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(Authority: (5 U.S.C. 552(a)).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 30th day of November, 2005.

For the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Carl J. Paperiello,**

*Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.*

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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:* Form 12b-25; OMB Control No. 3235-0058; SEC File No. 270-71.

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") is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

The purpose of Form 12b-25 is to provide notice to the Commission and the marketplace that a public company

will be unable to timely file a required periodic report. If all filing conditions are met, the company is granted an automatic filing extension. Form 12b-25 is filed by publicly held companies. Approximately 7,799 issuers file Form 12b-25 and it takes approximately 2.5 hours per response for a total of 19,498 burden hours.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether this proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information 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.

Please direct your written comments to R. Corey Booth, Director/Chief Information Officer, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549.

Dated: November 30, 2005.

**Jonathan G. Katz,**

*Secretary.*

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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 18f-3; SEC File No. 270-385; OMB Control No. 3235-0441

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") is soliciting comments on the collections of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit these existing collections of information to the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") for extension and approval.

Section 18(f)(1)<sup>1</sup> of the Investment Company Act of 1940<sup>2</sup> (the "Investment Company Act") prohibits registered open-end management investment companies ("funds") from issuing any senior security. Rule 18f-3 under the Act<sup>3</sup> exempts from section 18(f)(1) a fund that issues multiple classes of shares representing interests in the same portfolio of securities (a "multiple class fund") if the fund satisfies the conditions of the rule. In general, each class must differ in its arrangement for shareholder services or distribution or both, and must pay the related expenses of that different arrangement.

The rule includes one requirement for the collection of information. A multiple class fund must prepare, and fund directors must approve, a written plan setting forth the separate arrangement and expense allocation of each class, and any related conversion features or exchange privileges ("rule 18f-3 plan").<sup>4</sup> Approval of the plan must occur before the fund issues any shares of multiple classes and whenever the fund materially amends the plan. In approving the plan, a majority of the fund board, including a majority of the fund's independent directors, must determine that the plan is in the best interests of each class and the fund as a whole.

The requirement that the fund prepare and directors approve a written rule 18f-3 plan is intended to ensure that the fund compiles information relevant to the fairness of the separate arrangement and expense allocation for each class, and that directors review and approve the information. Without a blueprint that highlights material differences among classes, directors might not perceive potential conflicts of interests when they determine whether the plan is in the best interests of each class and the fund. In addition, the plan may be useful to Commission staff in reviewing the fund's compliance with the rule.

There are approximately 1,142 multiple class funds.<sup>5</sup> Based on a review of typical rule 18f-3 plans, the Commission's staff estimates that the 1,142 funds together make an average of 571 responses each year to prepare and approve a written rule 18f-3 plan, requiring approximately 10 hours per response and a total of 5,710 burden hours per year in the aggregate.<sup>6</sup> The

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 80a-18(f)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 15 U.S.C. 80a.

<sup>3</sup> 17 CFR 270.18f-3.

<sup>4</sup> Rule 18f-3(d).

<sup>5</sup> This estimate is based on data from Form N-SAR, the semi-annual report that funds file with the Commission.

<sup>6</sup> The estimate reflects the assumption that each multiple class fund prepares and approves a rule