

trading partner. Two-way goods trade between the United States and Korea has grown significantly in the past decade, and totaled more than \$72 billion in 2005. The increased access to Korea's market that an FTA would provide would further boost trade in both goods and services, enhancing employment opportunities in both countries. An FTA also would encourage additional foreign investment between the United States and Korea. A free trade agreement with Korea would serve to strengthen our strategic alliance with Korea and would underscore U.S. commitment to promote strong economic relations with East Asia.

## 2. Environmental Review

USTR, through the TPSC, will perform an environmental review of the agreement pursuant to the Trade Act of 2002 and consistent with Executive Order 13141 (64 FR 63169) and its implementing guidelines (65 FR 79442).

Environmental reviews are used to identify potentially significant, reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts (both positive and negative), and information from the review can help facilitate consideration of appropriate responses where impacts are identified. Reviews address potential environmental impacts of the proposed agreement and potential implications for environmental laws and regulations. The focus of the review is on impacts in the United States, although global and transboundary impacts may be considered, where appropriate and prudent.

## 3. Requirements for Submissions

In order to facilitate prompt processing of submissions, USTR strongly urges and prefers electronic (e-mail) submissions in response to this notice.

Persons making submissions by e-mail should use the following subject line: "FTA between the United States and Korea Environmental Review" followed by "Written Comments." Documents should be submitted as a WordPerfect, MSWord, or text (.TXT) file. Supporting documentation submitted as spreadsheets are acceptable as Quattro Pro or Excel. For any document containing business confidential information submitted electronically, the file name of the business confidential version should begin with the characters "BC-", and the file name of the public version should begin with the characters "P-". The "P-" or "BC-" should be followed by the name of the submitter. Persons who make submissions by e-mail should not provide separate cover letters;

information that might appear in a cover letter should be included in the submission itself. To the extent possible, any attachments to the submission should be included in the same file as the submission itself, and not as separate files.

Written comments submitted in response to this request will be placed in a file open to public inspection pursuant to 15 CFR 2003.5, except business confidential information exempt from public inspection in accordance with 15 CFR 2003.6. Business confidential information submitted in accordance with 15 CFR 2003.6 must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" at the top of each page, including any cover letter or cover page, and must be accompanied by a nonconfidential summary of the confidential information. All public documents and nonconfidential summaries shall be available for public inspection in the USTR Reading Room. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public, by appointment only, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. An appointment to review the file must be scheduled at least 48 hours in advance and may be made by calling (202) 395-6186.

USTR also welcomes and will take into account the public comments on environmental issues submitted in response to a previous notice—the **Federal Register** notice dated February 9, 2006 (71 FR 6820)—requesting comments from the public to assist USTR in formulating positions and proposals with respect to all aspects of the negotiation of an FTA between the United States and Korea, including environmental issues. These comments will also be made available for public inspection.

General information concerning the Office of the United States Trade Representative may be obtained by accessing its Internet Web site (<http://www.ustr.gov>).

**Carmen Suro-Bredie,**

*Chair, Trade Policy Staff Committee.*

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## RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the requirement of Section 3506 (c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 which provides opportunity for public comment on new or revised data

collections, the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) will publish periodic summaries of proposed data collections.

*Comments are invited on:* (a) Whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the RRB's estimate of the burden of the collection of the information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden related to the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

### *Title and Purpose of Information Collection*

Employee Representative's Status and Compensation Reports; OMB 3220-0014. Under Section 1(b)(1) of the Railroad Retirement Act (RRA), the term "employee" includes an individual who is an employee representative. As defined in Section 1(c) of the RRA, an employee representative is an officer or official representative of a railway labor organization other than a labor organization included in the term "employer," as defined in the RRA, who before or after August 29, 1935, was in the service of an employer under the RRA and who is duly authorized and designated to represent employees in accordance with the Railway Labor Act, or, any individual who is regularly assigned to or regularly employed by such officer or official representative in connection with the duties of his or her office. The requirements relating to the application for employee representative status and the periodic reporting of the compensation resulting from such status is contained in 20 CFR 209.10.

The RRB utilizes Forms DC-2a, *Employee Representative's Status Report*, and DC-2, *Employee Representative's Report of Compensation* to obtain the information needed to determine employee representative status and to maintain a record of creditable service and compensation resulting from such status. Completion is required to obtain or retain a benefit. One response is requested of each respondent.

Minor editorial changes are proposed to Form DC-2a and Form DC-2. The completion time for Form DC-2 is estimated at 30 minutes per response. The RRB estimates that approximately 65 Form DC-2's are received annually. The RRB estimates that less than 10 Form DC-2a's are received annually.

### *Title and Purpose of Information Collection*

Statement of Claimant or Other Person; OMB 3220-0183. To support an application for an annuity under Section 2 of the Railroad Retirement Act (RRA) or for unemployment benefits under Section 2 of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (RUIA), pertinent information and proofs must be furnished for the RRB to determine benefit entitlement. Circumstances may require an applicant or other person(s) having knowledge of facts relevant to the applicant's eligibility for an annuity or benefits to provide written statements supplementing or changing statements previously provided by the applicant. Under the railroad retirement program these statements may relate to changes in annuity beginning date(s), dates for marriage(s), birth(s), prior railroad or non-railroad employment, an applicant's request for reconsideration of an unfavorable RRB eligibility determination for an annuity or various other matters. The statements may also be used by the RRB to secure a variety of information needed to determine eligibility to unemployment and sickness benefits. Procedures related to providing information needed for RRA annuity or RUIA benefit eligibility determinations are prescribed in 20 CFR parts 217 and 320 respectively.

The RRB utilizes Form G-93, *Statement of Claimant or Other Person* to obtain the supplemental or corrective information from applicants or other persons needed to determine applicant eligibility for an RRA annuity or RUIA benefits.

The RRB proposes no changes to Form G-93.

The completion time for Form G-93 is estimated at 15 minutes per response. The RRB estimates that approximately 900 Form G-93's are received annually. Completion is voluntary. One response is requested of each respondent.

**Additional Information or Comments:** To request more information or to obtain a copy of the information collection justification, forms, and/or supporting material, please call the RRB Clearance Officer at (312) 751-3363 or send an e-mail request to [Charles.Mierzwa@RRB.GOV](mailto:Charles.Mierzwa@RRB.GOV). Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Ronald J. Hodapp, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092 or send an e-mail to [Ronald.Hodapp@RRB.GOV](mailto:Ronald.Hodapp@RRB.GOV). Written

comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

**Charles Mierzwa,**  
*Clearance Officer.*

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## **SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**[Release Number 34-53360; File No. 4-511]**

### **Roundtable on Internal Control Reporting Requirements**

**AGENCY:** Securities and Exchange Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of roundtable discussions; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Securities and Exchange Commission and the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board announced on February 16, 2006 that they will sponsor a roundtable May 10, 2006, at the Commission's headquarters in Washington, DC, to discuss second-year experiences with the reporting and auditing requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 related to companies' internal control over financial reporting. The roundtable discussion will include issuers, auditors, investors and other interested parties.

"Last spring's informative roundtable resulted in valuable guidance," said SEC Chairman Christopher Cox. "We look forward to an update on compliance efforts after year two. I'm pleased that the PCAOB is coordinating this year's roundtable with the SEC. We will carefully consider the facts presented to help develop policies to effectively and efficiently improve the reliability of financial statements for the benefit of investors."

"I am very much open to suggestions to make the internal control assessment process more efficient, including modifications of the PCAOB's auditing standard and other actions the Board could undertake," said PCAOB Acting Chairman Bill Gradison. "This is the PCAOB's highest priority policy issue."

The Commission and the PCAOB further announced today that, in addition to the roundtable, they are seeking written feedback from registrants, auditors, investors and others on their experiences with complying with the Section 404 requirements. The Commission is not soliciting feedback on a particular set of inquiries. The information that is submitted to either organization will become part of the public record of the Section 404 roundtable.

**DATES:** Members of the public are encouraged to provide the submissions before May 1, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** To help us process and review your comments more efficiently, comments should be sent by one method only. Comments should be submitted electronically at the following e-mail address: [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Comments may also be submitted using the Commission's *Internet submission form* at <http://www.sec.gov/news/press.shtml>. Comments may also be submitted in triplicate to Nancy M. Morris, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090. All comment letters should refer to File Number 4-511; this File number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. Comment letters will also be posted on the Commission's Internet Web site (<http://www.sec.gov/news/press/4-511.shtml>). Comment letters will be available for public inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Consuelo Hitchcock (202-551-3500) or Nancy Salisbury (202-551-5300) at Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549.

Dated: February 24, 2006.

**Nancy M. Morris,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. E6-3031 Filed 3-2-06; 8:45 am]

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## **SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**[Release No. 34-53363; File No. SR-Amex-2006-18]**

### **Self-Regulatory Organizations; American Stock Exchange LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Relating to the Adoption of a Licensing Fee for Options on the PowerShares Zacks SmallCap Portfolio**

February 24, 2006.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on February 15, 2006, the American Stock Exchange LLC ("Amex" or "Exchange") submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by Amex. Amex has

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.