

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-13, May 22, 1995), this notice announces that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request for review of a revised information collection. SF 2802, Application for Refund of Retirement Deductions (Civil Service Retirement System) is used to support the payment of monies from the Retirement Fund. It identifies the applicant for refund of retirement contributions. SF 2802A, Current/Former Spouse's Notification of Application for Refund of Retirement Deductions, is used to comply with the legal requirement that any spouse or former spouse of the applicant has been notified that the former employee is applying for a refund.

Approximately 32,100 SF 2802 forms are completed annually. We estimate it takes approximately 45 minutes to complete the form. The annual burden is 24,075 hours. Approximately 28,890 SF 2802A forms are processed annually. We estimate it takes approximately 15 minutes to complete this form. The annual burden is 7,223 hours. The total annual burden is 31,298 hours.

Comments are particularly invited on: whether this collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of functions of the Office of Personnel Management, and whether it will have practical utility; whether our estimate of the public burden of this collection is accurate, and based on valid assumptions and methodology; and ways in which we can minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use of the appropriate technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

For copies of this proposal, contact Mary Beth Smith-Toomey on (202) 606-8358, FAX (202) 418-3251 or via e-mail to mbtoomey@opm.gov. Please include a mailing address with your request.

DATES: Comments on this proposal should be received within 60 calendar days from the date of this publication.

ADDRESSES: Send or deliver comments to—Ronald W. Melton, Chief, Operations Support Group, Center for Retirement and Insurance Services, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street, NW., Room 3425, Washington, DC 20415-3660.

FOR INFORMATION REGARDING

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATION CONTACT: Cyrus S. Benson, Team Leader, Publications Team, RIS Support Services, (202) 606-0623.

Office of Personnel Management.

Kay Coles James,

Director.

[FR Doc. 03-27911 Filed 11-5-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-50-M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request**

Upon Written Request, Copies Available
From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

Extension:

Rule 17Ad-15, SEC File No. 270-360,
OMB Control No. 3235-0409.

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.

Rule 17Ad-15 Signature Guarantees

Rule 17Ad-15 requires approximately 1,093 transfer agents to establish written standards for accepting and rejecting guarantees of securities transfers from eligible guarantor institutions. Transfer agents are also required to establish procedures to ensure that those standards are used by the transfer agent to determine whether to accept or reject guarantees from eligible guarantor institutions. Transfer agents must maintain, for a period of three years following the date of a rejection of transfer, a record of all transfers rejected, along with the reason for the rejection, identification of the guarantor, and whether the guarantor failed to meet the transfer agent's guarantee standard. These recordkeeping requirements assist the Commission and other regulatory agencies with monitoring transfer agents and ensuring compliance with the rule.

There are approximately 900 registered transfer agents. The average number of hours necessary for every transfer agent to comply with the Rule 17Ad-15 is about forty hours annually. The total burden is 36,000 hours for all transfer agents. The average cost per hour is approximately \$30. Therefore, the total cost of compliance for all transfer agents is about \$1,080,000.

The retention period for the recordkeeping requirement under Rule 17Ad-15 is three years following the

date of a rejection of transfer. The recordkeeping requirement under the rule is mandatory to assist the Commission and other regulatory agencies with monitoring transfer agents and ensuring compliance with the rule. This rule does not involve the collection of confidential information. 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.

General comments regarding the estimated burden hours 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, D.C. 20503; and (ii) Kenneth A. Fogash, Associate Executive Director/Acting CIO, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: October 29, 2003.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-27978 Filed 11-5-03; 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 Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

Extension:

Rule 14f-1, OMB Control No. 3235-0108,
SEC File No. 270-127.

Rule 12d1-3; OMB Control No. 3235-0109;
SEC File No. 270-116.

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 requests for extension of the previously approved collections of information discussed below.

Rule 14f-1 (OMB Control No. 3235-0108; SEC File No. 270-127) requires issuers to disclose a change in a majority of the directors of the issuer. The information filed under Rule 14f-1 must be filed with the Commission and is publicly available. We estimate that it

takes 18 burden hours to provide the information required under Rule 14f-1 and that the information is filed by 44 respondents for a total of 792 burden hours.

Rule 12d1-3(OMB Control No. 3235-0109; SEC File No. 270-116) requires a certification that a security has been approved by an exchange for listing and registration pursuant to section 12(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to be filed with the Commission. The information required under Rule 12d1-3 must be filed with the Commission and is publicly available. We estimate that it takes one-half hour to provide the information required under Rule 12d1-3 and that the information is filed by 688 respondents for a total of 344 burden hours.

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; and (ii) Kenneth A. Fogash, Acting Associate Executive Director/CIO, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: October 27, 2003.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-27979 Filed 11-5-03; 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 Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

Extension:

Schedule 13E-4F; OMB Control No. 3235-0375; SEC File No. 270-340.

Form F-X; OMB Control No. 3235-0379; SEC File No. 270-336.

Form DF; OMB Control No. 3235-0482; SEC File No. 270-430.

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 requests for extension of the previously approved collections of information discussed below.

Schedule 13E-4F (OMB Control No. 3235-0375; SEC File No. 270-340) may be used by any foreign private issuer if: (1) The issuer is incorporated or organized under the laws of Canada; (2) the issuer is making a cash tender or exchange offer for the issuer's own securities; and (3) less than 40 percent of the class of such issuer's securities outstanding that is the subject of the tender offer is held by U.S. holders. The information collected must be filed with the Commission and is publicly available. We estimate that it takes 2 burden hours to prepare Schedule 13E-4F and that the information is filed by 3 respondents for a total of 6 burden hours.

Form F-X (OMB Control No. 3235-0379; SEC File No. 270-336) is used to appoint an agent for service of process by Canadian issuers registering securities on Form F-7, F-8, F-9 or F-10 or filing periodic reports on Form 40-F under the Exchange Act. The information collected must be filed with the Commission and is publicly available. We estimate that it takes 2 hours to prepare and is filed 129 respondents for a total of 258 burden hours.

Form DF (OMB Control No. 3235-0482; SEC File No. 270-430) allows registrants to identify a filing that was filed late because of electronic filing difficulties in order to preserve the timeliness of the filing. The information collected must be filed with the Commission and is publicly available. We estimate that it takes 12 minutes to prepare and is filed by an estimated 500 respondents for a total annual burden of 100 hours.

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; and (ii) Kenneth A. Fogash, Acting Associate Executive Director/CIO, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Comments must

be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: October 29, 2003.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-27980 Filed 11-5-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. IC-26237; 812-12967]

Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc., et al; Notice of Application and Temporary Order

October 31, 2003.

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

ACTION: Temporary order and notice of application for a permanent order under section 9(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("Act").

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION: Applicants have received a temporary order exempting them from section 9(a) of the Act, with respect to an injunction entered against Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc. ("BS&Co.") on October 31, 2003 by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York (the "Federal Injunction"), until the earlier of the date the Commission takes action on an application for a permanent order, or two years from the date of the Federal Injunction. Applicants have requested a permanent order.

APPLICANTS: BS&Co. and Bear Stearns Asset Management Inc. ("BSAM" and together, the "Applicants").¹

FILING DATES: The application was filed on April 28, 2003. Applicants have agreed to file an amendment during the notice period, the substance of which is reflected in this notice. Applicants have also agreed to file amendments to the application reflecting the issuance of each State Injunction (as defined below).

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 November 25, 2003, and should be accompanied by proof of service on Applicants, in the form of an

¹ Applicants request that any relief granted pursuant to the application also apply to any other company of which BS&Co. is or hereafter becomes an affiliated person (included in the term Applicants).