

agreements ineffective to protect broadcast signals against piracy.

At the September 2006 WIPO General Assembly, the decision was taken to convene two special sessions of the SCCR to clarify the outstanding issues, the first one in January 2007, and the second one in June 2007. The special sessions of the SCCR should aim to agree and finalize, on a signal-based approach, the objectives, specific scope and object of protection with a view toward submitting to the Diplomatic Conference a revised basic proposal, which will amend the agreed relevant parts of the Revised Draft Basic Proposal (Document SCCR/15/2). The Diplomatic Conference will be convened in November 2007 if such agreement is achieved.

WIPO posts various documents from its meetings, such as reports, Member State submissions, meeting agendas, and texts prepared by the Chair of the SCCR. On March 9, 2007, in accordance with the decisions of the First Special Session of the SCCR which took place from January 17 to 19, 2007, WIPO requested comments from Member States on a Draft Non-paper on the WIPO Treaty on the Protection of Broadcasting Organizations, prepared by the Chair of the First Special Session, with the assistance of the WIPO Secretariat (Document SCCR/S1/WWW/75352 can be found at http://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/sccr/en/sccr_s1/sccr_s1_www_75352.doc). Member State submissions commenting on the Draft Non-paper on the WIPO Treaty on the Protection of Broadcasting Organizations, including comments of the United States Government, are available at http://www.wipo.int/copyright/en/sccr_s1/. A revised Non-paper, taking into account Member State comments on the Draft Non-paper, is expected to be made available to Member States on May 1, 2007.

Throughout this process in WIPO, many points of view have been represented, including those of developed and developing countries, and many non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and numerous industry, creator and content owner groups. The U.S. Copyright Office and USPTO have participated in several informal meetings with interested parties such as broadcasters, netcasters, telecom companies, Internet service providers, content industries, creators and other NGOs, in order to obtain views and information relevant to the deliberations in the SCCR on this proposed treaty.

In order to allow further opportunity for interested parties to comment, the U.S. Copyright Office and USPTO are

convening this roundtable — the third held on this issue — to provide another forum for such parties to provide their views on and additional information related to the proposed treaty. In particular, the participants should be prepared to identify and discuss more fully any issues and concerns associated with the revised Non-paper to be released by WIPO on May 1, 2007.

Dated: April 9, 2007.

David O. Carson,

Associate Register for Policy and International Affairs U.S. Copyright Office.

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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 1, Rules 6a-1 and 6a-2; SEC File No. 270-0017; OMB Control No. 3235-0017.

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 Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq*) ("Act") sets forth a regulatory scheme for national securities exchanges. Rule 6a-1 (17 CFR 240.6a-1) under the Act generally requires an applicant for initial registration as a national securities exchange to file an application with the Commission on Form 1. An exchange that seeks an exemption from registration based on limited trading volume also must apply for such exemption on Form 1. Rule 6a-2 (17 CFR 240.6a-2) under the Act requires registered and exempt exchanges: (1) To amend the Form 1 if there are any material changes to the information provided in the initial Form 1; and (2) to submit periodic updates of certain information provided in the initial Form 1, whether such information has changed or not. The information required pursuant to Rules 6a-1 and 6a-2 is necessary to enable the Commission to maintain accurate files regarding the

exchange and to exercise its statutory oversight functions. Without the information submitted pursuant to Rule 6a-1 on Form 1, the Commission would not be able to determine whether the respondent met the criteria for registration or exemption set forth in Sections 6 and 19 of the Act. Without the amendments and periodic updates of information submitted pursuant to Rule 6a-2, the Commission would have substantial difficulty determining whether a national securities exchange or exempt exchange was continuing to operate in compliance with the Act.

The respondents to the collection of information are entities that seek registration as a national securities exchange or that seek exemption from registration based on limited trading volume. After the initial filing of Form 1, both registered and exempt exchanges are subject to ongoing informational requirements.

Initial filings on Form 1 by new exchanges are made on a one-time basis. The Commission estimates that it will receive approximately three initial Form 1 filings per year and that each respondent would incur an average burden of 47 hours to file an initial Form 1 at an average cost per response of approximately \$4517. Therefore, the Commission estimates that the annual burden for all respondents to file the initial Form 1 would be 141 hours (one response/respondent × three respondents × 47 hours/response) and \$13,551 (one response/respondent × three respondents × \$4517/response).

There currently are ten entities registered as national securities exchanges and two exempt exchanges. The Commission estimates that each registered or exempt exchange files one amendment or periodic update to Form 1 per year, incurring an average burden of 25 hours to comply with Rule 6a-2. The Commission estimates that the annual burden for all respondents to file amendments and periodic updates to the Form 1 pursuant to Rule 6a-2 is 300 hours (12 respondents × 25 hours/response × one response/respondent per year) and \$27,960 (12 respondents × \$2330/response × one response/respondent per year).

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.

Comments should be directed to: R. Corey Booth, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, C/O Shirley Martinson, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, Virginia 22312 or send an e-mail to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 60 days of this notice.

Dated: April 5, 2007.

Florence E. Harmon,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. E7-6892 Filed 4-11-07; 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: Form 10-D; OMB Control No. 3235-0604; SEC File No. 270-544.

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 this collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for approval.

Form 10-D (17 CFR 249.312) is used by asset-backed issuers to file periodic distribution reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) under the Securities Exchange Act 1934 ("Exchange Act") (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*) within 15 days after each required distribution date. The information provided by Form 10-D is mandatory and all information is made available to the public upon request. Form 10-D takes approximately 30 hours per response to prepare and is filed by 9,500 respondents. We estimate that 75% of the 30 hours per response (22.5 hours) is prepared by the company for a total annual reporting burden of 213,750 hours (22.5 hours per response x 9,500 responses).

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 imposed by 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: April 4, 2007.

Florence E. Harmon,

Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Investment Company Act Release No. 27777; 812-13249]

Forward Funds, et al.; Notice of Application

April 5, 2007.

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

ACTION: Notice of an application under section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("Act") for an exemption from section 15(a) of the Act and rule 18f-2 under the Act.

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION: Applicants request an order that would permit them to enter into and materially amend subadvisory agreements without shareholder approval.

APPLICANTS: Forward Funds (the "Trust") and Forward Management, LLC ("Forward Management").

FILING DATES: The application was filed on December 20, 2005, and amended on April 2, 2007.

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 applicants with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the Commission by 5:30 p.m. on April 30, 2007, and should be accompanied by proof of

service on applicants, 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 who wish to be notified of a hearing may request notification by writing to the Commission's Secretary.

ADDRESSES: Secretary, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F St., NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090; Applicants, 433 California Street, 11th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104, *Attn.:* Mary Curran, Esq.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marilyn Mann, Senior Counsel, at (202) 551-6813, or Nadya B. Roytblat, Assistant Director, at (202) 551-6821 (Division of Investment Management, Office of Investment Company Regulation).

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 Desk, 100 F St., NE., Washington, DC 20549-0102 (telephone (202) 551-5850).

Applicants' Representations

1. The Trust is organized as a Delaware statutory trust and is registered under the Act as an open-end management investment company. The Trust has fourteen operating series (the "Funds"). Applicants request that the order apply to: (a) The Funds; and (b) any future series of the Trust and any other registered open-end management investment companies or series thereof that (1) use the "manager-of-managers" arrangement described in the application, (2) comply with the terms and conditions of the application, and (3) are advised by a Manager (as defined below) (the investment companies and series thereof, as well as the Funds, the "Sub-Advised Funds").¹

2. Forward Management is registered as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (the "Advisers Act") and serves as investment adviser to the Funds pursuant to an investment advisory agreement ("Advisory Agreement") with the Trust, on behalf of the Funds. The Advisory Agreement has been approved by the Trust's board of trustees ("Board"), including a majority of the

¹ All existing entities that currently intend to rely on the order are named as applicants. Any entity that relies on the order in the future will do so only in accordance with the terms and conditions of the application. If the name of any Sub-Advised Fund contains the name of a Sub-Adviser (as defined below), the name of the Manager that serves as the primary adviser to the Sub-Advised Fund will precede the name of the Sub-Adviser.