

about the public meeting process should be directed to Francis Cameron; Office of the General Counsel, USNRC, Washington DC 20555-000; E-mail: FXC@nrc.gov; telephone: (301) 415-1642.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Draft NUREG-1556, Consolidated Guidance About Materials Licenses—Volume 9, Program—Specific Guidance About Medical Use Licenses

The NRC is issuing a draft of NUREG-1556, Volume 9, for public comment for a 60-day period. In addition to obtaining written comments, the staff will be conducting a public workshop on April 25, 2002, to obtain stakeholder comments on this Volume, with emphasis on therapeutic applications of byproduct materials. A second public workshop will be held on April 30, 2002, to receive stakeholder input on guidance, with emphasis on diagnostic applications of byproduct materials. Both workshops will be held in the Auditorium at NRC Headquarters in Rockville, MD.

The NRC staff is seeking input on the guidance contained in the draft NUREG, previously published for public comment in August 1998, in order to make the guidance as useful as possible to those who may seek NRC licensure under 10 CFR part 35, "Medical Use of Byproduct Material." Comments received since publication of the 1998 draft have been considered by staff; these comments and NRC's responses appear in Appendix Z of the current draft. Comments about any of the guidance in Volume 9 are welcome; staff is especially interested in receiving comments on the following questions:

1. Level of Detail and Format: Is the format and level of detail in the guidance appropriate for first-time applicants? Should the guidance be more general in describing acceptable methods of meeting 10 CFR part 35 requirements? If so, please provide suggestions for revisions. Discussion about the pros and cons of providing extensive detail about safety and other procedures would be especially helpful.
2. Model Procedures: Are the model procedures helpful as written? Should they be retained or rewritten? If so, please provide suggestions for revisions.
3. Licensing Guidance Specific to Diagnostic Nuclear Medicine: The staff is considering development of a summary of the licensing requirements for diagnostic medical use of byproduct materials? Is such a document desirable? What should be provided in the guidance? How long should it be?
4. Other Guidance: Are there additional voluntary industry consensus

standards or other publically available documents that should be considered for reference in NUREG-1556, Volume 9?

To facilitate the NRC's handling of comments, we request that commenters relate their comments to specific sections and/or appendices in the NUREG. This will help place the comments in context and aid in understanding how they relate to the guidance.

The NRC is placing added emphasis on conducting its regulatory activities in a risk-informed and performance-based manner. This approach is intended to be less prescriptive and allow for the implementation of programs by licensees that may be specific to their needs while meeting the regulatory requirements. In the past, applicants have requested guidance from the NRC staff on what procedures are acceptable, with the expectation that licensing process delays would thereby be avoided. Others have expressed the view that the provision of specific guidance results in the perception that the only way to receive a license is to adhere to the guidance. The NRC staff seeks to meet the needs of applicants for licensure, while not suggesting that details in the guidance are prescriptive. Comments on Volume 9 will help NRC staff to provide guidance that is helpful while not providing too much detail.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 28th day of March, 2002.

For The Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Patricia K. Holahan,

Chief, Rulemaking and Guidance Branch, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 02-8243 Filed 4-4-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549

Extension:

Rule 17f-2(e), SEC File No. 270-37; OMB Control No. 3235-0031

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") 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.

Rule 17f-2(e) requires members of national securities exchanges, brokers, dealers, registered transfer agents, and registered clearing agencies claiming exemption from the fingerprinting requirements of Rule 17f-2 to prepare and maintain a statement supporting their claim for exemption. Approximately 75 respondents incur an annual total burden of 37.5 hours complying with the requirements of Rule 17f-2(e).

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimates of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be 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 Michael E. Bartell, Associate Executive Director, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 5th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549.

Dated: March 29, 2002.

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-8205 Filed 4-4-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. IC-25502]

Notice of Applications for Deregistration Under Section 8(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

March 29, 2002.

The following is a notice of applications for deregistration under section 8(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 for the month of March, 2002. A copy of each application may be obtained for a fee at the SEC's Public Reference Branch, 450 Fifth St., NW, Washington, DC 20549-0102 (tel. 202-942-8090). An order granting each

application will be issued unless the SEC orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing on any application by writing to the SEC's Secretary at the address below and serving the relevant applicant with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the SEC by 5:30 p.m. on April 23, 2002, and should be accompanied by proof of service on the applicant, in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Hearing requests should state the nature of the writer's interest, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons who wish to be notified of a hearing may request notification by writing to the Secretary, SEC, 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549-0609. For Further Information Contact: Diane L. Titus, at (202) 942-0564, SEC, Division of Investment Management, Office of Investment Company Regulation, 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549-0506.

Amivest/NFB Funds Trust [File No. 811-9719]

Summary: Applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. Applicant has never made a public offering of its securities and does not propose to make a public offering or engage in business of any kind.

Filing Date: The application was filed on March 14, 2002.

Applicant's Address: 275 Broad Hollow Rd., Melville, NY 11747.

Firstar Funds, Inc. [File No. 811-5380]

Summary: Applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. By September 26, 2001, each series of applicant had transferred its assets to a corresponding series of First American Funds, Inc., First American Investment Funds, Inc., or First American Strategy Funds, Inc., based on net asset value. Expenses of \$3,936,000 incurred in connection with the reorganization were paid by U.S. Bancorp, the parent of applicant's investment adviser.

Filing Date: The application was filed on March 11, 2002.

Applicant's Address: 615 East Michigan St., PO Box 3011, Milwaukee, WI 53202-3011.

Merrill Lynch Utility Income Fund, Inc. [File No. 811-7071]

Summary: Applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. On August 21, 2000, applicant transferred its assets to Merrill Lynch Utilities & Telecommunications Fund, Inc.

(formerly, Merrill Lynch Global Utility Fund, Inc.), based on net asset value. Expenses of approximately \$169,315 incurred in connection with the reorganization were paid by applicant and Merrill Lynch Investment Managers, L.P., applicant's investment adviser.

Filing Date: The application was filed on March 1, 2002.

Applicant's Address: 800 Scudders Mill Rd., Plainsboro, NJ 08536.

The Righttime Fund, Inc. [File No. 811-4231]

Summary: Applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. On December 7, 2001, applicant transferred its assets to Federated Equity Funds—Federated Capital Appreciation Fund, based on net asset value. Expenses of approximately \$192,575 incurred in connection with the reorganization were paid by Righttime Econometrics Inc., applicant's investment adviser, Lincoln Investment Planning, Inc., applicant's principal underwriter, and Federated Investors, Inc., the service provider for the acquiring fund.

Filing Dates: The application was filed on December 21, 2001, and amended on March 13, 2002.

Applicant's Address: 218 Glenside Ave., Wyncote, PA 19095-1594.

Van Ness Funds [File No. 811-9741]

Summary: Applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. On January 31, 2002, applicant made a liquidating distribution to its shareholders based on net asset value. Expenses of approximately \$47,000 incurred in connection with the liquidation were paid by Whatifi Asset Management, Inc., applicant's investment adviser.

Filing Date: The application was filed on March 1, 2002.

Applicant's Address: c/o Whatifi Financial, Inc., 100 Unicorn Park Drive, Woburn, MA 01801.

Dresdner RCM Global Strategic Income Fund, Inc. [File No. 811-4800]

Summary: Applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. On January 18, 2002, applicant transferred its assets to RCM Strategic Global Government Fund, Inc., based on net asset value. Expenses of \$938,506 incurred in connection with the reorganization were paid by applicant and the acquiring fund.

Filing Date: The application was filed on February 28, 2002.

Applicant's Address: c/o Dresdner RCM Global Investors LLC, Four

Embarcadero Center, San Francisco, CA 94111.

DG Investor Series [File No. 811-6607]

Summary: Applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. On December 11, 1998, applicant transferred its assets to ISG Funds, based on net asset value. Expenses incurred in connection with the reorganization were paid by First American National Bank, investment adviser to the acquiring fund.

Filing Dates: The application was filed on December 27, 2001, and amended on March 11, 2002.

Applicant's Address: Federated Investors Tower, 5800 Corporate Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15237-7010.

Nomura Pacific Basin Fund, Inc. [File No. 811-4269]

Summary: Applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. On January 24, 2002, applicant made a liquidating distribution to its shareholders based on net asset value. Applicant incurred no expenses in connection with the liquidation.

Filing Dates: The application was filed on January 24, 2002, and amended on March 7, 2002.

Applicant's Address: c/o Nomura Asset Management U.S.A. Inc., 180 Maiden Ln., 26th Floor, New York, NY 10038.

Cardinal GNMA Trust, First Series and Subsequent Series [File No. 811-3948]

Summary: Applicant, a unit investment trust, seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. By January 31, 2000, all of applicant's assets had been distributed to its shareholders based on net asset value. Applicant incurred no expenses in connection with the liquidation.

Filing Dates: The application was filed on January 4, 2002, and amended on March 8, 2002.

Applicant's Address: 34 Fountain Square Plaza, Cincinnati, OH 45263.

Universal Capital Investment Trust [File No. 811-6212]

Summary: Applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. On February 1, 2002, applicant transferred its assets to Oak Ridge Funds, Inc., based on net asset value. All expenses incurred in connection with the reorganization were paid by Optimum Investment Advisors, L.P., applicant's investment adviser.

Filing Date: The application was filed on February 12, 2002.

Applicant's Address: 100 South Wacker Dr., Suite 2100, Chicago, IL 60606.

CDC MPT & Funds [File No. 811-9083]

Summary: Applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. By December 17, 2001, all of applicant's shareholders had voluntarily redeemed their shares at net asset value. Expenses of \$15,000 incurred in connection with the liquidation were paid by CDC Investment Management Corporation, applicant's investment adviser, or its affiliates.

Filing Dates: The application was filed on January 23, 2002, and amended on March 4, 2002.

Applicant's Address: 1251 Avenue of the Americas, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10020.

Nations LifeGoal Funds, Inc. [File No. 811-7745]

Summary: Applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. On June 8, 2001, applicant transferred its assets to corresponding series of Nations Funds Trust based on net asset value. Expenses of \$152,386 incurred in connection with the reorganization were paid by Banc of America Advisors, LLC, applicant's investment adviser.

Filing Dates: The application was filed on February 8, 2002, and amended on February 26, 2002.

Applicant's Address: 111 Center Street, Suite 300, Little Rock, AR 72201.

FT Defined Portfolios LLC [File No. 811-10015]; First Defined Sector Fund [File No. 811-10017]

Summary: Each applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. On November 30, 2001, each applicant made a liquidating distribution to its shareholders based on net asset value. Applicants incurred no expenses in connection with the liquidations.

Filing Date: The applications were filed on March 1, 2002. FT Defined Portfolios LLC filed an amended application on March 15, 2002.

Applicants' Address: 1001 Warrenville Road, Suite 300, Lisle, IL 60532.

Global Income Strategies Fund, Inc. (formerly Global High Yield Fund, Inc.) [File No. 811-8757]

Summary: Applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. Applicant has never made a public offering of its securities and does not propose to make

a public offering or engage in business of any kind.

Filing Dates: The application was filed on February 27, 2002, and amended on March 20, 2002.

Applicant's Address: c/o Fund Asset Management, L.P., P.O. Box 9011, Princeton, NJ 08543-9011.

Merrill Lynch Real Estate Fund, Inc. [File No. 811-8389]

Summary: Applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. On April 3, 2001, applicant made a liquidating distribution to its shareholders based on net asset value. Applicant has retained \$35,236 to cover outstanding operating expenses. Applicant incurred no expenses in connection with the liquidation.

Filing Dates: The application was filed on October 9, 2001, and amended on March 8, 2002.

Applicant's Address: Merrill Lynch Investment Managers, L.P., 800 Scudders Mill Rd., Plainsboro, NJ 08536.

Mercantile Mutual Funds, Inc. [File No. 811-3567]

Summary: Applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. By June 29, 2001, each of applicant's portfolios had transferred their assets to corresponding portfolios of Firststar Funds, Inc., based on net asset value. Expenses of \$590,908 incurred in connection with the reorganization were paid by Firststar Investment Research & Management Company, LLC, applicant's investment adviser.

Filing Dates: The application was filed on January 16, 2002, and amended on February 20, 2002.

Applicant's Address: 615 East Michigan St., PO Box 3011, Milwaukee, WI 53202-3011.

T. Rowe Price Short-Term U.S. Government Fund, Inc. [File No. 811-6386]

Summary: Applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. On October 31, 2000, applicant transferred its assets to T. Rowe Price Short-Term Bond Fund, Inc., based on net asset value. Expenses of \$12,686 incurred in connection with the reorganization were paid by T. Rowe Price Associates, applicant's investment adviser.

Filing Date: The application was filed on February 22, 2002.

Applicant's Address: 100 E. Pratt St., Baltimore, MD 21202.

For the Commission, by the Division of Investment Management, pursuant to delegated authority.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-8207 Filed 4-4-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. IC-25503; File No. 812-12636]

The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States, et al.

March 29, 2002

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission").

ACTION: Notice of an application for an order of approval pursuant to Section 26(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "1940 Act") and an order of exemption pursuant to Section 17(b) of the Act.

APPLICANTS: For purposes of the order requested pursuant to Section 26(c), The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States ("Equitable"), Separate Account A of Equitable ("Separate Account A"), Separate Account FP of Equitable ("Separate Account FP"), Separate Account No. 45 of Equitable ("Separate Account 45"), Separate Account No. 49 of Equitable ("Separate Account 49") and Separate Account No. 301 of Equitable ("Separate Account 301") (collectively, the "Section 26 Applicants"). For purposes of the order pursuant to Section 17(b), Equitable, Separate Account A, Separate Account FP, Separate Account 45, Separate Account 49, Separate Account No. 65 of Equitable ("Separate Account 65"), Separate Account No. 66 of Equitable ("Separate Account 66"), Separate Account 301 (the separate accounts are collectively referred to herein as the "Separate Accounts" and individually as a "Separate Account") and EQ Advisors Trust (the "Trust") (collectively with Equitable and the Separate Accounts, the "Section 17 Applicants").

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION: Applicants request an order (a) approving the proposed substitution by certain insurance company separate accounts of Class IB shares of the EQ/Putnam International Equity Portfolio for Class IB shares of the EQ/T. Rowe Price International Stock Portfolio (the "Substitution"), and (b) to permit certain in-kind transactions in connection with the proposed Substitution ("In-Kind Transactions"). (The EQ/Putnam International Equity