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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

OMB Control No. 3235-0360, SEC File No. 270-317

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Extension: Form N-17f-2

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 (the “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.

Form N-17f-2 (17 CFR 274.220) under the Investment Company Act is entitled “Certificate of Accounting of Securities and Similar Investments in the Custody of Management Investment Companies.” Form N-17f-2 is the cover sheet for the accountant examination certificates filed under rule 17f-2 (17 CFR 270.17f-2) by registered management investment companies (“funds”) maintaining custody of securities or other investments. Form N-17f-2 facilitates the filing of the accountant’s examination certificates prepared under rule 17f-2. The use of the form allows the certificates to be filed electronically, and increases the accessibility of the examination certificates to both the Commission’s examination staff and interested investors by ensuring that the certificates are filed under the proper Commission file number and the correct name of a fund.

Commission staff estimates that it takes: (i) on average 1.25 hours of fund accounting

personnel at a total cost of 272 to prepare each Form N-17f-2;¹ and (ii) .75 hours of administrative assistant time at a total cost of \$57 to file the Form N-17f-2 with the Commission.² Approximately 201 funds currently file Form N-17f-2 with the Commission. Commission staff estimates that on average each fund files Form N-17f-2 three times annually for a total annual hourly burden per fund of approximately 6 hours at a total cost of \$1,002. The total annual hour burden for Form N-17f-2 is therefore estimated to be approximately 1,206 hours at a total cost of approximately \$201,402.³ Form N-17f-2 does not impose any paperwork related cost burdens other than this internal hour cost.

The estimate of average burden hours is made solely for the purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act, and is not derived from a comprehensive or even a representative survey or study of the costs of Commission rules and forms. Complying with the collections of information required by Form N-17f-2 is mandatory for those funds that maintain custody of their own assets. Responses will not be kept confidential. 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.

The Commission requests written comments 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 burdens of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of

¹ This estimate is based on the following calculation: $1.25 \times \$218$ (fund senior accountant's hourly rate) = \$272.

² This estimate is based on the following calculation: $.75 \times \$76$ (administrative assistant hourly rate) = \$61.

³ This estimate is based on the following calculation: $201 \text{ funds} \times \$1,002$ (total annual cost per fund) = \$201,402.

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 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: September 24, 2020.

J. Matthew DeLesDernier,
Assistant Secretary.

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