

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Exchange Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-NYSEArca-2009-83 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NYSEArca-2009-83. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet Web site (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of the filing will also be available for inspection and copying at NYSE Arca's principal office. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NYSEArca-2009-83 and should be submitted on or before October 30, 2009.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁷

Florence E. Harmon,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. E9-24353 Filed 10-8-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-60783; File No. SR-MSRB-2009-15]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Amendments to Rule A-13, on Underwriting Assessments and Rule G-32, on Disclosures in Connection With Primary Offerings

October 2, 2009.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on September 30, 2009, the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board ("MSRB" or "Board"), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II and III below, which Items have been prepared by the MSRB. The MSRB has designated the proposed rule change as changing a fee applicable to brokers, dealers and municipal securities dealers pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act,³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(2) thereunder,⁴ which renders the proposal effective upon filing with the Commission. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The MSRB is filing amendments to Rule A-13, which provides for fee assessments based on underwriting activity and Rule G-32, by adding a definition of commercial paper. The proposed rule change would apply to primary offerings of municipal securities for which submission of Form G-32 under Rule G-32(b)(i)(A) is initiated on or after December 1, 2009. The text of the proposed rule change is available on the MSRB's Web site at <http://www.msrb.org/msrb1/sec.asp>, at

¹⁷ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

the MSRB's principal office, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the MSRB included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The MSRB has prepared summaries, set forth in Sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to assess reasonable fees necessary to defray the costs and expenses of operating and administering the MSRB. The proposed rule change would partially accomplish this purpose by amending Rule A-13 to eliminate exemptions in Rule A-13 pertaining to underwriting assessments for primary offerings of municipal securities that: (i) Have an aggregate par value less than \$1,000,000; (ii) have a final stated maturity of nine months or less, except commercial paper; (iii) at the option of the holder thereof, may be tendered to an issuer of such securities or its designated agent for redemption or purchase at par value or more at least as frequently as every nine months until maturity, earlier redemption, or purchase by an issuer or its designated agent; and (iv) have authorized denominations of \$100,000 or more and are sold to no more than thirty-five persons each of whom the broker, dealer or municipal securities dealer ("dealer") reasonably believes: (A) Has the knowledge and experience necessary to evaluate the merits and risks of the investment; and (B) is not purchasing for more than one account, with a view toward distributing the securities ("limited offering"). The underwriting fee for primary offerings of these securities will be \$.03 per \$1000 par value, which is the current underwriting fee for primary offerings of municipal bonds. Additionally, the proposed rule change will further harmonize the underwriting fees of notes and bonds by changing the underwriting fee on primary offerings in which all securities offered have a final stated maturity less than two years to the rate of \$.03 per

\$1000 par value. For purposes of the underwriting assessment under Rule A-13, a primary offering will be defined to mean a primary offering under Exchange Act Rule 15c2-12, but excludes subsequent remarketings after the initial issuance of the bonds or notes. Rule G-32 has also been amended to include a new definition of commercial paper.

The MSRB currently levies three types of fees that are generally applicable to dealers. Rule A-12 provides for a \$100 initial fee paid once by a dealer when it enters the municipal securities business. Rule A-13 provides for an underwriting fee of \$.03 per \$1000 par value of bonds and \$.01 per \$1000 par value of notes (with specified exceptions), and a transaction fee of \$.005 per \$1000 par value of sale transactions of specified securities. Rule A-14 provides for an annual fee of \$500 from each dealer who conducts municipal securities activities.

The underwriting and transaction fees in Rule A-13 assess fees that are generally proportionate to a dealer's activity within the industry. Historically, municipal notes were either exempt from underwriting fees or were subject to reduced underwriting fees (\$.01 per \$1000), and variable rate demand obligations, small issues, and limited offerings also were exempt from underwriting fees. The MSRB believes that such a fee structure has become increasingly inequitable as the volume of primary offerings in these categories (including in particular note issues) has grown, and the MSRB's resources have been devoted to supporting both notes and bonds. The elimination of exemptions for these categories of primary offerings will result in fees that are more fairly, reasonably and equitably allocated to reflect dealer participation in the overall municipal debt market.

During the past five years, the Board's ongoing expenses have increased significantly due to increased regulatory activities and expanded market information products and services, including the new Electronic Municipal Market Access system ("EMMA") to implement the new "access equals delivery" primary market disclosure service under MSRB Rule G-32 and the new continuing disclosure service to implement the Commission's amendments to Exchange Act Rule 15c2-12 as well as the Short-term Obligation Rate Transparency system ("SHORT") for interest rate transparency for variable rate demand obligations and auction rate securities. These new systems and their associated rules greatly enhance the efficiency of

the municipal securities market and provide critical information to dealers and investors. The proposed rule change is designed to better match the MSRB's revenues with the operating costs associated with these important new systems and the costs of regulating the municipal securities market.

2. Statutory Basis

The MSRB believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of Section 15B(b)(2)(J) of the Act,⁵ which requires, in pertinent part, that the MSRB's rules shall:

Provide that each municipal securities broker and each municipal securities dealer shall pay to the Board such reasonable fees and charges as may be necessary or appropriate to defray the costs and expenses of operating and administering the Board. Such rules shall specify the amount of such fees and charges.

The proposed rule change provides for reasonable fees, based on dealer involvement in the municipal securities market that are necessary to defray MSRB expenses. The proposed rule change will result in a more equitable distribution of fees among dealers in the municipal securities market based on their level of activity in the primary market for municipal bonds and notes.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The MSRB does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, since it would apply equally to all dealers and would be apportioned based on such dealers' level of participation in the municipal securities primary market.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants or Others

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

The proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act⁶ and Rule 19b-4(f)(2) thereunder,⁷ in that the proposed amendments to Rule A-13 and Rule G-32 change fees applicable to brokers, dealers and municipal securities dealers. The proposed rule change would apply to primary offerings of

municipal securities for which submission of Form G-32 under MSRB Rule G-32(b)(i)(A) is initiated on or after December 1, 2009. At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.⁸

IV. Solicitation of Comments

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Electronic Comments

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- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-MSRB-2009-15 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-MSRB-2009-15. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet Web site (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the MSRB. All

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78o-4(b)(2)(J).

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

⁷ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

⁸ See Section 19(b)(3)(C) of the Act, 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(C).

comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR–MSRB–2009–15 and should be submitted on or before October 30, 2009.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.⁹

Florence E. Harmon,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. E9–24354 Filed 10–8–09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB–55 (Sub–No. 699X)]

CSX Transportation, Inc.— Abandonment Exemption—in McMinn County, TN

CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon a 0.22-mile line of railroad on CSXT's Southern Region, Huntington-West Division, KD Subdivision, extending from milepost OKW 333.40 to milepost OKW 333.62, in Athens, McMinn County, TN.¹ The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Code 37303.

CSXT has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) any overhead traffic on the line can be rerouted over other lines; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Board or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the 2-year period; and (4) the requirements of 49 CFR 1105.7 (environmental report), 49 CFR 1105.8 (historic report), 49 CFR 1105.11 (transmittal letter), 49 CFR 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 CFR

1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the abandonment shall be protected under *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) must be filed.

Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on November 10, 2009, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,² formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),³ and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by October 19, 2009. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by October 29, 2009, with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20423–0001.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to CSXT's representative: Kathryn R. Barney, 500 Water Street, J–150, Jacksonville, FL 32202.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*.

CSXT has filed environmental and historic reports which address the effects, if any, of the abandonment on the environment and historic resources. SEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by October 16, 2009. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 1100, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423–0001) or by calling SEA, at (202) 245–0305. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339.] Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), CSXT shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the line. If consummation has not been effected by CSXT's filing of a notice of consummation by October 9, 2010, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

Decided: October 2, 2009.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell,
Director, Office of Proceedings.

Kulunie L. Cannon,

Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. E9–24258 Filed 10–8–09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Senior Executive Service; Departmental Offices Performance Review Board

AGENCY: Treasury Department.

ACTION: Notice of members of the Departmental Offices Performances Review Board.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 4314(c)(4), this notice announces the appointment of members of the Departmental Offices Performance Review Board (PRB). The purpose of this Board is to review and make recommendations concerning proposed performance appraisals, ratings, bonuses and other appropriate personnel actions for incumbents of SES positions in the Departmental Offices, excluding the Legal Division. The Board will perform PRB functions for other bureau positions if requested.

Composition of Departmental Offices PRB: The Board shall consist of at least three members. In the case of an appraisal of a career appointee, more than half the members shall consist of career appointees. The names and titles of the Board members are as follows: Coloretti, Nani Ann, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management and Budget. Dohner, Robert S., Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and East Asia. Duffy, Michael D., Deputy Assistant Secretary for Information Systems and Chief Information Officer. Fitzpayne, Alistair M., Deputy Chief of Staff.

⁹ 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12).

¹ By decision and notice served on July 27, 2001, in STB Docket No. AB–55 (Sub–No. 586X), CSXT was granted an exemption from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to abandon a larger rail line between milepost OKW 333.40, and milepost OKW 334.24. That exemption included the smaller line segment at issue here, between milepost OKW 333.40 and milepost OKW 333.62. CSXT allowed the abandonment authority for this smaller segment to expire when it did not, by July 27, 2002, file with the Board a notice of consummation of abandonment of this smaller segment.

² The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. See *Exemption of Out-of-Service Rail Lines*, 5 I.C.C.2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

³ Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which is currently set at \$1,500. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).