NEWS

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20549
(202) 755-4846

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, March 28 78-16

COMMISSION TO CONSIDER SIMPLIFIED REGISTRATION AND REPORTING FOR SMALL ISSUERS

The Commission will consider, at an open meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 29, whether to adopt as an experiment, Form S-18, a simplified registration form for small issuers.

In Securities Act Release No. 5914, issued on March 6, 1978, the Commission announced its intent to hold public hearings regarding the effects of its rules and regulations on the ability of small businesses to raise capital and the impact on small businesses of the disclosure requirements under the Securities Acts. In connection with these hearings the Commission asked for comments on proposed Form S-18 in Securities Act Release No. 5915 (March 6, 1978).

Thursday's meeting is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. in the Commission's Meeting Room on the eighth floor of the headquarters building, 500 North Capitol Street, Washington, D.C. Following conclusion of the open meeting,

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officials of the Division of Corporation Finance will participate in a briefing, scheduled for Room 776, to discuss whatever action the Commission takes.

During the 21 days of hearings, which were held in Washington, Los Angeles, Denver, Atlanta, Chicago, and Boston, a diversified group of 170 witnesses appeared, resulting in a hearing record of approximately 4,500 pages. In addition, the Commission received 55 written comments.

The rationale behind these proposals and the amendments is that an issuer not subject to the reporting requirements of the Commission at the time the registration statement is filed under the Securities Act may, consistent with the protection of investors, raise a limited amount of capital without immediately incurring the full range of disclosure and reporting requirements imposed upon other issuers. These procedures are intended to facilitate the process by which a small business, over a period of time, might raise a limited amount of capital publicly and then come into full compliance with the periodic reporting requirements imposed upon other issuers, thereby gaining a broader access to the capital markets without being impeded by the immediate burdens confronting many small, non-reporting issuers.

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