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

1. Purpose

In order to control trading costs for low-priced stocks, Nasdaq proposes to establish, retroactive to July 1, 2002, a maximum SuperSoes execution fee of $75.00 per trade and liquidity provider rebate cap of $37.50 per trade for securities trading at $1.00 or less per share.

Nasdaq assessed on parties entering orders into SuperSoes a $0.002 per share charge for all resulting full or partial trade executions. This fee applied regardless of the price of the individual security traded and there was no maximum fee per individual trade. Nasdaq also rebated $0.001 per share to market participants that provided liquidity to the market by having their quotes accessed by SuperSoes orders, when those quoting market participants did not themselves charge a separate fee for that access. When a market participant entered an order into SuperSoes that interacted with the quote of an access fee-charging Electronic Communications Network (''ECN''), Nasdaq likewise rebated $0.001 per share to that entering party. Like the per-share SuperSoes execution fee, these rebates had no maximum dollar amount.

Nasdaq represents that market activity caused the prices of many Nasdaq securities to fluctuate, and in some cases lose significant value. As the prices of these securities declined, market participants generally needed to purchase or sell an increasing number of total shares to actively participate in the market for these issues. This increase in the size of individual transactions, when combined with SuperSoes' unlimited per share fee structure, raised execution costs to market participants. Similarly, large transactions involving low-priced securities also can result in disproportionate liquidity-provider rebates.

In response, Nasdaq has determined to establish per trade maximums for SuperSoes execution fees and liquidity provider rebates in low-priced ($1.00 or less per share) securities. Under the proposal, Nasdaq would cap at $75 the maximum execution fee it would impose on the entering party for a single SuperSoes trade where the price of the security traded was one dollar or less. For rebates, Nasdaq would cap at $37.50 the amount it gives back to market participants for providing liquidity in low-priced securities or when their orders access the low-priced quotes of fee-charging ECNs. Nasdaq notes that the ratio between its low-priced maximum per trade fee and per trade rebate is the same as those that are applicable to higher-priced issues.

2. Statutory Basis

Nasdaq believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of section 15A of the Act,[8] in general, and with section 15A(b)(5) of the Act,[9] in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among members and issuers, and other persons using any facility or system which the association operates or controls.

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

Nasdaq does not believe that the proposed rule change, as amended, will result in 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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

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

Within 35 days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding, or (ii) as to which the NASD consents, the Commission will:

(A) By order approve such proposed rule change; or

(B) Institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change, as amended, should be disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change, as amended, 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, as amended, 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 filings will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the NASD. All submissions should refer to File No. SR–NASD–2002–107 and should be submitted by April 9, 2003.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.[10]

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03–6550 Filed 3–18–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010–01–P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Data Collection Available for Public Comments and Recommendations

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Small Business Administration's intentions to request approval on a new and/or currently approved information collection.

DATES: Submit comments on or before May 19, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send all comments regarding whether these information collections are necessary for the proper performance of the function of the agency, whether the burden estimate are accurate, and if there are ways to minimize the estimated burden and enhance the quality of the collections, to Sandra Johnston, Program Analyst, Office of Financial Assistance, Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street SW., Suite 8300, Washington, DC 20416.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sandra Johnston, Program Analyst, (202) 205–7528 or Curtis B. Rich, Management Analyst, (202) 205–7030.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: ''Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements on Small Business Lending Companies—13 CFR 120–302''.

Form No: N/A.

Description of Respondents: Small Business Lending Companies.

Annual Responses: 2,400.

Annual Burden: 2,400.

[8] 15 U.S.C. 78*o*–3.

[9] 15 U.S.C. 78*o*–3(b)(5).

[10] 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Title:* ''Statement of Personal History''.

Form No: 1081.

Description of Respondents: Certified Development Companies.

Annual Responses: 300.

Annual Burden: 75.

ADDRESSES: Send all comments regarding whether this information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the function of the agency, whether the burden estimate is accurate, and if there are ways to minimize the estimated burden and enhance the quality of the collection, to Charles George, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Government Contracting & Business Development, Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street SW., Suite 8000, Washington, DC 20416.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles George, Deputy Assistant Administrator, 202–401–2899 or Curtis B. Rich, Management Analyst, (202) 205–7030.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: ''8(a) Annual Update''.

Form No: 1450.

Description of Respondents: 8(a) Program Participants.

Annual Responses: 5,000.

Annual Burden: 13,000.

Jacqueline White,

Chief, Administrative Information Branch.

[FR Doc. 03–6488 Filed 3–18–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025–01–P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Economic Injury Disaster #9U44]

State of Pennsylvania

Cameron County and the contiguous counties of Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, McKean and Potter in the State of Pennsylvania constitute an economic injury disaster loan area as a result of a fire that occurred on February 28, 2003 in the Borough of Emporium. Eligible small businesses and small agricultural cooperatives without credit available elsewhere may file applications for economic injury assistance as a result of this disaster until the close of business on *December 12, 2003* at the address listed below or other locally announced locations: U.S. Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 1 Office, 360 Rainbow Blvd, South 3rd Floor, Niagara Falls, NY 14303.

The interest rate for eligible small businesses and small agricultural cooperatives is 3.189 percent. The number assigned for economic injury for this disaster is 9U4400.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 59002)

Dated: March 12. 2003.

Hector V. Barreto,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 03–6487 Filed 3–18–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025–01–P

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Trade Policy Staff Committee; Request for Public Comment on Review of Employment Impact of Proposed United States—Central America Free Trade Agreement

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative, Department of Labor.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) gives notice that the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) and the Department of Labor (Labor) are initiating a review of the impact of the proposed U.S.-Central America Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on United States employment, including labor markets. This notice seeks written public comment on potentially significant sectoral or regional employment impacts (both positive and negative) in the United States as well as other likely labor market impacts of the FTA.

DATES: USTR and Labor will accept any comments received during the course of the negotiations of the FTA. However, comments should be received by April 25, 2003, to be assured of timely consideration in the preparation of the report.

ADDRESSES: Submissions by electronic mail: *FR0071@ustr.gov.* Submissions by facsimile: Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, TPSC, Office of the USTR, at (202) 395–6143.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions concerning public comments, contact Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, TPSC, Office of the USTR, 1724 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508, telephone (202) 395–3475. Substantive questions concerning the employment impact review should be addressed to Jorge Perez-Lopez, Director, Office of International Economic Affairs, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210, telephone (202) 693–4883; or William Clatanoff, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Labor, telephone (202) 395–6120.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Background Information

On October 1, 2002, in accordance with section 2104(a)(1) of the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002, 19 U.S.C. 3804(a)(1), the United States Trade Representative notified the Congress of the President's intent to enter into trade negotiations with the five members of the Central American Economic Integration System (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, hereinafter ''Central America''). The notification letters to the Congress can be found on the USTR Web site at *http://www.ustr.gov/releases/2002/10/2002–10–01-centralamerica-house.PDF* and *http://www.ustr.gov/releases/2002/10/2002–10–01-centralamerica-senate.PDF,* respectively. The TPSC invited the public to provide written comments and/or oral testimony at a public hearing conducted on November 19, 2002, to assist USTR in formulating positions and proposals with respect to all aspects of the negotiations (67 FR 63954) (Oct. 16, 2002). The formal launch of the negotiations occurred on January 8, 2003 in Washington, D.C. The first round of negotiations took place January 27–31, 2003, in San Jose, Costa Rica, and the second round of negotiations was held February 24–28, 2003, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The FTA will build on the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI). Since 1985, the U.S. trade relationship with Central America has been driven by U.S. unilateral trade preferences through the CBI. By moving from unilateral trade preferences to a reciprocal trade agreement, the FTA will seek to eliminate duties and unjustified barriers to trade in both U.S.- and Central American-origin goods and also address trade in services, trade in agricultural products, investment, trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights, government procurement, trade-related environmental and labor matters, and other issues. The FTA is expected to contribute to stronger economies, the rule of law, sustainable development, and more accountable institutions of governance, complementing ongoing domestic, bilateral, and multilateral efforts in the region. Finally, the FTA will lend momentum to concluding the Free Trade Area of the Americas negotiations by January 2005.

Two-way trade in goods between the United States and Central America totaled $20 billion in 2001, consisting of $9 billion in U.S. exports and $11 billion in U.S. imports. Leading U.S. exports to Central America include textiles, machinery, electrical