FOR INFORMATION REGARDING ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATION CONTACT: Mary Beth Smith-Toomey, Budget & Administrative Services Division, (202) 606-0623.
 Janice R. Lachance, Director.
 [FR Doc. 98-11405 Filed 4–28–98; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 6325–01–M

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

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Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request for Reclearance of a Revised Information Collection: Form RI 20–1

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management. ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13, May 22, 1995), this notice announces that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) intends to submit to the Office of Management and Budget a request for reclearance of a revised information collection. RI 20–1, Application for Minimum Annuity, is completed by annuitants to determine if they qualify for minimum annuity under the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 8345(f).

Comments are particularly invited on: whether this 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 of information 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 the use of appropriate technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Approximately 50 RI 20–1 forms will be completed annually. We estimate it takes approximately 15 minutes to complete the form. The annual burden is 13 hours.

For copies of this proposal, contact Jim Farron on (202) 418–3208, or e-mail to jmfarron@opm.gov

DATES: Comments on this proposal should be received on or before June 29, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send or deliver comments to Lorraine E. Dettman, Chief, Operations Support Division, Retirement and Insurance Service, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street, NW, Room 3349, Washington, DC 20415.

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee; Open Committee Meetings

According to the provisions of section 10 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463, notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, May 7, 1998. The meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. and will be held in Room SA06A, Office of Personnel Management Building, 1900 E Street, NW, Washington, DC. The Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee is composed of a Chair, five representatives from labor unions holding exclusive bargaining rights for Federal blue-collar employees, and five representatives from Federal agencies. Entitlement to membership on the Committee is provided for in 5 U.S.C. 5347.
The following key features are incorporated into the revised Form 8125 for single mailings:

- Form 8125 contains only essential elements presented in an easy-to-read format.
- Form 8125 will continue to be a three-part form:
  - Facsimile forms used by mailers must closely mirror the layout and content of Form 8125.
  - Detailed instructions for completion of the form will be printed on the reverse of each page of the Form 8125. These instructions will not be required to be printed on facsimile forms.
  - Removing the instructions from the front of the form will make the form less cluttered and ensure that key information about mailings(s) will appear more prominently. Facsimile forms also will be easier to print. The instructions to appear on the reverse have been expanded to provide more information about PVDS requirements because these postal forms are more likely to be used by mailers less familiar with PVDS than mailers who use computer-generated facsimile forms.
  - The information on the front of Form 8125 more clearly describes the mail verified for both mailers and postal employees responsible for verifying and accepting PVDS mailings.
  - The revised form includes information for contacting the origin postal facility and mailer when problems are identified at destination entry offices.
  - Because it is the key to closing out an appointment in the Drop Ship Appointment System (DSAS), the confirmation (appointment) number is moved to the top of Form 8125 to make it clearly identifiable.
  - No data elements of the revised Form 8125 appear in shaded areas (currently the entry post office block is shaded) because shaded areas do not photograph.
  - Information about the units comprising the mailing are described more clearly to differentiate between mail properly presorted and cleared for acceptance at origin as palletized mail and mail that was not cleared at origin as palletized mail (e.g., trays presorted on pallets will be identified as such while trays that are not verified and cleared as properly palletized trays will be identified as nonpalletized mail).
  - A mailer comment section is included in Part 1. This may be used for information relevant to the load or the shipper, such as the name (and possibly the telephone number) of the consolidator, if one is used, if known at the time the form is being completed.
  - Information has been added to accommodate drop-shipped international mail (e.g., ISAL).
  - Information about load condition for completion by entry postal facilities is included on Form 8125 in a manner (as a list of items to check) that will facilitate entering the information into DSAS.

**Proposed Format for Form 8125-C**

Some mailers have been approved to present facsimile consolidated Forms 8125. The new Form 8125-C allows mailers to identify multiple mailings for the same destination entry office that are prepared by a single mailer and verified and cleared for dispatch on a single day. The mailings must be transported on the same vehicle to the destination entry office. The consolidated form contains information on each mailing and total information about the unit loads being presented to the destination entry office. It simplifies the process by which the destination entry office compares total mail units presented with the totals shown on the consolidated form (e.g., total pallets). The new Form 8125-C was established by the MTAC work group members to replace the variety of formats currently being used by mailers. Because these forms are most likely to be computer generated, there is no justification for the Postal Service to print Form 8125-C.

The proposed format of Form 8125-C omits several separate data blocks that appear in Part 1—Mailer and Part 2—Post Office of Origin sections on Form 8125 because the information is shown in the line item entries describing each individual mailing reported on the facsimile consolidated Form 8125-C in Part 1. For example, the following items that appear in separate sections in Parts 1 and 2 on the revised Form 8125 are included in the line entry (in columns) for each mailing reported on the consolidated Form 8125-C:

- Class of mail
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Rel. No. IC–23126; 812–10892]

The Americas Growth Fund, Inc., et al.; Notice of Application

April 23, 1998.

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

ACTION: Notice of application for exemption under section 57(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the ”Act”) from section 57(a) of the Act.

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION: The order would permit The Americas Growth Fund, Inc. ("AGRO"), a business development company ("BDC"), to complete a merger with an affiliated person.

APPLICANTS: AGRO and J W Charles Financial Services, Inc. ("JWCFS").

FILING DATE: The application was filed on December 9, 1997. Applicants have agreed to file an amendment, the substance of which is incorporated in this notice, during the notice period.

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 applicants 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 19, 1998, and should be accompanied by proof of service on applicants 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 who wish to be notified of a hearing may request notification by writing to the SEC’s Secretary.

APPLICATION:

1. AGRO is a Maryland corporation that is a closed-end non-diversified management investment company and that has elected to be regulated as a BDC under the Act. AGRO’s common stock was listed on Nasdaq until delisted on March 17, 1998. JWCFS is a Florida corporation and a financial services holding company. JWCFS, through wholly-owned subsidiaries, engages primarily in securities brokerage, investment banking, and clearing and execution of securities transactions. JWCFS’s common stock trades on the American Stock Exchange ("AMEX").

2. On August 13, 1997, JWCFS commenced an exchange offer (the “Exchange Offer”) to AGRO’s shareholders to acquire each share of AGRO common stock for .431 shares of JWCFS common stock (the “Exchange Ratio”). The Exchange Ratio was calculated based upon the net asset value (“NAV”) per share of AGRO common stock on March 31, 1997 and the average of the last reported sales prices of JWCFS common stock on AMEX for the ten trading days immediately preceding the public announcement of the Exchange Offer on June 9, 1997. JWCFS valued AGRO common stock based upon its NAV per share of AGRO common stock as of March 31, 1997 and the average of the last reported sales prices of JWCFS common stock on AMEX as of June 9, 1997.

3. Applying the Exchange Ratio, AGRO common stock would be exchanged for .431 share of JWCFS common stock. AGRO’s shareholders would receive .431 share of JWCFS common stock for each share of AGRO common stock owned by them which is the same as the Exchange Ratio used for the Exchange Offer. Since AGRO shareholders would not receive additional consideration beyond the Exchange Ratio, AGRO shareholders would be entitled to receive .431 share of JWCFS common stock for each share of AGRO common stock owned by them.

4. Under the terms of the Merger, AGRO would become the parent corporation and a financial services holding company. AGRO, through its wholly-owned subsidiaries, engages primarily in securities brokerage, investment banking, and clearing and execution of securities transactions. AGRO’s common stock trades on the AMEX. The price of AGRO common stock was $3.66 and $3.50 on September 22, 1997 and September 22, 1997, respectively. AGRO’s shareholders on August 14, 1997, received a prospectus and related letter of transmittal relating to the Exchange Offer. AGRO shareholders were mailed the Exchange Offer and related letter of transmittal on September 22, 1997.

For Further Information Contact: Stanley F. Mires, Chief Counsel, Legislative. [FR Doc. 98–11045 Filed 4–28–98; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 7710–12–P