• Evaluate the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
• Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;
• Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

II. Current Actions

The Office’s of Management and Budget (OMB’s) approval of this ICR will expire on November 30, 2001. OMB’s approval should be extended because without the relief provided by this exemption, broker-fiduciaries who provide investment management services to accounts for which they also effect transactions for the purchase or sale of securities, may be barred by ERISA from providing these combined services to employee benefit plans, causing disruption of the existing business practices of plans and the businesses that service them.

In order to insure that the exemption is not abused, that the rights of participants and beneficiaries are protected, and that the exemption’s conditions are being complied with, the Department has included in the exemption five information collection requirements. The first requirement is written authorization executed in advance by an independent fiduciary of the plan whose assets are involved in the transaction with the broker-fiduciary. The second requirement is, within three months of the authorization, the broker-fiduciary furnish the independent fiduciary with any reasonably available information necessary for the independent fiduciary to determine whether an authorization should be made. The information must include a copy of the exemption, a form for termination, and a description of the broker-fiduciary’s brokerage placement practices. The third requirement is that the broker-fiduciary must provide a termination form to the independent fiduciary annually so that the independent fiduciary may terminate the authorization without penalty to the plan; failure to return the form constitutes continuing authorization. The fourth requirement is for the broker-fiduciary to report all transactions to the independent fiduciary, either by confirmation slips or through quarterly reports. The fifth requirement calls for the broker-fiduciary to provide an annual summary of the transactions. The annual summary must contain all security transaction-related charges incurred by the plan, the brokerage placement practices, and a portfolio turnover ratio.

Agency: Department of Labor, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration.
Title: PTE 86–128 for Certain Transactions Involving Employee Benefit Plans and Securities Broker-Dealers.
Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.
OMB Numbers: 1210–0050.
Affected Public: Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.
Total Respondents: 23,000.
Total Responses: 292,000.
Frequency of Response: Quarterly; Annually.
Total Annual Burden: 98,200 hours.
Total Annual Cost (Operating & Maintenance): $188,200.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.


Gerald B. Lindrew,
Deputy Director, Office of Policy and Research, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–44681; File No. SR–CBOE–00–12]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing of a Proposed Rule Change and Amendment No. 1 by Chicago Board Options Exchange, Inc. Relating to the Expansion of the Equity Hedge Exemption From Position and Exercise Limits
