In light of the importance of a timely examination of the Fiduciary Rule pursuant to Section 1 of the Presidential Memorandum dated February 3, 2017, the Request for Information (RFI) asked for comments to be submitted on the January 1, 2018, applicability date on or before July 21, 2017, and for comments in response to all other questions in the RFI on or before August 7, 2017. A number of stakeholders, however, have requested a longer period in order to gather evidence and respond with new information.

The Department encourages commenters to submit responses within the initial timeframes to ensure their consideration as part of an expeditious process. Nevertheless, the Department’s examination is ongoing as is its consideration of possible proposals for new exemptions or revisions to the Fiduciary Rule and PTEs. Accordingly, if commenters submit thoughtful comments on questions 2-18 after August 7, 2017, the Department will endeavor to consider those comments. The Department continues to encourage interested parties to submit comments as soon as reasonably possible but appreciates that a longer period may allow some commenters to provide additional information. There will, however, be a point in time when it will not be feasible to consider new comments submitted in response to the RFI in connection with the Department’s examination of the Fiduciary Rule and its consideration of possible proposals for new exemptions or changes to the Rule and PTEs.