



8011-01p
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

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 203A-2(e)

SEC File No. 270-501, OMB Control No. 3235-0559

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

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).

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 x 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

⁴ *Id.*

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).

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.

Dated: March 5, 2020.

J. Matthew DeLesDernier,
Assistant Secretary.