

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
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OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Office of Federal Procurement Policy FAR Part 15 Rewrite

AGENCY: Office of Federal Procurement Policy, Office of Management and Budget.

ACTION: Request for Comments via the Internet.

SUMMARY: In response to the report of the National Performance Review (NPR), the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council has embarked on a rewrite of FAR Part 15 to simplify, update and streamline rules related to negotiated procurements. The intent of this notice is twofold: first, to announce a future rulemaking action; second, to inform the public that electronic means will be used to engage the public in electronic discussions about issues important to the rewrite of the rules governing negotiated procurements. For those who do not want to participate electronically or cannot access the World Wide Web but would like to provide initial input for the rewrite, a notice of proposed rulemaking was published requesting paper comments and announcing a public meeting. This notice, which was issued by the Department of Defense, in concert with the Federal Acquisition Regulations Council, appeared in the Federal Register on December 8, 1995 (60 FR 63023).

DATES: The initial round for electronic discussions will be conducted during the period December 1, 1995 through January 22, 1996. We anticipate further rounds as the rulemaking progresses.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan E. Alesi at 202-395-3301.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On September 7, 1993, the Vice President released the report of the NPR which advocated simplification of the procurement process by, in part, rewriting the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). As a first step in this project, a set of core guiding principles was formulated to guide the federal acquisition system. These principles are now included in FAR Part 1. The project has now resumed with the rewrite of

FAR Part 15 dealing with the rules on negotiated rulemaking under the direction of the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council (FAR Council).

The FAR Council has established a team of 11 individuals from civilian agencies, DOD components and the Office of Federal Procurement Policy, with co-chairs from DOD and NASA to participate in rewriting Part 15. The actual drafting of the regulatory language is scheduled to start no later than February 1, 1996, with a target finish date of October 1996. This delayed starting date was proposed and agreed upon to allow time to solicit input and to identify those areas that need the most attention. The initial public input will be accomplished in a number of ways. In addition to such traditional methods as requesting the submission of written comments and holding a public meeting, additional methods of obtaining public comment are being used, one of which is through on-line discussions via the Acquisition Reform Network (ARnet).

The ARnet was established in June 1, 1995, as an initiative of the NPR to help government workers communicate electronically. The purpose of the Internet based World Wide Web Network is to inform the members of the acquisition community about reform initiatives, give them electronic access to references, training materials and other electronic sources of information, and engage them in on-line discussions about issues important to improving our acquisition system.

Use of the ARnet On-Line Forum to assist the FAR Part 15 Rewrite Team provides an additional avenue for two-way communication with the acquisition community. This support will initially be used as a call for inputs organized around a series of key Part 15 issues. Some of these issues are government-industry communications via draft solicitations, discussions and oral proposals; Part 15 and commercial items; source selection and best value determinations; selection of proposals for competitive range; and the use of "shall" in governmentwide regulations governing negotiated procurements. We anticipate that the ARnet will subsequently be used to publicize proposed rule(s) and provide another round of discussions on these rule(s) during the public comment period.

Electronic Access to the FAR Part 15 Rewrite Forum on the Internet

General: This Forum can be accessed through the World Wide Web by using any HTML viewer at the following URL address: <http://www-far.npr.gov>. Anyone with access to the World Wide

Web can participate through using comment options residing on the Web Site.

Participation Options: The method for participating in this forum which is currently operational is through the World Wide Web. However, we are also working to provide access to these discussions through E-mail; if E-mail access can be arranged, a supplemental notice will be issued announcing how interested persons can participate in the forum via E-mail. In addition, individuals who cannot participate through these electronic methods, or would prefer to provide their comments through alternative means, will be able to participate through non-electronic means as described above (i.e., by submitting written comments or participating in a public meeting).

Steven Kelman,

Administrator.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-36575; File No. SR-CBOE-95-69]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated Relating to Membership Fees

December 12, 1995.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"), 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1), notice is hereby given that on November 29, 1995, the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated ("CBOE" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission" or "SEC") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the CBOE. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The CBOE hereby gives notice that it is proposing to amend certain membership fees imposed by the Exchange.

The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Office of the Secretary, CBOE and at the Commission.