Commission finds that the proposal is consistent with the requirement of Section 6(b)(8)[10] that the proposed rule change not impose a burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the Act's purpose.

The Exchange has indicated that it intends to police compliance with the conditions applicable to the use of telephones at the equity trading posts through complaints from Exchange members at the post, as well as observations of Floor Officials and Exchange staff. The Exchange has further indicated that the OFTC will be responsible for implementing this policy in conformity with Exchange Rules and the Act, including approving access and the phone technology, and will decide any other issues relating to this policy.[11] The Commission finds that these proposed means of surveillance are consistent with prevention of fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, as required by Section 6(b)(5).

For these reasons, the Commission finds good cause for approving the proposed rule change (SR–PCX–00–33) prior to the thirtieth day after the date of publication of notice thereof in the **Federal Register.** The Commission notes that PCX's proposal is virtually identical to a proposed rule change by CBOE (SR–CBOE–00–04) that was recently approved by the Commission.[12]

The Commission believes that proper surveillance is an essential component of any policy governing telephone access to an exchange's trading floor. Especially important in this case is ensuring that the PCX's surveillance efforts prevent individuals who are not properly qualified to take public orders for securities (*i.e.,* non-Series 7 registered Exchange employees) from interacting with the public. The Commission finds that the safeguards proposed above by the PCX are consistent with the prevention of fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, as required under Section 6(b)(5).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,[13] that the proposed rule change (SR–PCX–00–33) is hereby approved on an accelerated basis.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.[14]

Jonathan G. Katz,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01–1802 Filed 1–19–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010–01–M

Attorney, Division of Market Regulation, SEC (December 1, 2000).

[10] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(8).

[11] Under this proposal, PCX Floor Brokers now will be able to receive telephone orders via personal or Exchange-owned cellular or cordless telephones (pursuant to proposed Rule 6.2(h)(5)(A)). The PCX represents, and the Commission notes, that surveillance of such telephone usage will be accomplished through the record-maintenance requirements in PCX Rule 6.2(h)(9), which would require members to maintain cellular or cordless phone records for at least one year and give the Exchange the authority to inspect such records. Telephone conversation between Cindy Sink, Senior Attorney, PCX, and Geoffrey Pemble, Attorney, Division of Market Regulation, SEC (November 30, 2000).

[12] *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 43493 (October 30, 2000).

[13] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

[14] 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12).

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Notice Inviting Applications for Funding Under the Business-to-Business Learning, Investment, Networking and Collaboration (BusinessLINC) Program

AGENCY: U.S. Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Notice of Invitation for Applications for Awards for FY 2001.

SUMMARY: The Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) invites applications for awards for fiscal year 2001 under a grant competition supported by § 102 of Public Law No. 106–554, BusinessLINC Grants and Cooperative Agreements (''BusinessLINC''). The statute authorizes the Administrator to enter into cooperative agreements with qualified coalitions of public and private entities to promote the growth of small businesses by matching large concerns with small concerns and creating business-to-business partnering and mentoring relationships. These BusinessLINC cooperative agreements would provide funding to qualified coalitions to: (1) Expand business-to-business relationships between large and small businesses, and (2) provide businesses with online information and a database of companies that are interested in mentor-protégé programs or community-based, statewide, or local business development programs. Coalitions may consist of public entities, private entities, or a combination of public and private entities. To qualify, the coalition must provide an amount, either in-kind or in cash, equal to the grant amount.

Subject to funding availability, SBA intends to award up to $7.0 million in appropriated funds under this notice and expects to issue up to 50 awards. SBA reserves the right to fund, in whole or in part, any, all or none of the applications submitted in response to this notice. Award amounts may vary, depending upon availability of funds (and performance for option years); however, award amounts will be at least $25,000 and no single awardee may receive more than $250,000 in a single fiscal year.

The selection criteria to be used for this competition will be provided in the application package.

DATES: The closing date for applications is March 20, 2001, 4 p.m., Eastern Standard Time (EST).

ADDRESSES: To obtain a copy of the complete application package, call Mina Bookhard at (202) 205–7080, or see the BusinessLINC Program Announcement under the ''Go To New Stuff'' icon on SBA's website at www.sba.gov.

FOR APPLICATIONS AND FURTHER INFORMATION: Questions concerning the technical aspects of this notice should be directed to Rick Mayronne at (202) 205–7736. Questions about budget or funding matters should be directed to Mina Bookhard at (202) 205–7080.

Program Authority: 15 U.S.C. § 637(n).

Dated: January 12, 2001.

Aida Alvarez,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 01–1709 Filed 1–19–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025–01–P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

SBA Minority Contractors Finance Pilot Loan Program

AGENCY: Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Notice of pilot program ''SBA Minority Contractors Finance Pilot Loan Program''

SUMMARY: The Small Business Administration (SBA) is establishing a pilot program in which certain lenders will be permitted to use their own documentation forms to expeditiously approve loan amounts up to $250,000 for small business contractors and subcontractors in Rhode Island using the Section 7(a) loan program. The program will offer a technical assistance component provided by a Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and additional guaranty support from non-SBA sources for a lower risk exposure that is attractive to lenders and other modifications to SBA's normal lending practices and procedures. This program will be called the SBA Minority Contractors Finance Pilot Loan Program. The purpose for this 18-month pilot program is to address the

difficulties that small business contractors and subcontractors generally experience with access to capital and bonding. This loan pilot program is a key part of an initiative that will first operate in Rhode Island and, may be expanded to other areas of the country.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This pilot will be effective on January 22, 2001 and will remain in effect for 18 months.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Hayward, District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration—Rhode Island District Office, 380 Westminster Mall, 5th floor, Providence, RI 02903, (401) 528–4540; FAX: (401) 528–4539.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Small Business Administration is establishing a streamlined, user friendly loan pilot program designed to help contractors and subcontractors more readily obtain financing and bonding.

SBA found that small business contractors and sub-contractors historically have not received the procurement, management, technical, and financial assistance necessary to maintain their viability. A Rhode Island advisory panel comprised of local lenders, contractors, bonding agents, and state agencies examined the problem and determined that lending to contractors and subcontractors was specialized financing and that the local lending community was disinclined to provide the same level of underwriting and post approval oversight on loans of $250,000 or less as they were for larger contract loans. Moreover, the interest of the taxpayers whose funds support the SBA guaranty had to be protected.

The principal barriers were seen as (i) too much risk and (ii) excessive cost of monitoring. SBA concluded that if borrowers received specialized technical assistance and the contribution of additional guaranty support from sources outside SBA, financing might be more forthcoming from local lenders.

To that end, the Agency has authorized the acceptance of a supplemental guaranty on a portion (up to 90 percent) of the unguaranteed percentage of SBA 7(a) loans, that will be offered by a lending entity of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation. The lending entity will contribute as much as $250,000 to assist minority business enterprises.

The specialized technical assistance component will include the utilization of a SBDC to provide the loan packaging assistance that would help the contractors and sub-contractors prepare their commercial loan applications. Non-SBA funds will support the hiring of an experienced team of contracting professionals with the proper knowledge, skills, and abilities to assist the 15–30 client contractors expected to participate in the pilot in bidding, managing, and completing their projects for 18 months. These professionals will be selected by an Executive Committee consisting of SBA staff, local lenders, contractors, bonding agents, and state agencies in a private/state/federal partnership. The Executive Committee also will provide guidance and oversight of the program. The non-SBA funding and resource partners are private foundations, state agencies, banks, and corporations who are committed to producing positive results. Finally, as part of the technical assistance, an Advisory Board is being formed consisting of prime contractors and state agencies to assure deal flow and expertise.

This pilot program emphasizes collaboration and partnerships with Federal, state and local agencies, as well as private sector partners. The pilot program is scheduled to last 18 months, beginning January 22, 2001. Prior to the termination date, SBA will evaluate the program to determine if it should be continued as is, expanded, or ended.

Program authority: 15 U.S.C. 636(a)(25)(b) or Section 7(a)(25)(b) of the Small Business Act.

Dated: January 11, 2001.

Charles D. Tansey,

Associate Deputy Administrator for Capital Access.

[FR Doc. 01–1787 Filed 1–19–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025–01–U

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

The Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel Meeting

AGENCY: Social Security Administration (SSA).

ACTION: Notice of teleconference and meeting.

DATES: Teleconference: January 23, 2001, 1:30–3:30 p.m.

Meeting

February 6, 2001, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
February 7, 2001, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
February 8, 2001, 9:00 a.m.–5 p.m.

ADDRESSES:

Teleconference

Social Security Administration, International Trade Center, 500 E St. SW, 8th Floor, Theatre Room, Washington, DC 20254.

Meeting

Bethesda Hyatt, One Bethesda Metro Center, Bethesda, MD, 20814; Phone 301–657–1234; Fax, 301–657–6453. The hotel is located two doors down from the Bethesda Metro Station on the Red line.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Type of meeting: These meetings are open to the public. Interested parties are invited to attend the meetings. The public is invited to participate by coming to the addresses listed above or calling into the teleconference. The public is also invited to submit comments in writing at any time on or before February 8, 2001.

Purpose: In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Social Security Administration (SSA) announces meetings of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act (TWWIIA) Advisory Panel (the Panel). Section 101(f) of Public Law 106–170 establishes the Panel to advise the Commissioner of SSA, the President, and the Congress on issues related to work incentives programs, planning and assistance for individuals with disabilities as provided under section 101(f)(2)(A) of the TWWIIA. The Panel is also to advise the Commissioner on matters specified in section 101(f)(2)(B) of that Act, including certain issues related to the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program established under section 101(a) of that Act.

The Panel will meet by teleconference commencing Tuesday, January 23, 2001 at 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Panel will use the teleconference to conduct full Panel deliberations on the implementation of the TWWIIA. Public testimony will not be taken.

Agenda (Teleconference): The Panel will deliberate on the implementation of TWWIIA. The public is invited to participate by coming in to the address listed above or calling in to the scheduled teleconference to listen. No public testimony will be taken.

The Panel will meet in person commencing Tuesday, February 6, 2001 at 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, February 7, 2001 at 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday, February 8, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Panel will use the meeting to receive public testimony, hear presentations on the implementation of TWWIIA, conduct full Panel deliberations, receive briefings and conduct business.

Agenda (Meeting): Public testimony will be heard in person on Tuesday, February 6, 2001 and Wednesday, February 7, 2001 from 8:30 to 9:30. Individuals interested in providing