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Neva Watson,

Attorney.

[FR Doc. 04-3496 Filed 2-18-04; 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 15c3-1f, SEC File No. 270-440, OMB Control No. 3235-0496.

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") has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget a request for approval of extension on the following rule: 17 CFR 240.15c3-1f (Appendix F to Rule 15c3-1 ("Appendix F")).

Appendix F requires a broker-dealer choosing to register, upon Commission approval, as an OTC derivative dealer to develop and maintain an internal risk management system based on Value-at-Risk ("VAR") models. Appendix F also requires the OTC derivatives dealer to notify Commission staff of the system and of certain other periodic information including when the VAR model deviates from the actual performance of the OTC derivatives dealer's portfolio. It is anticipated that approximately six (6) broker-dealers will spend 1,000 hours per year complying with Appendix F. The total burden is estimated to be approximately 6,000 hours.

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.

Direct your written comments to R. Corey Booth, Director/CIO, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 5th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549.

Dated: February 11, 2004.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-3576 Filed 2-18-04; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. IA-2215 / 803-175]

Criterion Research Group LLC; Notice of Application

February 11, 2004.

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

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

APPLICANT: Criterion Research Group LLC.

RELEVANT ADVISERS ACT SECTIONS: Exemption requested under section 203A(c) from section 203A(a).

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION: Applicant requests an order to permit it to register with the Commission as an investment adviser.

FILING DATES: The application was filed on July 17, 2003, amended on October 24, 2003, and amended further on December 15, 2003.

HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING: An order granting the application will be issued unless the Commission orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the Commission's Secretary and serving Applicant with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the Commission by 5:30 p.m. on March 8, 2004 and should be accompanied by proof of service on Applicant, in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Hearing requests should state the nature of the writer's interest, the

reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons may request notification of a hearing by writing to the Commission's Secretary.

ADDRESSES: Secretary, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 5th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. Applicant, Neil Baron, Chairman, Criterion Research Group LLC, 317 Madison Avenue, Suite 210, New York, New York 10017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Catherine E. Marshall, Attorney, or Jennifer L. Sawin, Assistant Director, Division of Investment Management, Office of Investment Adviser Regulation, at (202) 942-0719.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following is a summary of the application. The complete application may be obtained for a fee at the Commission's Public Reference Branch.

Applicant's Representations

1. Applicant is a Delaware limited liability company with its principal place of business in New York, New York.

2. Applicant is offering an internet-based subscription service to institutional investors such as portfolio managers, pension plans, insurance companies and commercial bank trust departments. Applicant represents that it will not market, offer or provide its services to individuals. Applicant further represents that it will not provide its services to broker-dealers for distribution to brokerage customers or otherwise, including as contemplated by the Global Settlement Related to Analysts Conflicts of Interest,¹ unless Applicant first obtains an amended order from the Commission allowing it to do so.

3. Applicant's services consist of independent analysis regarding fixed income and equity securities and recommendations about the purchase

¹ The Global Settlement was entered into by ten large financial services firms with the Commission, the State of New York, the North American Securities Administrators Association, the NASD, the New York Stock Exchange, and other state securities regulators. The financial services firms include: U.S. Bancorp Piper Jaffray, Inc.; Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated; Lehman Brother Inc.; Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated; J.P. Morgan Securities, Inc.; Goldman, Sachs & Co.; UBS Warburg LLC; Citigroup Global Markets Inc., f/k/a Saloman Smith Barney Inc.; Credit Suisse First Boston, LLC, f/k/a Credit Suisse First Boston Corporation, and Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc. The Global Settlement is comprised of ten Commission Final Judgments, ten Commission Litigation Releases, and is described in the Joint Press Release entitled "Ten of Nation's Top Investment Firms Settle Enforcement Actions Involving Conflicts of Interest Between Research and Investment Banking," Press Release No. 2003-54 (Apr. 28, 2003) (<http://www.sec.gov/news/press/2003-54.htm>).