

will be capped at 2.9 million contracts per day.

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II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the PCX included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it had received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The PCX has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of those statements.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

The PCX is proposing to change its broker-dealer transaction charge, market maker transaction charges, continued listings fee, and shortfall fee effective with the October 2002 trading month.³ Other than the fees listed herein, the PCX does not seek to make any other changes to its fee schedule.

1. Broker-Dealer Transaction Charge

The PCX currently imposes a fee of \$0.19 per contract side on all transactions of broker-dealers. The PCX proposes to increase this fee to \$0.21 per contract side, which would bring the transaction fee to the same level as the PCX Market Maker transaction charge.

2. Continued Listing Fee

The PCX currently imposes upon LMMs a continued listing fee for issues that have not generated at least \$500 in monthly revenues to the PCX on a trailing three-month average basis.⁴ The continued listing fee is calculated as the incremental difference between the \$500 threshold and the amount of revenue that the issue generates. The PCX proposes to cap the amount of the continued listings fee that can be charged to an LMM firm at \$15,000 per month per LMM firm.

The PCX also proposes to modify the continued listing fee in order to adjust

³ In its original filing, which the PCX filed with the Commission on September 27, 2002, the PCX proposed to increase from \$0.21 to \$0.26 the transaction fee imposed on members for orders that originate from non-PCX options market makers. The PCX subsequently withdrew that particular proposed fee change when it filed Amendment No. 1 with the Commission on November 7, 2002.

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 42050 (October 21, 1999), 64 FR 58117 (October 28, 1999) (SR-PCX-99-32)

the method of calculating the average monthly volume-based charges for recently transferred issues. Currently, LMM firms that are transferred issues from another LMM assume the continued listings fee from the transferring firm. To help foster demand for issues during a period of continuing consolidation among trading firms, the PCX proposes to modify the way the continued listings fee is applied to transferred issues. Under the PCX's proposal, an LMM would not be subject to the continued listings fee for an issue that it acquired by transfer for any portion of the month that it acquired the issue, assuming a mid-month transfer. The LLM firm would be subject to a fee based upon the activity of the first full month that it trades an issue. After the second full month of trading the issue, the transferee LMM would be subject to a continued listings fee based upon the trailing two-month activity level. In future months, the transferee LMM would be subject to the fee based on a three-month rolling average.

3. Shortfall Fee

In June 2002, the PCX increased the LMM shortfall fee from 10% to 12% for the top 120 equity options traded nationally. Due to periodic spikes in national industry volume, the PCX proposes to cap the shortfall fee when equity industry volume reaches 2.9 million contracts per day or higher. As proposed, LMM firms would not be charged a shortfall fee on contracts in a top 120 issue that exceeds the calculated volume cap amount.

The PCX believe that the proposal is consistent with section 6(b)(4) of the Act⁵ in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among its members.

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

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

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

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

The foregoing rule change, as amended, has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act⁶ and Rule 19b-4(f)⁷ because it changes the PCX fee schedule. At any time within 60 days after the filing of Amendment No. 1 to the the proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate the 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 proposal is consistent with the Act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549-0609. 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. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the PCX. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-PCX-2002-65 and should be submitted by December 10, 2002.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁸

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-29245 Filed 11-18-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster #3460]

State of Alabama

Henry County and the contiguous counties of Barbour, Dale and Houston in the State of Alabama; and Clay, Early

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁷ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f).

⁸ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

and Quitman in the State of Georgia constitute a disaster area due to damages caused by severe storms and tornadoes on November 5, 2002. Applications for loans for physical damage as a result of this disaster may be filed until the close of business on January 13, 2003 and for economic injury until the close of business on August 13, 2003 at the address listed below or other locally announced locations:

U.S. Small Business Administration,
 Disaster Area 2 Office, One Baltimore
 Place, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30308.
 The interest rates are:

	Percent
For Physical Damage:	
Homeowners with credit available elsewhere	5.875
Homeowners without credit available elsewhere	2.937
Businesses with credit available elsewhere	6.648
Businesses and non-profit organizations without credit available elsewhere	3.324
Others (including non-profit organizations) with credit available elsewhere	5.500
For Economic Injury:	
Businesses and small agricultural cooperatives without credit available elsewhere	3.324

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 346011 for Alabama and 346111 for Georgia. The number assigned to this disaster for economic injury is 9S4900 for Alabama and 9S5000 for Georgia.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008)

Dated: November 13, 2002.

Melanie R. Sabelhaus,
Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 02-29271 Filed 11-18-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4207]

Discretionary Grant Programs Application Notice Establishing Closing Date for Transmittal of Certain Fiscal Year 2003 Applications

AGENCY: The Department of State invites applications from national organizations with interest and expertise in conducting research and training to serve as intermediaries administering national competitive programs concerning the countries of Central and East Europe and Eurasia. The grants will be awarded through an open, national

competition among applicant organizations.

Authority for this Program for Research and Training on Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union is contained in the Soviet-Eastern European Research and Training Act of 1983 (22 U.S.C. 4501-4508, as amended).

SUMMARY: The purpose of this application notice is to inform potential applicant organizations of fiscal and programmatic information and closing dates for transmittal of applications for awards in Fiscal Year 2003 under a program administered by the Department of State. The program seeks to build and sustain expertise among Americans willing to make a career commitment to the study of Central and East Europe and Eurasia.

Organization of Notice: This notice contains three parts. Part I lists the closing date covered by of this notice. Part II consists of a statement of purpose and priorities of the program. Part III provides the fiscal data for the program.

Part I

Closing Date for Transmittal of Applications

Applications for an award must be sent by Express Mail, commercial courier (e.g. FEDEX, UPS, or DHL), or hand-delivered by February 14, 2003.

Applications must be addressed to Kenneth E. Roberts, Executive Director, Advisory Committee for Studies of Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union, INR/RES, Room 2251, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20520-6510.

An applicant must show proof of mailing consisting of *one* of the following:

- (1) A legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark.
- (2) A legible mail receipt with the date of mailing stamped by the U.S. Postal Service.
- (3) A dated shipping label, invoice, or receipt from a commercial center.
- (4) Any other proof of mailing acceptable to the Department of State.

If any application is sent through the U.S. Postal Service, the Department of State does not accept either of the following as proof of mailing: (1) A private metered postmark, or (2) a mail receipt that is not dated by the U.S. Postal Service.

An applicant should note that the U.S. Postal Service does not uniformly provide a dated postmark. Before relying on this method, an applicant should check with the local post office.

Late applications will not be considered and will be returned to the applicant.

Applications Delivered by Hand

An application that is hand delivered must be taken to Kenneth E. Roberts, Executive Director, Advisory Committee for Studies of Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union, INR/RES, Room 2251, 2201 C Street, NW., Washington, DC. Please use the entrance on 21st St., just north of the intersection with C St., and phone at (202) 736-4572 for pick up at the entrance.

The Advisory Committee staff will accept hand-delivered applications between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. e.s.t. daily, except Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays.

An application that is hand delivered will not be accepted after 4 p.m. on the closing date.

Part II

Program Information

In the Soviet-Eastern European Research and Training Act of 1983, the Congress declared that independently verified factual knowledge about the countries of that area is "of utmost importance for the national security of the United States, for the furtherance of our national interests in the conduct of foreign relations, and for the prudent management of our domestic affairs." Congress also declared that the development and maintenance of such knowledge and expertise "depends upon the national capability for advanced research by highly trained and experienced specialists, available for service in and out of Government." The program provides financial support for advanced research, training and other related functions on the countries of the region. By strengthening and sustaining in the United States a cadre of experts on Central and East Europe and the NIS, the program contributes to the overall objectives of the FREEDOM Support and SEED Acts.

The full purpose of the Act and the eligibility requirements are set forth in Pub. L. 98-164, 97 Stat. 1047-50, as amended. The countries include Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia (including Kosovo and Montenegro), Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.