

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NEWS DIGEST

A brief summary of financial proposals filed with and actions by the S.E.C.



Washington 25, D.C.

FOR RELEASE October 10, 1958

## PANAMA FILES FINANCING PROPOSAL

The Republic of Panama filed a registration statement (File 2-14432) with the SEC on October 9, 1958, seeking registration of \$16,700,000 of External Secured Bonds of 1958, to be offered for public sale through an underwriting group headed by Lehman Brothers. The interest rate, public offering price and underwriting terms are to be supplied by amendment.

The bonds are to be issued to provide funds to redeem and retire outstanding indebtedness of the Republic, including \$5,900,000 to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, \$3,000,000 loan of Chiriqui Land Co. (United Fruit Co.), \$1,450,000 Internal Investment and Savings Bonds, and \$1,300,000 Internal National Race Tract Bonds.

## PORTO RICO GAS PROPOSES SALE OF BONDS

Porto Rico Gas & Coke Company, subsidiary of Central Public Utility Corporation, has applied to the SEC for permission to issue and sell \$600,000 of First Mortgage Bonds, 5% Series, to State Mutual Life Assurance Company of America; and the Commission has issued an order giving interested persons until October 22, 1958, to request a hearing thereon. Proceeds of the sale of the bonds will be used to pay a like amount of unsecured notes payable to the San Juan Branch of the Chase Manhattan Bank.

## OHIO POWER TO ACQUIRE SENECA LIGHT ASSETS

American Electric Power Company, Inc., has joined with two of its subsidiaries, Ohio Power Company and The Seneca Light and Power Company, in the filing of an application with the SEC proposing the dissolution of Seneca and the transfer of its assets to Ohio Power; and the Commission has issued an order giving interested persons until October 24, 1958, to request a hearing thereon. The service area of Seneca is said to be surrounded by that of Ohio Power, from which Seneca purchases all its power. Under the proposal, Ohio Power will purchase the assets of Seneca and assume its liabilities; and it will issue to Seneca 6,236 shares of its common stock. Seneca will liquidate and dissolve, distributing to American the 6,236 shares of Ohio Power common.

## WESTERN LEAD PRODUCTS OFFERING SUSPENDED

The Securities and Exchange Commission has issued an order temporarily suspending a Regulation A exemption from registration under the Securities Act of 1933 with respect to a public offering of stock by Western Lead Products Co., of Los Angeles, California.

Regulation A provides a conditional exemption from registration for public offerings of securities not exceeding \$300,000 in amount. In a notification filed with the Commission August 1957, Western Lead Products proposed the public offering of 187,500 common shares at \$1.60 per share, pursuant to such an exemption.

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For further details, call ST. 3-7600, ext. 5526

In its suspension order the Commission asserts that Western Lead Products has failed to comply with one of the conditions of Regulation A by reason of its failure to file a revised offering circular, as required.

#### COLUMBIA GAS PROPOSES DEBENTURE OFFERING

The Columbia Gas System, Inc., New York, today filed a registration statement (File 2-14433) with the SEC seeking registration of \$25,000,000 of Debentures, Series K due 1983, to be offered for public sale at competitive bidding. Net proceeds of the sale of the debentures will be added to the general funds of the company and will be available for the various demands to be made upon such general funds. In addition to the demands arising from the normal requirements of the System for construction, additional demands will be made upon the general funds of the company in connection with the proposed acquisition of the properties of Gulf Interstate Gas Company, the proposal for which is now pending before the Commission.

#### SEC ORDERS FURTHER SUSPENSION OF TRADING IN CORNUCOPIA STOCK

The Securities and Exchange Commission announced today the issuance of an order pursuant to Section 19(a)(4) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 suspending trading on the American Stock Exchange in the \$.05 par value Common Stock of Cornucopia Gold Mines, with offices formerly in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for a further ten day period, October 13, 1958 to October 22, 1958, inclusive.

The action was based on the company's failure to comply with the reporting requirements of Section 13 of the Act and the disclosure requirements of the Commission's proxy rules under Section 14.

Upon the basis of a finding by the Commission that such suspension is necessary to prevent fraudulent, deceptive, or manipulative acts or practices in connection with trading in stock of Cornucopia Gold Mines, trading by brokers and dealers in such stock in the over-the-counter markets is also prohibited during the period of the suspension.

The Commission previously ordered proceedings pursuant to Section 19(a)(2) of the Act on the question whether the stock of Cornucopia Gold Mines should be suspended for a period not exceeding 12 months, or withdrawn, from listing and registration on the Exchange. These proceedings, in which hearings are now in progress, involve charges of non-compliance with the reporting and disclosure requirements of the Act.

#### NEW SEC RULE EXEMPTS EXCHANGE SPECIALISTS

The SEC today announced the adoption of a new Rule 15a-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 relieving stock exchange specialists from the necessity of registering as an over-the-counter broker-dealer by reason of transactions by the specialist in listed securities involving the block purchase and sale off the floor of an exchange of such a security when the transaction is approved by the exchange and is effected under its rules to help the specialist to maintain a fair and orderly market on the exchange.

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#### INTERMOUNTAIN PETROLEUM SUSPENSION EXTENDED FOR ONE WEEK

The SEC today ordered a one-week extension, to October 18, 1958, of the period of suspension of the listing and registration of the common stock of Intermountain Petroleum, Inc., of Salt Lake City, on the Salt Lake Stock Exchange.

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The Commission on August 12, 1958, announced that it had ordered a 60-day suspension of Intermountain's stock listing, based upon the company's failure to make timely filings of current (monthly) reports required by the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as well as the inclusion in such reports of misleading statements and the omission of material facts, and that failure to file corrected reports with the Exchange and the Commission within the 60-day period would result in permanent withdrawal of the stock from listing and registration.

According to the Commission's order announced today, the company has filed certain amended reports with the Commission and has advised that it will file additional corrected reports on or before October 17, 1958.

#### GENERAL ELECTRIC FILES SAVINGS PLAN

General Electric Company, Schenectady and New York City, New York, today filed a registration statement (File 2-14436) with the SEC seeking registration of 1,150,000 shares of its \$5 par Common Stock. These shares represent, according to the prospectus, the estimated maximum number of shares of General Electric common which would be purchased under and pursuant to the General Electric Savings and Security Program, with employee contributions and with earnings on all shares credited to participants under the Program during the first 18 months of its operations, computed on the basis of the highest price at which the shares were traded on the New York Stock Exchange on October 6, 1958.

The program is said to have been "designed to make it rewarding for you (the employee) to save regularly through convenient payroll deductions to meet your personal needs." It is contemplated that the program will become effective on January 1, 1959.

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