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Dated: July 2, 2008.

R. Michelle Schroll,

Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 08-1420 Filed 7-3-08; 10:41 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 Investor Education and Advocacy, Washington, DC 20549-0213.

Extension:

Rule 19b-1, SEC File No. 270-312, OMB Control No. 3235-0354.

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

Section 19(b) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Act") (15 U.S.C. 80a-19(b)) authorizes the Commission to regulate registered investment company ("fund") distributions of long-term capital gains made more frequently than once every twelve months. Rule 19b-1 under the Act¹ prohibits funds from distributing long-term capital gains more than once every twelve months unless certain conditions are met. Rule 19b-1(c) (17 CFR 270.19b-1(c)) permits unit investment trusts ("UITs") engaged exclusively in the business of investing in certain eligible fixed-income securities to distribute long-term capital gains more than once every twelve months, if: (i) The capital gains distribution falls within one of several categories specified in the rule² and (ii) the distribution is accompanied by a report to the unit holder that clearly

describes the distribution as a capital gains distribution (the "notice requirement").³ Rule 19b-1(e) (17 CFR 270.19b-1(e)) permits a fund to apply to the Commission for permission to distribute long-term capital gains more than once a year if the fund did not foresee the circumstances that created the need for the distribution. The application must set forth the pertinent facts and explain the circumstances that justify the distribution.⁴ An application that meets those requirements is deemed to be granted unless the Commission denies the request within 15 days after the Commission receives the application.

Commission staff estimates that, on average, each year five funds file an application under rule 19b-1(e). The staff understands that funds that file an application generally use outside counsel to prepare the application. The cost burden of using outside counsel is discussed below. The staff estimates that, on average, the fund's investment adviser spends approximately four hours to review an application, including 3.5 hours by an assistant general counsel, at a cost of \$371 per hour, and 0.5 hours by an administrative assistant, at a cost of \$65 per hour.⁵ Thus, the Commission staff estimates that the annual hour burden of the collection of information imposed by rule 19b-1 is approximately four hours per fund, at a cost of \$1331, for a total burden of 20 hours at a cost of \$6655.⁶

The Commission staff estimates that there is no hour burden associated with complying with the collection of information component of rule 19b-1(c).

As noted above, the Commission staff understands that funds that file an application under rule 19b-1(e) generally use outside counsel to prepare

³ The notice requirement in rule 19b-1(c)(2) (17 CFR 270.19b-1(c)(2)) supplements the notice requirement of section 19(a) [15 U.S.C. 80a-19(a)] and rule 19a-1 [17 CFR 270.19a-1], which requires any distribution in the nature of a dividend payment made by a fund to its investors to be accompanied by a notice disclosing the source of the distribution.

⁴ Rule 19b-1(e) also requires that the application comply with rule 0-2 [17 CFR 270.02], which sets forth the general requirements for papers and applications filed with the Commission.

⁵ These hourly rate estimates are derived from annual salaries reported in: Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association, Management and Professional Earnings in the Securities Industry (2007) and Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association, Office Salaries in the Securities Industry (2007).

⁶ This estimate is based on the following calculations: \$1298.50 (3.5 hours × \$371 = \$1298.5) plus \$32.50 (0.5 hours × \$65 = \$32.50) equals \$1331.00 (cost of one application); \$1331 × 5 applications = \$6655 total cost.

the application.⁷ The staff estimates that, on average, outside counsel spends 10 hours preparing a rule 19b-1(e) application, including eight hours by an associate and two hours by a partner. Outside counsel billing arrangements and rates vary based on numerous factors. Based on conversations with outside counsel and average billing rates of outside counsel the staff estimates that the average cost of outside counsel preparation of the 19b-1(e) exemptive application is \$5,000. Thus, the staff estimates that the total annual cost burden imposed by the exemptive application requirements of rule 19b-1(e) is \$25,000.⁸

The Commission staff estimates that there are approximately 6030 UITs,⁹ which may rely on rule 19b-1(c) to make capital gains distributions. The staff estimates that, on average, these UITs rely on rule 19b-1(c) once a year to make a capital gains distribution.¹⁰ In most cases, the trustee of the UIT is responsible for preparing and sending the notices that must accompany a capital gains distribution under rule 19b-1(c)(2). These notices require limited preparation, the cost of which accounts for only a small, indiscrete portion of the comprehensive fee charged by the trustee for its services to the UIT. The staff believes that as a matter of good business practices, and for tax preparation reasons, UITs would collect and distribute the capital gains information required to be sent to unit holders under rule 19b-1(c) even in the absence of the rule. The staff estimates that the cost of preparing a notice for a capital gains distribution under rule 19b-1(c)(2) is approximately \$50. There is no separate cost to mail the notices because they are mailed with the capital gains distribution. Thus, the staff estimates that the capital gains distribution notice requirement imposes an annual cost on UITs of approximately \$301,500.¹¹ The staff therefore estimates that the total cost

⁷ This understanding is based on conversations with representatives from the fund industry.

⁸ This estimate is based on the following calculation: \$5,000 multiplied by 5 (funds) equals \$25,000.

⁹ The Investment Company Institute, Unit Investment Trust Data (April, 2008).

¹⁰ The number of times UITs rely on the rule to make capital gains distributions depends on a wide range of factors and, thus, can vary greatly across years. A number of UITs are organized as grantor trusts, and therefore do not generally make capital gains distributions under rule 19b-1(c), or may not rely on rule 19b-1(c) as they do not meet the rule's requirements. Other UITs may distribute capital gains biannually, annually, quarterly, or at other intervals.

¹¹ This estimate is based on the following calculation: 6030 UITs multiplied by \$50 equals \$301,500.

¹ 17 CFR 270.19b-1.

² 17 CFR 270.19b-1(c)(1).

imposed by rule 19b-1 is \$326,500 (\$301,500 plus \$25,000 equals \$326,500).

Based on these calculations, the total number of respondents for rule 19b-1 is estimated to be 6035 (6030 UIT portfolios + 5 funds filing an application under rule 19b-1(e)), the total annual hour burden is estimated to be 20 hours, and the total annual cost burden is estimated to be \$326,500. These estimates of average annual burden hours and costs are made solely for purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act. The collections of information required by 19b-1(c) and 19b-1(e) are necessary to obtain the benefits described above. Responses will not be kept confidential. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission'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, Securities and Exchange Commission, C/O Shirley Martinson, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, VA 22312; or send an e-mail to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.

Dated: June 30, 2008.

Florence E. Harmon,
Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. E8-15356 Filed 7-7-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Investor Education and Advocacy, Washington, DC 20549-0213.

Extension: Rule 236, OMB Control No. 3235-

0095, SEC File No. 270-118.

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 the request for extension of the previously approved collection of information discussed below.

Rule 236 (17 CFR 230.236) under the Securities Act of 1933 ("Securities Act") (15 U.S.C. 77a *et seq.*) requires issuers choosing to rely on an exemption from Securities Act registration for the issuance of fractional shares, scrip certificates or order forms, in connection with a stock dividend, stock split, reverse stock split, conversion, merger or similar transaction, to furnish specified information to the Commission in writing at least 10 days prior to the offering. The information is needed to provide public notice that an issuer is relying on the exemption. Public companies are the likely respondents. The information is needed to establish qualification for reliance on the exemption. The information provided by Rule 236 is required to obtain or retain benefits. All information provided to the Commission is available to the public for review upon request. Approximately 10 respondents file the information required by Rule 236 at an estimated 1.5 hours per response for a total of 15 annual burden hours (1.5 hours per response × 10 responses).

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

Written comments regarding the above information should be directed to the following persons: (i) Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10102, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or send an e-mail to Alexander_T._Hunt@omb.eop.gov; and (ii) R. Corey Booth, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Shirley Martinson, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, VA 22312; or send an e-mail to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: June 30, 2008.

Florence E. Harmon,
Acting Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon written request, copies available from: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Investor Education and Advocacy, Washington, DC 20549-0213.

Extension: Regulation S-T; OMB Control No. 3235-0424; SEC File No. 270-375

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 extension of the previously approved collection of information discussed below.

Regulation S-T (17 CFR 232.10-232.313 and 232.401-232.402 and 232.501) sets forth the general rules and regulations for electronic filings. Registrants who have to file electronically are the likely respondents. Regulation S-T is only assigned one burden hour for administrative convenience because it does not directly impose any information collection requirements. The electronic filing requirement is mandatory for all companies required to file electronically. All information provided to the Commission is available to the public for review.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

Written comments regarding the above information should be directed to the following persons: (i) Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10102, Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or send an e-mail to: Alexander_T._Hunt@omb.eop.gov; and (ii) R. Corey Booth, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, C/O Shirley Martinson, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, VA 22312; or send an e-mail to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: June 30, 2008.

Florence E. Harmon,
Acting Secretary.

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