

the state of privacy with respect to the NII, current U.S. law, and private sector practices. That work served as the basis for the Information Policy Committee's Option Paper. The Committee is now making the Paper available for comment.

As Vice President Gore predicted in 1995, development of the Global Information Infrastructure (GII) is increasing economic growth and productivity, creating high-wage jobs in newly emerging industries, and fostering U.S. technological leadership across the globe. Through this medium, we can already secure high quality services at low cost and prepare our children for the demands of the 21st Century. A more open and participatory democracy is emerging at all levels of government.

The information economy of the 21st century will run on data. Some of that data may be highly personal and sensitive. In some cases, personal data may become quite valuable. Thus, the transition to the Information Age calls for a reexamination of the proper balance between the competing values of personal privacy and the free flow of information in a democratic society. Will our traditional balance point serve in the digital age? Can we continue to rely on the same tools we have used to strike this balance in the past? Or, is an entirely new approach warranted?

The Options Paper explores the growing public concern about personal information privacy. The paper describes the status of electronic data protection and fair information practices in the United States today, beginning with a discussion of the "Principles for Providing and Using Personal Information," issued by the Information Infrastructure Task Force in 1995. It then provides an overview of new information technologies, which shows that personal information is currently collected, shared, aggregated, and disseminated at a rate and to a degree unthinkable just a few years ago. Government is no longer the sole possessor of extensive amounts of personal information about U.S. citizens: in recent years the acquisition of personal information by the private sector has increased dramatically.

The paper next considers in more detail the laws and policies affecting information privacy in four specific areas: government records, communications, medical records, and the consumer market. This examination reveals that information privacy policy in the United States consists of various laws, regulations and practices, woven together to produce privacy protection that varies from sector to sector.

Sometimes the results make sense, and sometimes they do not. The degree of protection accorded to personal information may depend on the data delivery mechanism rather than on the type of information at issue. Moreover, information privacy protection efforts in the United States are generally reactive rather than proactive: both the public and the private sector adopt policies in response to celebrated incidents of nonconsensual disclosure involving readily discernable harm. Sometimes this approach leaves holes in the fabric of privacy protection.

The paper then turns to the core question: in the context of the Global Information Infrastructure (GII), what is the best mechanism to implement fair information practices that balance the needs of government, commerce, and individuals, keeping in mind both our interest in the free flow of information and in the protection of information privacy? At one end of the spectrum there is support for an entirely market-based response. At the other end of the spectrum, the federal government is encouraged to regulate fair information practices across all sectors of the economy. In between these poles lie a myriad of options.

In response to public concern, both government and private industry seem to be taking a harder look at privacy issues. As government and consumers become more aware of the GII's data collection, analysis and distribution capabilities, demand could foster a robust, competitive market for privacy protection. This raises the intriguing possibility that privacy could emerge as a market commodity in the Information Age. The paper recognizes ongoing efforts to enhance industry self regulation to carry out the IITF Privacy Principles, and also discusses ways this self regulation might be enforced. The paper also discusses a number of ways that government could facilitate development of a privacy market.

The paper then considers a number of options that involve creation of a federal privacy entity. It discusses some of the many forms that such an entity could take and considers the advantages and disadvantages of the various choices. It also considers the functions that such an entity might perform, as well as various options for locating a privacy entity within the federal government.

This paper presents a host of options for government and private sector action. The ultimate goal is to identify the means to maintain an optimal balance between personal privacy and freedom of information values in the digital environment. The next step is to receive and respond to public comment

on the report in order to develop consensus regarding the appropriate allocation of public and private sector responsibility for implementation of fair information practices.

**Sally Katzen,**

*Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 97-10894 Filed 4-25-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3110-01-P

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## OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

### Excepted Service

**AGENCY:** Office of Personnel Management.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This gives notice of positions placed or revoked under Schedules A and B, and placed under Schedule C in the excepted service, as required by Civil Service Rule VI, Exceptions from the Competitive Service.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Patricia H. Paige, Staffing Reinvention Office, Employment Service (202) 606-0830.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Office of Personnel Management published its last monthly notice updating appointing authorities established or revoked under the Excepted Service provisions of 5 CFR part 213 on March 27, 1997, (62 FR 14707). Individual authorities established or revoked under Schedules A and B and established under Schedule C between March 1, 1997, and March 31, 1997, appear in the listing below. Future notices will be published on the fourth Tuesday of each month, or as soon as possible thereafter. A consolidated listing of all authorities as of June 30 will also be published.

### Schedule A

No Schedule A authorities were established during March 1997.

The following Schedule A authority was revoke during March 1997:

#### *Department of Labor*

Bureau of Labor Statistics. Not to exceed 500 positions involving part-time and intermittent employment for field survey and enumeration work in the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This authority is applicable to positions where the salary is equivalent to GS-6 and below. Effective March 7, 1997.

### Schedule B

One Schedule B authority was established during 1997:

*Department of Defense*

Positions at grades GS-11 through GS-15 for the Defense Policy Science and Engineering Fellowship Program. Appointments may be made not to exceed two years and maybe extended for up to two additional years. Effective March 25, 1997.

**Schedule C**

The following Schedule C authorities were established during 1997.

*Department of Agriculture*

Confidential Assistant to the Director, Office of Communications. Effective March 5, 1997.

Confidential Assistant to the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service. Effective March 7, 1997.

Confidential Assistant to the Administrator, Farm Services Agency. Effective March 14, 1997.

Special Assistant to the Chief, Forest Service. Effective March 14, 1997.

*Department of Education*

Confidential Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education. Effective March 12, 1997.

Confidential Assistant to the Assistant Secretary, Office of Secondary and Elementary Education. Effective March 14, 1997.

Special Assistant to the Director Regional Services Team. Effective March 14, 1997.

Confidential Assistant to the Special Assistant, Office of the Secretary. Effective March 19, 1997.

Special Assistant to the Director, White House Initiative on Hispanic Education. Effective March 27, 1997.

Secretary's Regional Representative—Region II—New York, N.Y. to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regional Services. Effective March 27, 1997.

Confidential Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs. Effective March 31, 1997.

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regional and Community Services and Secretary's Regional Representative, Region III to the Assistant Secretary, Office of Intergovernmental and Interagency Affairs. Effective March 31, 1997.

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental and Constituent Relations to the Assistant Secretary, Office of Intergovernmental and Interagency Affairs. Effective March 31, 1997.

*Department of Health and Human Services*

Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Children and Families. Effective March 3, 1997.

Director of Scheduling to the Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary. Effective March 6, 1997.

Confidential Assistant, Office of Scheduling to the Director of Scheduling. Effective March 10, 1997.

Special Assistant to the Secretary of Health and Human Services. Effective March 13, 1997.

Special Assistant to the Director of Communications, Communications Services Division. Effective March 14, 1997.

Executive Director, Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS to the Assistant Secretary for Public Health and Science. Effective March 14, 1997.

Confidential Assistant (Scheduling) to the Director of Scheduling. Effective March 20, 1997.

Special Assistant to the Secretary of Health and Human Services. Effective March 20, 1997.

*Department of Housing and Urban Development*

Senior Intergovernmental Relations Officer to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Relations. Effective March 7, 1997.

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs to the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs. Effective March 7, 1997.

Confidential Assistant to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Effective March 7, 1997.

Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations to the Chief of Staff. Effective March 8, 1997.

Special Assistant (Speech Writer) to the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs. Effective March 14, 1997.

Special Assistant to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Effective March 21, 1997.

Intergovernmental Relations Specialist to the Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations. Effective March 27, 1997.

Public Affairs Coordinator to the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs. Effective March 31, 1997.

*Department of the Interior*

Special Assistant to the Secretary and Director of Scheduling and Advance to the Deputy Chief of Staff. Effective March 19, 1997.

Special Assistant to the Director, National Park Service. Effective March 20, 1997.

Special Assistant to the Solicitor. Effective March 26, 1997.

*Department of Justice*

Attorney Advisor to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division. Effective March 14, 1997.

Staff Assistant to the Attorney General. Effective March 17, 1997.

Staff Assistant to the Assistant to the Attorney General (Chief Scheduler). Effective March 28, 1997.

*Department of Labor*

Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary, Employment Standards Administration. Effective March 7, 1997.

Speech Writer to the Assistant Secretary for Policy. Effective March 7, 1997.

Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs. Effective March 20, 1997.

Director of Communications and Public Information to the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training. Effective March 24, 1997.

Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary, Employment Standards Administration. Effective March 24, 1997.

Staff Assistant to the Administrator, Wage and Hour Division. Effective March 24, 1997.

Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health. Effective March 28, 1997.

*Department of State*

Staff Assistant to the Chief of Staff. Effective March 10, 1997.

*Department of the Treasury*

Director, Office of Public Affairs to the Deputy Assistant Secretary (Public Affairs). Effective March 5, 1997.

Public Affairs Specialist to the Director, Office of Public Affairs. Effective March 5, 1997.

Public Affairs Specialist to the Director of Public Affairs. Effective March 12, 1997.

Legislative Information Specialist to the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs. Effective March 12, 1997.

Staff Assistant to the Assistant Secretary (International Affairs). Effective March 24, 1997.

*Department of Veterans Affairs*

Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Effective March 7, 1997.

*Environmental Protection Agency*

Special Assistant to the Administrator. Effective March 6, 1997.

*National Aeronautics and Space Administration*

Legislative Affairs Specialist to the Associate Administrator, Legislative Affairs. Effective March 27, 1997.

*Office of Science and Technology Policy*

Confidential Assistant to the Associate Director, Technology Division. Effective March 31, 1997.

*Securities and Exchange Commission*

Secretary (OA) to the Director, Market Regulation. Effective March 14, 1997.

Director of Public Affairs to the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission. Effective March 21, 1997.

*Small Business Administration*

Special Assistant to the Administrator, Special Projects. Effective March 27, 1997.

*U.S. International Trade Commission*

Confidential Assistant to the Commissioner. Effective March 21, 1997.

*United States Information Agency*

Director, Office of Citizen Exchanges to the Associate Director, Bureau of Educations and Cultural Affairs. Effective March 18, 1997.

Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff, Office of the Director. Effective March 21, 1997.

Program Officer to the Deputy Director, Office of European and NIS Affairs. Effective March 24, 1997.

Director, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs to the Director, United States Information Agency. Effective March 28, 1997.

Senior Advisor to the Director, Office of Public Liaison. Effective March 31, 1997.

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 3301 and 3302; E.O. 10577, 3 CFR 1954-1958 Comp., P.218.  
Office of Personnel Management.

**James B. King,**

*Director.*

[FR Doc. 97-10900 Filed 4-25-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-01-M

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**PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON  
CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE  
PROTECTION**
**Public Meeting**

April 23, 1997.

**ACTION:** Houston PCCIP Public Meeting.

**TIME AND DATE:** 9am-12pm, Tuesday, May 13, 1997.

**PLACE:** Houston City Hall, City Council Chambers (Tent), 900 Bagby St., Houston, TX 77002.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:** Advice or comments of any concerned citizen, group or activity on assuring America's critical infrastructures.

**Note:** A sign-language interpreter will be available for the hearing-impaired.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Nelson McCouch, Public Affairs

Director, (703) 696-9395,  
nelson.mccouch@pccip.gov

**Robert E. Giovagnoni,**

*General Counsel, President's Commission on  
Critical Infrastructure Protection.*

[FR Doc. 97-10841 Filed 4-25-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3110-\$\$-P

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**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE  
COMMISSION**

[Rel. No. IC-22627; 811-7348]

**The Diaz-Verson Funds, Inc.; Notice of Application**

April 21, 1997.

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

**ACTION:** Notice of application for deregistration under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Act").

**APPLICANT:** The Diaz-Verson Funds, Inc.

**RELEVANT ACT SECTION:** Section 8(f).

**SUMMARY OF APPLICATION:** Applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company.

**FILING DATE:** The application was filed on December 31, 1996 and amended on April 8, 1997.

**HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING:** An order granting the application will be issued unless the SEC orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the SEC's Secretary and serving applicant with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the SEC by 5:30 p.m. on May 16, 1997, and should be accompanied by proof of service on applicant, 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 may request notification of a hearing by writing to the SEC's Secretary.

**ADDRESSES:** Secretary, SEC, 450 5th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Applicant, 1200 Brookstone Centre Parkway, Suite 105, Columbus, Georgia 31904.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Shirley A. Bodden, Paralegal Specialist, at (202) 942-0575, or Mercer E. Bullard, Branch Chief, at (202) 942-0564 (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 SEC's Public Reference Branch.

**Applicant's Representations**

1. Applicant is a registered open-end management investment company organized as a Maryland corporation. It has one portfolio, the Diaz-Verson Americas Equity Fund. On November 19, 1992, applicant registered under the Act by filing a notification of registration on Form N-8A. On the same date, applicant filed a registration statement under the Act and under the Securities Act of 1933 to register an indefinite number of shares of applicant. The registration statement became effective on March 3, 1993, and applicant commenced a public offering of the shares on March 23, 1993.

2. On September 30, 1996, applicant's board of directors met and authorized the liquidation and dissolution of the Fund pursuant to a Plan of Liquidation (the "Plan"), citing principally the lack of cost-effective marketing alternatives to increase applicant's size. Proxy materials were filed with the SEC on October 3, 1996, and were mailed to applicant's shareholders on October 18, 1996. Applicant's shareholders met on November 22, 1996 and approved the Plan.

3. On December 20, 1996, applicant had approximately 581,952.129 outstanding shares with an aggregate net asset value of \$5,797,266 and a per share net asset value of \$9.96. Pursuant to the Plan, all of applicant's assets were liquidated and a check representing each shareholder's portion of the proceeds was mailed on or about December 27, 1996. Each shareholder received proceeds equal to applicant's net asset value per share immediately prior to liquidation. Applicant's portfolio securities were all disposed of in the ordinary course of business at prevailing market prices, or pursuant to valuations approved by applicant's Board of Directors, at usual and customary brokerage commissions where commissions were charged. Applicant has made distributions in complete liquidation to all its securityholders.

4. Applicant anticipates liquidation expenses to be approximately \$30,000, which will be borne by applicant's adviser, Diaz-Verson Capital Investment, Inc. The adviser has paid to applicant all unamortized organizational expenses.

5. Applicant has no outstanding assets, securityholders, debts or liabilities. Applicant is not a party to any litigation or administrative proceeding. Applicant is not now engaged, nor does it propose to engage, in any business activities other than