

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[SEC File No. 270–501, OMB Control No. 3235–0559]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of FOIA Services, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549–2736

Extension:
Rule 203A–2(e)

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) (“PRA”), the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) is soliciting comments on the collections 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 203A–2(e),¹ which is entitled “Internet Investment Advisers,” exempts from the prohibition on Commission registration an internet investment adviser who provides investment advice to all of its clients exclusively through computer software-based models or applications, termed under the rule as “interactive websites.”² These advisers generally would not meet the statutory thresholds currently set out in section 203A of the Advisers Act³—they do not manage \$25 million or more in assets and do not advise registered investment companies, or they manage between \$25 million and \$100 million in assets, do not advise registered investment companies or business development companies, and are required to be registered as investment advisers with the states in which they maintain their principal offices and places of business and are subject to examination as an adviser by such states.⁴ Eligibility under rule 203A–2(e) is conditioned on an adviser maintaining in an easily accessible place, for a period of not less than five

years from the filing of Form ADV,⁵ a record demonstrating that the adviser’s advisory business has been conducted through an interactive website in accordance with the rule.⁶

This record maintenance requirement is a “collection of information” for PRA purposes. The Commission believes that approximately 181 advisers are registered with the Commission under rule 203A–2(e), which involves a recordkeeping requirement of approximately four burden hours per year per adviser and results in an estimated 724 of total burden hours (4 × 181) for all advisers.

This collection of information is mandatory, as it is used by Commission staff in its examination and oversight program in order to determine continued Commission registration eligibility for advisers registered under this rule. Responses generally are kept confidential pursuant to section 210(b) of the Advisers Act.⁷ Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) The accuracy of the Commission’s estimate of the burden of 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. An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the PRA that does not display a valid OMB control number.

Please direct your written comments to David Bottom, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, C/O Cynthia Roscoe, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549; or send an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.

⁵ The five-year record retention period is a similar recordkeeping retention period as imposed on all advisers under rule 204–2 of the Advisers Act. See rule 204–2 (17 CFR 275.204–2).

⁶ 17 CFR 275.203A–2(e)(1)(ii).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 80b–10(a).

Dated: February 27, 2020.

J. Matthew DeLesDernier,
Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2020–04352 Filed 3–2–20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[SEC File No. 270–473, OMB Control No. 3235–0530]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of FOIA Services, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549–2736

Extension:
Rule 32a–4

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 collections of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit these existing collections of information to the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”) for extension and approval.

Section 32(a)(2) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a 31(a)(2)) (“Act”) requires that the selection of a registered management investment company’s or registered face-amount certificate company’s (collectively, “funds”) independent public accountant be submitted to shareholders for ratification or rejection. Rule 32a–4 under the Investment Company Act (17 CFR 270.32a–4) exempts a fund from this requirement if, among other things, the fund has an audit committee consisting entirely of independent directors. The rule permits continuing oversight of a fund’s accounting and auditing processes by an independent audit committee in place of a shareholder vote.

Among other things, in order to rely on rule 32a–4, a fund’s board of directors must adopt an audit committee charter and must preserve that charter, and any modifications to the charter, permanently in an easily accessible place. The purpose of these conditions is to ensure that Commission staff will be able to monitor the duties and responsibilities of an audit committee of a fund relying on the rule.

Commission staff estimates that on average the board of directors takes 15 minutes to adopt the audit committee charter. Commission staff has estimated that with an average of 8 directors on

¹ 17 CFR 275.203A–2(e).

² Included in rule 203A–2(e) is a limited exception to the interactive website requirement which allows these advisers to provide investment advice to fewer than 15 clients through other means on an annual basis. 17 CFR 275.203A–2(e)(1)(i). The rule also precludes advisers in a control relationship with an SEC-registered internet adviser from registering with the Commission under the common control exemption provided by rule 203A–2(b) (17 CFR 275.203A–2(b)). 17 CFR 275.203A–2(e)(1)(iii).

³ 15 U.S.C. 80b–3a(a).

⁴ *Id.*

the board,¹ total director time to adopt the charter is 2 hours. Combined with an estimated ½ hour of paralegal time to prepare the charter for board review, the staff estimates a total one-time collection of information burden of 2½ hours for each fund. Once a board adopts an audit committee charter, the charter is preserved as part of the fund's records. Commission staff estimates that there is no annual hourly burden associated with preserving the charter in accordance with this rule.²

Because virtually all existing funds have now adopted audit committee charters, the annual one-time collection of information burden associated with adopting audit committee charters is limited to the burden incurred by newly established funds. Commission staff estimates that fund sponsors establish approximately 90 new funds each year,³ and that all of these funds will adopt an audit committee charter in order to rely on rule 32a-4. Thus, Commission staff estimates that the annual one-time hour burden associated with adopting an audit committee charter under rule 32a-4 is approximately 225 hours.⁴

When funds adopt an audit committee charter in order to rely on rule 32a-4, they also may incur one-time costs related to hiring outside counsel to prepare the charter. Commission staff estimates that those costs average approximately \$1,500 per fund.⁵ As noted above, Commission staff estimates that approximately 90 new funds each year will adopt an audit committee charter in order to rely on rule 32a-4. Thus, Commission staff estimates that the ongoing annual cost burden associated with rule 32a-4 in the future will be approximately \$135,000.⁶

These estimates of average costs are made solely for the purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act. The

estimates are not derived from a comprehensive or even a representative survey or study of the costs of Commission rules. The collections of information required by rule 32a-4 are necessary to obtain the benefits of the rule. The Commission is seeking OMB approval, because an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's estimates of the burdens of the collections of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burdens of the collections 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 David Bottom, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, C/O Cynthia Roscoe, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549; or send an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.

Dated: February 27, 2020.

J. Matthew DeLesDernier,
Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2020-04351 Filed 3-2-20; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meetings

FEDERAL REGISTER CITATION OF PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENT: To be published.

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED TIME AND DATE OF THE MEETING: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

CHANGES IN THE MEETING: The Open Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. has been changed to Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: For further information and to ascertain what, if any, matters have been added, deleted or postponed, please contact the Office of the Secretary at (202) 551-5400.

Dated: February 28, 2020.

Eduardo A. Aleman,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2020-04433 Filed 2-28-20; 4:15 pm]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[SEC File No. 270-231, OMB Control No. 3235-0229]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of FOIA Services, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-2736

Extension:

Form N-17D-1

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget a request for extension of the previously approved collection of information discussed below.

Section 17(d) (15 U.S.C. 80a-17(d)) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("Act") authorizes the Commission to adopt rules that protect funds and their security holders from overreaching by affiliated persons when the fund and the affiliated person participate in any joint enterprise or other joint arrangement or profit-sharing plan. Rule 17d-1 under the Act (17 CFR 270.17d-1) prohibits funds and their affiliated persons from participating in a joint enterprise, unless an application regarding the transaction has been filed with and approved by the Commission. Paragraph (d)(3) of the rule provides an exemption from this requirement for any loan or advance of credit to, or acquisition of securities or other property of, a small business concern, or any agreement to do any of the foregoing ("investments") made by a small business investment company ("SBIC") and an affiliated bank, provided that reports about the investments are made on forms the Commission may prescribe. Rule 17d-2 (17 CFR 270.17d-2) designates Form N-17D-1 (17 CFR 274.200) ("form") as the form for reports required by rule 17d-1.

SBICs and their affiliated banks use form N-17D-1 to report any contemporaneous investments in a small business concern. The form provides shareholders and persons seeking to make an informed decision about investing in an SBIC an

¹ This estimate is based on staff experience and on discussions with a representative of an entity that surveys funds and calculates fund board statistics based on responses to its surveys.

² This estimate is based on staff experience and discussions with funds regarding the hour burden related to maintenance of the charter.

³ This estimate is based on the average number of notifications of registration on Form N-8A filed from 2017-2019.

⁴ This estimate is based on the following calculation: (2.5 burden hours for establishing charter × 90 new funds = 225 burden hours).

⁵ Costs may vary based on the individual needs of each fund. However, based on the staff's experience and conversations with outside counsel that prepare these charters, legal fees related to the preparation and adoption of an audit committee charter usually average \$1500 or less. The Commission also understands that model audit committee charters are available, which reduces the costs associated with drafting a charter.

⁶ This estimate is based on the following calculations: (\$1500 cost of adopting charter × 90 newly established funds = \$135,000).