

security holders no later than the lesser of 60 calendar days prior to the date on which the meeting of security holders is held or action is taken, or the maximum number of days permitted for giving notice under applicable state law.

[51 FR 42070, Nov. 20, 1986, as amended at 56 FR 57254, Nov. 8, 1991; 57 FR 1102, Jan. 10, 1992; 57 FR 48295, Oct. 22, 1992]

§ 240.14c-3 Annual report to be furnished security holders.

(a) If the information statement relates to an annual (or special meeting in lieu of the annual) meeting, or written consent in lieu of such meeting, of security holders at which directors of the registrant, other than an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, are to be elected, it shall be accompanied or preceded by an annual report to security holders:

(1) The annual report shall contain the information specified in paragraphs (b)(1) through (b)(11) of Rule 14a-3 (§ 240.14a-3 of this chapter.)

(2) [Reserved]

NOTE TO SMALL BUSINESS ISSUERS —In responding to the disclosure items under paragraph (b) of Rule 14a-3, (§ 240.14a-3 of this chapter) a “small business issuer,” defined under Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act (§ 240.12b-2), shall refer to the disclosure items in Regulation S-B (§ 228.10—702 of this chapter) rather than Regulation S-K (§ 229.10—702 of this chapter). If there is no comparable disclosure item in Regulation S-B, a small business issuer need not provide the information requested. A small business issuer shall provide the information in Item 310(a) of Regulation S-B in lieu of the financial information required by Rule 14a-3(b)(1) (§ 240.14a-3(b)(1)). Small business issuers using the transitional small business issuers disclosure format in the filing of their most recent annual report on Form 10-KSB (§ 249.310b of this chapter) need not provide the information required by paragraph (b) of Rule 14a-3. Rather, those small business issuers shall provide only the financial statements required to be filed in their most recent Form 10-KSB. The inclusion of additional information, including information required of non-transitional small business issuers, in the annual report to security holders will not cause the issuer to be ineligible for the transitional disclosure forms.

(b) Seven copies of the report sent to security holders pursuant to this rule

shall be mailed to the Commission, solely for its information, not later than the date on which such report is first sent or given to security holders or the date on which preliminary copies, or definitive copies, if preliminary filing was not required, of the information statement are filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 14c-5, whichever date is later. The report is not deemed to be “filed” with the Commission or subject to this regulation otherwise than as provided in this rule, or to the liabilities of section 18 of the Act, except to the extent that the registrant specifically requests that it be treated as a part of the information statement or incorporates it in the information statement or other filed report by reference.

(c) A registrant will be considered to have delivered an annual report or information statement to security holders of record who share an address if the requirements set forth in § 240.14a-3(e)(1) are satisfied with respect to the annual report or information statement, as applicable.

(Secs. 6, 7, 8, 10, 19(a), 48 Stat. 78, 79, 81, 85; secs. 12, 13, 14, 15(d), 23(a), 48 Stat. 892, 894, 901; secs. 205, 209, 48 Stat. 906, 908; sec. 203(a), 49 Stat. 704; secs. 1, 3, 8, 49 Stat. 1375, 1377, 1379; sec. 301, 54 Stat. 857; secs. 8, 202, 68 Stat. 685, 686; secs. 3, 4, 5, 6, 78 Stat. 565-568, 569, 570-574; sec. 1, 79 Stat. 1051; secs. 1, 2, 3, 82 Stat. 454, 455; secs. 1, 2, 3-5, 28(c), 84 Stat. 1435, 1497; sec. 105(b), 88 Stat. 1503; secs. 8, 9, 10, 11, 18, 89 Stat. 117, 118, 119, 121, 155; 15 U.S.C. 77f, 77g, 77h, 77j, 77s(a), 78l, 78m, 78n, 78l(d), 78w(a))

[39 FR 40770, Nov. 20, 1974, as amended at 45 FR 63647, Sept. 25, 1980; 51 FR 42071, Nov. 20, 1986; 52 FR 48984, Dec. 29, 1987; 58 FR 26519, May 4, 1993; 59 FR 52700, Oct. 19, 1994; 59 FR 67765, Dec. 30, 1994; 64 FR 62547, Nov. 16, 1999; 65 FR 65751, Nov. 2, 2000]

§ 240.14c-4 Presentation of information in information statement.

(a) The information included in the information statement shall be clearly presented and the statements made shall be divided into groups according to subject matter and the various groups of statements shall be preceded by appropriate headings. The order of items and sub-items in the schedule need not be followed. Where practicable and appropriate, the information shall be presented in tabular form.

All amounts shall be stated in figures. Information required by more than one applicable item need not be repeated. No statement need be made in response to any item or sub-item which is inapplicable.

(b) Any information required to be included in the information statement as to terms of securities or other subject matters which from a standpoint of practical necessity must be determined in the future may be stated in terms of present knowledge and intention. Subject to the foregoing, information which is not known to the registrant and which it is not reasonably within the power of the registrant to ascertain or procure may be omitted, if a brief statement of the circumstances rendering such information unavailable is made.

(c) All printed information statements shall be in roman type at least as large and as legible as 10-point modern type except that to the extent necessary for convenient presentation, financial statements and other tabular data, but not the notes thereto, may be in roman type at least as large and as legible as 8-point modern type. All such type shall be leaded at least 2 points.

(d) Where an information statement is delivered through an electronic medium, issuers may satisfy legibility requirements applicable to printed documents, such as type size and font, by presenting all required information in a format readily communicated to investors.

[31 FR 262, Jan. 8, 1966, as amended at 36 FR 8935, May 15, 1971; 51 FR 42071, Nov. 20, 1986; 61 FR 24657, May 15, 1996]

§ 240.14c-5 Filing requirements.

(a) *Preliminary information statement.* Five preliminary copies of the information statement shall be filed with the Commission at least 10 calendar days prior to the date definitive copies of such statement are first sent or given to security holders, or such shorter period prior to that date as the Commission may authorize upon a showing of good cause therefor. In computing the 10-day period, the filing date of the preliminary copies is to be counted as the first day and the 11th day is the date on which definitive copies of the information statement may be mailed to se-

curity holders. A registrant, however, shall not file with the Commission a preliminary information statement if it relates to an annual (or special meeting in lieu of the annual) meeting, of security holders at which the only matters to be acted upon are:

- (1) The election of directors;
- (2) The election, approval or ratification of accountant(s);
- (3) A security holder proposal identified in the registrant's information statement pursuant to Item 4 of Schedule 14C (§ 240.14c-101); and/or
- (4) The approval or ratification of a plan as defined in paragraph (a)(7)(ii) of Item 402 of Regulation S-K (§ 229.402(a)(7)(ii) of this chapter) or amendments to such a plan.

This exclusion from filing a preliminary information statement does not apply if the registrant comments upon or refers to a solicitation in opposition in connection with the meeting in its information statement.

NOTE 1: The filing of revised material does not recommence the ten day time period unless the revised material contains material revisions or material new proposal(s) that constitute a fundamental change in the information statement.

NOTE 2: The officials responsible for the preparation of the information statement should make every effort to verify the accuracy and completeness of the information required by the applicable rules. The preliminary statement should be filed with the Commission at the earliest practicable date.

NOTE 3: Solicitation in Opposition—For purposes of the exclusion from filing a preliminary information statement, a “solicitation in opposition” includes: (a) Any solicitation opposing a proposal supported by the registrant; and (b) any solicitation supporting a proposal that the registrant does not expressly support, other than a security holder proposal identified in the registrant's information statement pursuant to Item 4 of Schedule 14C (§ 240.14c-101 of this chapter). The identification of a security holder proposal in the registrant's information statement does not constitute a “solicitation in opposition,” even if the registrant opposes the proposal and/or includes a statement in opposition to the proposal.

NOTE 4: A registrant that is filing an information statement in preliminary form only because the registrant has commented on or referred to an opposing solicitation should indicate that fact in a transmittal letter when filing the preliminary material with the Commission.