

meeting of the Federal Salary Council will be held at the time and place shown below. At the meeting the Council will continue discussing issues relating to locality-based comparability payments authorized by the Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act of 1990 (FEPCA). The meeting is open to the public.

DATE: December 12, 1995, at 10:00 a.m.

ADDRESS: Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street NW., Room 7B09, Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth O'Donnell, Chief, Salary Systems Division, Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street NW., Room 6H31, Washington, DC 20415-0001. Telephone number: (202) 606-2838.

For the President's Pay Agent.

Lorraine A. Green,

Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. 95-28716 Filed 11-22-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-01-M

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Verification of Railroad Unemployment and Sickness Claims

AGENCY: Railroad Retirement Board.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) is announcing a change in the number of days provided for railroad employers to submit information about claims for unemployment and sickness benefits prior to the agency's decision to pay or deny benefits. For a one-year period, employers will be allowed 3 business days, rather than 7 calendar days, from the date of the RRB's notice of a claim to submit information about the claim before the agency decides to pay or deny benefits. For purposes of this action, a "business day" is defined as any of the days Monday through Friday which are not observed as official holidays by the United States Government.

DATES: The test program announced by this notice will commence January 2, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning this action may be submitted within 30 days from the date of publication to John L. Thoresdale, Director of Unemployment and Sickness Insurance, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John L. Thoresdale, Director of Unemployment and Sickness Insurance, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611, 312-751-4800.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 5(b) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (45 U.S.C. 355(b)) provides, in part, that "When a claim for benefits is filed with the Board, the Board shall provide notice of such claim to the claimant's base year employer or employers and afford such employer or employers an opportunity to submit information relevant to the claim before making an initial determination on the claim." Section 3256 of the Board's regulations authorize the establishment of procedures to obtain information about benefit claims from railroad employers. These procedures have allowed employers 7 calendar days for submission of information before the RRB decides to pay or deny benefits.

The Joint Committee on Rail Labor and Rail Management recently requested the RRB to reduce the time period allowed for employers to respond to notices of claims from 7 days to 3 days. At the conclusion of the test period, the Board will determine whether to implement the 3-day verification period for the future.

Dated: November 8, 1995.

By Authority of the Board.

Beatrice Ezerski,

Secretary to the Board.

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COMMISSION ON PROTECTING AND REDUCING GOVERNMENT SECRECY

Notice of Meeting

This notice announces the fifth in a series of public meetings of the Commission on Protecting and Reducing Government Secrecy. Pursuant to Title IX of Public Law 103-236, dated April 30, 1994, the Commission consists of twelve members, four appointed by the President, two each by the Speaker of the House and the House Minority Leader, and two each by the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders. The Commission will remain in effect for two years from the date of its first meeting.

Time and Date: 10:00 a.m., December 6, 1995.

Place: S-116, Committee on Foreign Relations Hearing Room, The Capitol.

Status: Open.

Agenda: 1. Mr. Peter D. Saderholm, Director, Security Policy Board Staff, on Board structure and activities, including implementation of Executive Orders 12958 and 12968 and recommendations of the Joint Security Commission.

Contact Person for more Information: Eric R. Biel, Staff Director, Commission

on Protecting and Reducing Government Secrecy, (202) 776-8725; FAX: (202) 776-8773.

Eric R. Biel,

Staff Director, Commission on Protecting and Reducing Government Secrecy.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Rel. No. IC-21501; 812-9678]

Fortis Advantage Portfolios, Inc., et al.; Notice of Application

November 13, 1995.

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

ACTION: Notice of Application for Exemption under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Act").

APPLICANTS: Fortis Advantage Portfolios, Inc., Fortis Equity Portfolios, Inc., Fortis Fiduciary Fund, Inc., Fortis Worldwide Portfolios, Inc., Fortis Growth Fund, Inc., Fortis Money Portfolios, Inc., Fortis Securities, Inc., Fortis Series Fund, Inc., Fortis Tax-Free Portfolios, Inc., Fortis Income Portfolios, Inc., Special Portfolios, Inc. (collectively, the "Funds"), and Lazard Frères & Co. LLC ("Lazard Frères").

RELEVANT ACT SECTIONS: Order requested under sections 6(c) and 17(b) of the Act for an exemption from section 17(a) of the Act, and under section 6(c) for an exemption from section 17(e) of the Act and rule 17e-1 thereunder.

SUMMARY OF APPLICATIONS: Applicants request an exemption to permit each Fund to use certain securities dealers that are affiliated persons of affiliated persons ("second-tier affiliates"), solely because of subadvisory relationships with one or more other Funds, to engage in principal transactions with the Fund. The order also would permit a Fund to use second-tier affiliates as brokers in connection with certain principal transactions and to pay commissions to such brokers without complying with the monitoring and recordkeeping requirements set forth in rule 17e-1.

FILING DATES: The application was filed on July 24, 1995 and amended on September 29, 1995.

HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING: An order granting the application will be issued unless the SEC orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the SEC's Secretary and serving applicants with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be