

believes the one-year pilot will give the Exchange and the Commission the opportunity to evaluate whether these fees are appropriate.

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to section 19(b)(2) of the Act,⁸ that the proposed rule change, as amended, is approved on a pilot basis until January 31, 2004.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁹

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-47785; File No. SR-Phlx-2003-24]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. To Amend Its Rules Regarding the Calculation of Record Dates, Ex-Dividend Dates and Ex-Rights Dates

May 2, 2003.

Pursuant to section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on April 11, 2003, the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. ("Phlx" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Phlx. The Exchange has designated the proposed rule change as constituting a "non-controversial" rule change under paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 under the Act.³ 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 Exchange proposes to amend Phlx Rule 817 ("Record Date"), Phlx Rule 825 ("Ex-dividend Procedure"), Phlx Rule 826 ("Ex-rights Procedure") and Phlx Rule 831 ("Special Ex-dividend Rulings"). The proposed amendments are intended by the Exchange to update several archaic rules

that specify how record dates, ex-dividend dates and ex-rights dates are calculated. Below is the text of the proposed rule change. Proposed deleted text is [bracketed].

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Rule 817. Record Date

Rule 817. A company is not permitted to close its stock transfer books for any reason, including the declaration of a dividend. Rather, it must establish a record date for shareholders entitled to a dividend which is at least ten days after the date on which the dividend is declared (declaration date).

[However, in the case of stock issues that do not have transfer facilities in the Philadelphia metropolitan area, the record date shall not be less than such number of additional days (in excess of ten) after the declaration date as is equal to the mailing time (regular mail) between Philadelphia and the city in which the Transfer Agent is located. The requirement for additional time between the declaration date and the record date would also apply in cases where there is an intervening holiday or where the record date falls on a weekend.]

A company is also required to give the Exchange at least ten days notice in advance of a record date established for any other purpose, including meetings of shareholders.

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Rule 825. Ex-Dividend Procedure

Rule 825. [In the establishment and announcement of ex-dividend dates, the Exchange proceeds as follows:

(a) The "ex-dividend" date established by the Exchange is based on the location of the transfer facilities either in, or nearest to, Philadelphia. Thus, if an issue transfers both in Philadelphia and outside of Philadelphia the "ex" date is based on the Philadelphia transfer facilities. If an issue does not transfer in Philadelphia, but transfers in two or more cities outside of that area, the "ex" date is based on the location of the transfer facilities closest to Philadelphia.

(b) Transfer Facilities Located in Philadelphia—[Transactions in stocks (except those made for "cash") [for which there exists transfer facilities in Philadelphia] are ex-dividend on the second business day preceding the record date. If the record date selected is not a business day, the stock will be quoted ex-dividend on the third preceding business day. "Cash" transactions are ex-dividend on the business day following the record date.

[(c) Transfer Facilities Located Outside Philadelphia—The Exchange

will establish an "Ex-dividend" date for those stocks with transfer facilities only outside Philadelphia predicated on a theoretical "equivalent Philadelphia record date". The equivalent Philadelphia record date is the last business day on which securities may be mailed in Philadelphia and reach the out-of-town transfer office, by regular mail, in time to effect transfer by the record date. "Regular way" transactions in these stocks are ex-dividend on the second business day preceding the equivalent Philadelphia record date. Transactions in such stocks made for "cash" are ex-dividend on the business day following such equivalent Philadelphia record date.

(d) To avoid unnecessary claims for dividends, members receiving deliveries of stocks against "dividend on" transactions are urged to provide for the earliest mailing of such stocks which transfer out of town, in order to ensure receipt by the transfer agent by the record date.]

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Rule 826. Ex-Rights Procedure

Rule 826. In the establishment and announcement of ex-rights dates, the Exchange proceeds as follows:

Subscription Price Established—Where the Subscription price and all other terms of the rights and subscription offering are established sufficiently in advance of the record date to determine the value of the rights (and the registration statement relating to the offering has been declared effective by the SEC sufficiently in advance of the record date), transactions in stocks to which the rights pertain are quoted ex-rights in a manner similar to that described in Rule 825 above.

Subscription Price Not Known—Where the subscription price and all other terms of the rights and subscription offering are not known sufficiently in advance of the record date to determine the value of the rights, the Exchange will rule the stock ex-rights on the day following the date the rights commence trading (which, in most instances, is a date subsequent to the record date for the subscription offering).

Under such circumstances, the Exchange requires that all deliveries of stock made after the record date [(or "equivalent Philadelphia record date", where appropriate)] in settlement of transactions made prior to the ex-rights date, and on a "rights on" basis carry "due bills" for the rights.

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⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

⁹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 17 CFR 240.19b(f)(6).