule 12d2-2(d) thereunder,<sup>2</sup> to withdraw its \$500m 7.625% Subordinated Notes (due June 15, 2006) and \$300m 6.95% Subordinated Notes (due March 15, 2011) (together, the "Debt Securities"), from listing and registration on the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. ("NYSE" or "Exchange").

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78l(d).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.12d2-2(d).

The Issuer stated in its application that it has complied with all applicable laws in effect in the state of California, in which it is incorporated, and with the NYSE's rules governing an issuer's voluntary withdrawal of a security from listing and registration. The Issuer's application relates solely to the Security's withdrawal from listing on the NYSE and from registration under section 12(d) of the Act<sup>3</sup> and shall not affect its obligation to be registered under section 12(g) of the Act.<sup>4</sup>

The Board of Directors ("Board") of the Issuer approved a resolution on November 27, 2002 to withdraw the Issuer's Debt Securities from listing on the NYSE. In making the decision to withdraw its Debt Securities from the NYSE, the Board states that it intends to withdraw its Debt Securities from listing on the NYSE as they are not widely held in the United States and the ongoing burdens associated with maintaining the listing are considered onerous and of little benefit to investors. In addition, the Board states that it intends to consolidate, as far as possible, the listings of all its debt securities on a single stock exchange and be subject to the ongoing reporting requirements of that exchange. All the terms and conditions of the Debt Securities will remain unchanged. The Company intends to list the Debt Securities on the London Stock Exchange (the "LSE") and they are expected to begin trading on December 20, 2002.

Any interested person may, on or before January 21, 2003 submit by letter to the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609, facts bearing upon whether the application has been made in accordance with the rules of the NYSE and what terms, if any, should be imposed by the Commission for the protection of investors. The Commission, based on the information submitted to it, will issue an order granting the application after the date mentioned above, unless the Commission determines to order a hearing on the matter.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>5</sup>

**Jonathan G. Katz,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 02-33117 Filed 12-31-02; 8:45 am]

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<sup>3</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78l(b).

<sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78l(g).

<sup>5</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(1).