

need a reasonable accommodation to participate in these public meetings, or need this meeting notice or the transcript or other information from the public meetings in another format (e.g. braille, large print), please notify Angela Bolduc, Chief, Employee/Labor Relations and Work Life Branch, at 301-492-2230, TDD: 301-415-2100, or by e-mail at [angela.bolduc@nrc.gov](mailto:angela.bolduc@nrc.gov). Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

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Dated: November 22, 2010.

**Rochelle C. Baval,**

*Policy Coordinator, Office of the Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2010-30093 Filed 11-24-10; 4:15 pm]

**BILLING CODE 7590-01-P**

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

*Upon Written Request, Copies Available*

From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Investor Education and Advocacy, Washington, DC 20549-0213.

#### Extension:

Rule 701, OMB Control No. 3235-0522, SEC File No. 270-306.

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") is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Rule 701 (17 CFR 230.701) under the Securities Act of 1933 ("Securities Act") (15 U.S.C. 77a *et seq.*) provides an exemption for certain issuers from the registration requirements of the Securities Act for limited offerings and sales of securities issued under compensatory benefit plans or contracts. The purpose of Rule 701 is to ensure that a basic level of information is available to employees and others when substantial amounts of securities are issued in compensatory arrangements. Approximately 300 companies annually

rely on the Rule 701 exemption. The Rule 701 disclosure takes an estimated 2 hours per response to prepare for a total annual burden of 600 hours. We estimate that 25% of the 2 hours per response (0.5 hours) is prepared by the company for a total annual reporting burden of 150 hours (0.5 hours per response × 300 responses).

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether this collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden imposed by the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

Please direct your written comments to Thomas Bayer, Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, C/O Remi Pavlik-Simon, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, Virginia 22312; or send an e-mail to: [PRA\\_Mailbox@sec.gov](mailto:PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov).

Dated: November 22, 2010.

**Elizabeth M. Murphy,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2010-29889 Filed 11-26-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8011-01-P**

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-63363; File No. S7-04-09]

### Order Extending Temporary Conditional Exemption for Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations From Requirements of Rule 17g-5 Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Request for Comment

November 23, 2010.

#### I. Introduction

On May 19, 2010, the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") conditionally exempted, with respect to certain credit ratings and until December 2, 2010, nationally recognized statistical rating organizations ("NRSROs") from certain requirements in Rule 17g-5(a)(3)<sup>1</sup> under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

("Exchange Act"), which had a compliance date of June 2, 2010.<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to the Order, an NRSRO is not required to comply with Rule 17g-5(a)(3) until December 2, 2010 with respect to credit ratings where: (1) The issuer of the structured finance product is a non-U.S. person; and (2) the NRSRO has a reasonable basis to conclude that the structured finance product will be offered and sold upon issuance, and that any arranger linked to the structured finance product will effect transactions of the structured finance product after issuance, only in transactions that occur outside the U.S. ("covered transactions").<sup>3</sup> The Commission is extending the temporary conditional exemption exempting NRSROs from complying with Rule 17g-5(a)(3) with respect to rating covered transactions until December 2, 2011.

#### II. Background

Rule 17g-5 identifies, in paragraphs (b) and (c) of the rule, a series of conflicts of interest arising from the business of determining credit ratings.<sup>4</sup> Paragraph (a) of Rule 17g-5<sup>5</sup> prohibits an NRSRO from issuing or maintaining a credit rating if it is subject to the conflicts of interest identified in paragraph (b) of Rule 17g-5 unless the NRSRO has taken the steps prescribed in paragraph (a)(1) (*i.e.*, disclosed the type of conflict of interest in Exhibit 6 to Form NRSRO in accordance with Section 15E(a)(1)(B)(vi) of the Exchange Act<sup>6</sup> and Rule 17g-1)<sup>7</sup> and paragraph (a)(2) (*i.e.*, established and is maintaining and enforcing written policies and procedures to address and manage conflicts of interest in accordance with Section 15E(h) of the Exchange Act).<sup>8</sup> Paragraph (c) of Rule 17g-5 specifically prohibits seven types of conflicts of interest. Consequently, an NRSRO is prohibited from issuing or maintaining a credit rating when it is subject to these conflicts regardless of whether it had disclosed them and established procedures reasonably designed to address them.

In December 2009, the Commission adopted subparagraph (a)(3) to Rule 17g-5. This provision requires an NRSRO that is hired by an arranger to determine an initial credit rating for a structured finance product to take

<sup>2</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 62120 (May 19, 2010), 75 FR 28825 (May 24, 2010) ("Order").

<sup>3</sup> See *id.* at 28827-28 (setting forth conditions of relief).

<sup>4</sup> 17 CFR 240.17g-5(b) and (c).

<sup>5</sup> 17 CFR 240.17g-5(a).

<sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78o-7(a)(1)(B)(vi).

<sup>7</sup> 17 CFR 240.17g-1.

<sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78o-7(h).

<sup>1</sup> See 17 CFR 240.17g-5(a)(3).