

the Paperwork Reduction Act, and is not derived from a comprehensive or even a representative survey or study of the costs of Commission rules.

Compliance with the collection of information required by Form 24F-2 is mandatory. The Form 24F-2 filing that must be made to the Commission is available to the public. 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.

The public may view the background documentation for this information collection at the following Web site, <http://www.reginfo.gov>. Comments should be directed to: (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, or by sending an email to:

Shagufta Ahmed@omb.eop.gov; and (ii) Thomas Bayer, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Remi Pavlik-Simon, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, VA 22312 or send an email to: *PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov*. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: November 3, 2011.

Kevin M. O'Neill,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Investor Education and Advocacy, Washington, DC 20549-0213.

Extension:

Form N-6F; SEC File No. 270-185; OMB Control No. 3235-0238.

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.

The title for the collection of information is "Form N-6F (17 CFR 274.15), Notice of Intent to Elect to be Subject to Sections 55 through 65 of the

Investment Company Act of 1940." The purpose of Form N-6F is to notify the Commission of a company's intent to file a notification of election to become subject to Sections 55 through 65 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-1 *et seq.*) ("1940 Act"). Certain companies may have to make a filing with the Commission before they are ready to elect to be regulated as a business development company.¹ A company that is excluded from the definition of "investment company" by Section 3(c)(1) because it has fewer than one hundred shareholders and is not making a public offering of its securities may lose such an exclusion solely because it proposes to make a public offering of securities as a business development company. Such company, under certain conditions, would not lose its exclusion if it notifies the Commission on Form N-6F of its intent to make an election to be regulated as a business development company. The company only has to file a Form N-6F once.

The Commission estimates that on average approximately thirteen companies file these notifications each year. Each of those companies need only make a single filing of Form N-6F. The Commission further estimates that this information collection imposes burden of 0.5 hours, resulting in a total annual PRA burden of 6.5 hours. Based on the estimated wage rate, the total cost to the industry of the hour burden for complying with Form N-6F would be approximately \$2,080.00.

The collection of information under Form N-6F is mandatory. The information provided under the form is not kept confidential. 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 OMB control number.

The public may view the background documentation for this information collection at the following Web site, <http://www.reginfo.gov>. Comments should be directed to: (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, or by sending an email to: *Shagufta Ahmed@omb.eop.gov*; and (ii) Thomas Bayer, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Remi Pavlik-

¹ A company might not be prepared to elect to be subject to Sections 55 through 65 of the 1940 Act because its capital structure or management compensation plan is not yet in compliance with the requirements of those sections.

Simon, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, VA 22312 or send an email to: *PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov*. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: November 3, 2011.

Kevin M. O'Neill,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Investor Education and Advocacy, Washington, DC 20549-0213.

Extension:

Form N-54C; SEC File No. 270-184; OMB Control No. 3235-0236.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) (the "PRA"), the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget a request for extension of the previously approved collection of information discussed below.

Under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-1 *et seq.*) (the "Investment Company Act"), certain investment companies can elect to be regulated as business development companies, as defined in Section 2(a)(48) of the Investment Company Act (15 U.S.C. 80a-2(a)(48)). Under Section 54(a) of the Investment Company Act (15 U.S.C. 80a-53(a)), any company defined in Section 2(a)(48)(A) and (B) of the Investment Company Act (15 U.S.C. 80a-2(a)(48)(A) and (B)), may, if it meets certain enumerated eligibility requirements, elect to be subject to the provisions of Sections 55 through 65 of the Investment Company Act (15 U.S.C. 80a-54 to 80a-64) by filing with the Commission a notification of election on Form N-54A (17 CFR 274.53). Under Section 54(c) of the Investment Company Act (15 U.S.C. 80a-53(c)), any business development company may voluntarily withdraw its election under Section 54(a) of the Investment Company Act (15 U.S.C. 80a-53(a)) by filing a notice of withdrawal of election with the Commission. The Commission has adopted Form N-54C (17 CFR 274.54) as the form for notification of withdrawal of election to be subject to Sections 55 through 65 of the Investment Company Act.

The purpose of Form N-54C is to notify the Commission that the business development company withdraws its election to be subject to Sections 55 through 65 of the Investment Company Act, enabling the Commission to administer those provisions of the Investment Company Act to such companies.

The Commission estimates that on average approximately 10 business development companies file these notifications each year. Each of those business development companies need only make a single filing of Form N-54C. The Commission further estimates that this information collection imposes a burden of one hour, resulting in a total annual PRA burden of 10 hours. Based on the estimated wage rate, the total cost to the business development industry of the hour burden for complying with Form N-54C would be approximately \$3,200.00.

The collection of information under Form N-54C is mandatory. The information provided by the form is not kept confidential. 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.

The public may view the background documentation for this information collection at the following Web site, <http://www.reginfo.gov>. Comments should be directed to: (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, or by sending an email to: Shagufta_Ahmed@omb.eop.gov; and (ii) Thomas Bayer, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Remi Pavlik-Simon, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, VA 22312 or send an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: November 3, 2011.

Kevin M. O'Neill,

Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Investor

Education and Advocacy,
Washington, DC 20549-0213.

Extension:

Rule 0-1, SEC File No. 270-472, OMB Control No. 3235-0531.

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 previous approved collection of information discussed below.

The Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Act")¹ establishes a comprehensive framework for regulating the organization and operation of investment companies ("funds"). A principal objective of the Act is to protect fund investors by addressing the conflicts of interest that exist between funds and their investment advisers and other affiliated persons. The Act places significant responsibility on the fund board of directors in overseeing the operations of the fund and policing the relevant conflicts of interest.²

In one of its first releases, the Commission exercised its rulemaking authority pursuant to sections 38(a) and 40(b) of the Act by adopting rule 0-1 (17 CFR 270.0-1).³ Rule 0-1, as subsequently amended on numerous occasions, provides definitions for the terms used by the Commission in the rules and regulations it has adopted pursuant to the Act. The rule also contains a number of rules of construction for terms that are defined either in the Act itself or elsewhere in the Commission's rules and regulations. Finally, rule 0-1 defines terms that serve as conditions to the availability of certain of the Commission's exemptive rules. More specifically, the term "independent legal counsel," as defined in rule 0-1, sets out conditions that funds must meet in order to rely on any of ten exemptive rules ("exemptive rules") under the Act.⁴

The Commission amended rule 0-1 to include the definition of the term

"independent legal counsel" in 2001.⁵ This amendment was designed to enhance the effectiveness of fund boards of directors and to better enable investors to assess the independence of those directors. The Commission also amended the exemptive rules to require that any person who serves as legal counsel to the independent directors of any fund that relies on any of the exemptive rules must be an "independent legal counsel." This requirement was added because independent directors can better perform the responsibilities assigned to them under the Act and the rules if they have the assistance of truly independent legal counsel.

If the board's counsel has represented the fund's investment adviser, principal underwriter, administrator (collectively, "management organizations") or their "control persons"⁶ during the past two years, rule 0-1 requires that the board's independent directors make a determination about the adequacy of the counsel's independence. A majority of the board's independent directors are required to reasonably determine, in the exercise of their judgment, that the counsel's prior or current representation of the management organizations or their control persons was sufficiently limited to conclude that it is unlikely to adversely affect the counsel's professional judgment and legal representation. Rule 0-1 also requires that a record for the basis of this determination is made in the minutes of the directors' meeting. In addition, the independent directors must have obtained an undertaking from the counsel to provide them with the information necessary to make their determination and to update promptly that information when the person begins to represent a management organization or control person, or when he or she materially increases his or her representation. Generally, the independent directors must re-evaluate their determination no less frequently than annually.

Any fund that relies on one of the exemptive rules must comply with the requirements in the definition of "independent legal counsel" under rule 0-1. We assume that approximately 3,796 funds rely on at least one of the

¹ 15 U.S.C. 80a.

² For example, fund directors must approve investment advisory and distribution contracts. *See* 15 U.S.C. 80a-15(a), (b), and (c).

³ Investment Company Act Release No. 4 (Oct. 29, 1940) (5 FR 4316 (Oct. 31, 1940)). Note that rule 0-1 was originally adopted as rule N-1.

⁴ The relevant exemptive rules are: rule 10f-3 (17 CFR 270.10f-3), rule 12b-1 (17 CFR 270.12b-1), rule 15a-4(b)(2) (17 CFR 270.15a-4(b)(2)), rule 17a-7 (17 CFR 270.17a-7), rule 17a-8 (17 CFR 270.17a-8), rule 17d-1(d)(7) (17 CFR 270.17d-1(d)(7)), rule 17e-1(c) (17 CFR 270.17e-1(c)), rule 17g-1 (17 CFR 270.17g-1), rule 18f-3 (17 CFR 270.18f-3), and rule 23c-3 (17 CFR 270.23c-3).

⁵ *See* Role of Independent Directors of Investment Companies, Investment Company Act Release No. 24816 (Jan. 2, 2001) (66 FR 3735 (Jan. 16, 2001)).

⁶ A "control person" is any person—other than a fund—directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by, or under common control, with any of the fund's management organizations. *See* 17 CFR 270.01(a)(6)(iv)(B).