

rule change would allow certain proceedings by video conference if the NAC or OHO determine that proceeding in person may endanger the health or safety of the participants or would be impracticable.⁵⁴ Additionally, the proposed rule change would allow certain proceedings by video conference where both parties prefer doing so and show good cause, or where neither party would be materially disadvantaged.⁵⁵ For approximately two and half years, while the temporary amendments were in effect, OHO and the NAC successfully conducted numerous disciplinary and evidentiary hearings by video conference.⁵⁶

The proposed rule change would provide greater flexibility and efficiency for FINRA's disciplinary and eligibility proceedings and other review processes which serve a critical role in providing investor protection and maintaining fair and orderly markets, while maintaining appropriate safeguards. The proposed rule change would enable OHO and the NAC to respond to unanticipated events such as health emergencies, natural disasters or terrorist attacks more quickly to avoid backlogs or unnecessary delays.⁵⁷ Currently, as set forth in the Notice, FINRA does not have permanent rules that allow for video conference hearings before OHO and the NAC, even when both parties prefer proceeding by video conference, or doing so would not materially disadvantage any party, or when video conference is the only practicable method.⁵⁸ However, the successful implementation of video conference hearings during the COVID-19 global health crisis demonstrated that technology can be an effective and efficient alternative to in-person hearings.⁵⁹ The backlog of cases that arose as a result of the postponement of hearings during the COVID-19 pandemic before the temporary amendments were enacted illustrate the need for greater flexibility to empower OHO and the NAC to react more expeditiously.⁶⁰ The proposed rule change would modernize existing procedures and allow parties who jointly prefer video conference to potentially save travel costs and time.⁶¹

⁵⁴ See *supra* notes 21–22, 31, 38 and accompanying text.

⁵⁵ See *supra* notes 33–34, 40–43 and accompanying text.

⁵⁶ See *supra* note 18 and accompanying text.

⁵⁷ See Notice at 28647.

⁵⁸ See Notice at 28648.

⁵⁹ See Notice at n.6; see also *supra* note 18 and accompanying text.

⁶⁰ See Notice at 28647.

⁶¹ See Notice at 28649.

Additionally, the use of video conferences would be limited and controlled. Notably, in-person hearings would still be the default method for conducting hearings.⁶² Furthermore, the proposed rule includes procedural safeguards to ensure fairness, such as the requirement for evidentiary hearings that any motions be joined by all parties and show good cause and, for oral argument, the ability of any party to oppose an order or motion to proceed by video conference on grounds that doing so would materially disadvantage that party.⁶³

For these reasons, the Commission finds the proposed rule change is consistent with the protection of investors and in the public interest.

IV. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered pursuant to section 19(b)(2) of the Exchange Act⁶⁴ that the proposed rule change (SR–FINRA–2023–008) be, and hereby is, approved.

Dated: July 31, 2023.

Sherry R. Haywood,
Assistant Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[SEC File No. 270–610, OMB Control No. 3235–0707]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Extension: Form SF–1

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

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”) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget this request for extension of the previously approved collection of information discussed below.

Form SF–1 (17 CFR 239.44) is the registration statement for non-shelf issuers of assets-backed securities register a public offering of their securities under the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77a *et seq.*). The information collected is intended to ensure that the information required to

⁶² See *supra* note 29 and accompanying text.

⁶³ See Notice at 28647–28648.

⁶⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

be filed by the Commission permits verification of compliance with securities law requirements and assures the public availability of such information in the asset-backed securities market. Form SF–1 takes approximately 1,381.33 hours per response and is filed by approximately 6 respondents. We estimate that 25% of the 1,381.33 hours per response (345.33 hours) is prepared by the registrant for a total annual reporting burden of 2,072 hours (345.33 hours per response × 6 responses).

An agency may conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

The public may view background documentation for this information collection at the following website: www.reginfo.gov. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice by September 5, 2023 to (i) www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain and (ii) David Bottom, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o John Pezzullo, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549, or by sending an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.

Dated: August 1, 2023.

Sherry R. Haywood,
Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2023–16676 Filed 8–3–23; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meetings

TIME AND DATE: 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 9, 2023 and 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 10, 2023.

PLACE: These meetings will be held via remote means and/or at the Commission's headquarters, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549.

STATUS: These meetings will be closed to the public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Commissioners, Counsel to the Commissioners, the Secretary to the Commission, and recording secretaries will attend the closed meetings. Certain staff members who have an interest in the matters also may be present.

In the event that the time, date, or location of these meetings change, an