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SECURITIES COMMISSION



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**ANNUAL AUDITED REPORT  
FORM X-17A-5  
PART III**

SEC FILE NUMBER
8- 21897

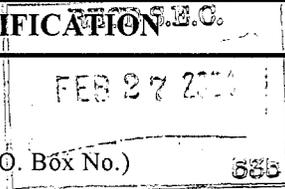
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**Information Required of Brokers and Dealers Pursuant to Section 17 of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 17a-5 Thereunder**

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING 01/01/03 AND ENDING 12/31/03  
MM/DD/YY MM/DD/YY

**A. REGISTRANT IDENTIFICATION**

NAME OF BROKER-DEALER:  
ABEL/NOSER CORP.  
ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: (Do not use P.O. Box No.)



OFFICIAL USE ONLY
FIRM I.D. NO.

90 BROAD STREET 23rd FLOOR  
(No. and Street)

NEW YORK NEW YORK 10004  
(City) (State) (Zip Code)

NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF PERSON TO CONTACT IN REGARD TO THIS REPORT  
PAUL M. ROSENTHAL 212-344-2610  
(Area Code - Telephone Number)

**B. ACCOUNTANT IDENTIFICATION**

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT whose opinion is contained in this Report\*

BERNARD KATZ & CO., P.C.  
(Name - if individual, state last, first, middle name)

ONE MAYFAIR ROAD EASTCHESTER NEW YORK 10709  
(Address) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

**CHECK ONE:**

- Certified Public Accountant
- Public Accountant
- Accountant not resident in United States or any of its possessions.

PROCESSED  
MAR 19 2004

<b>FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY</b>
THOMSON FINANCIAL

\*Claims for exemption from the requirement that the annual report be covered by the opinion of an independent public accountant must be supported by a statement of facts and circumstances relied on as the basis for the exemption. See Section 240.17a-5(e)(2)

3-18-04

OATH OR AFFIRMATION

I, PAUL M. ROSENTHAL, swear (or affirm) that, to the best of my knowledge and belief the accompanying financial statement and supporting schedules pertaining to the firm of ABEL/NOSER CORP., as of DECEMBER 31, 2003, are true and correct. I further swear (or affirm) that neither the company nor any partner, proprietor, principal officer or director has any proprietary interest in any account classified solely as that of a customer, except as follows:

NONE

RICARDO TORRES
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 01T06089610
Qualified in New York County
Commission Expires Feb. 24 2004

Handwritten signature of Paul M. Rosenthal

Signature

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Title

Handwritten signature of Ricardo Torres
Notary Public

This report \*\* contains (check all applicable boxes):

- (a) Facing Page.
(b) Statement of Financial Condition.
(c) Statement of Income (Loss).
(d) Statement of Changes in Financial Condition.
(e) Statement of Changes in Stockholders' Equity or Partners' or Sole Proprietors' Capital.
(f) Statement of Changes in Liabilities Subordinated to Claims of Creditors.
(g) Computation of Net Capital.
(h) Computation for Determination of Reserve Requirements Pursuant to Rule 15c3-3.
(i) Information Relating to the Possession or Control Requirements Under Rule 15c3-3.
(j) A Reconciliation, including appropriate explanation of the Computation of Net Capital Under Rule 15c3-3 and the Computation for Determination of the Reserve Requirements Under Exhibit A of Rule 15c3-3.
(k) A Reconciliation between the audited and unaudited Statements of Financial Condition with respect to methods of consolidation.
(l) An Oath or Affirmation.
(m) A copy of the SIPC Supplemental Report.
(n) A report describing any material inadequacies found to exist or found to have existed since the date of the previous audit.

\*\*For conditions of confidential treatment of certain portions of this filing, see section 240.17a-5(e)(3).

**ABEL/NOSER CORP.**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2003**

**ABEL/NOSER CORP.**  
**Financial Statements**  
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# **BERNARD KATZ & Co., P.C.**

Certified Public Accountants

One Mayfair Road/One Michael Frey Dr.  
Eastchester, N.Y. 10709  
Tel: (914) 779-7555  
Fax: (914) 779-0024  
e-mail: cpa@bkatzcopc.com

Board of Directors  
Abel/Noser Corp.  
New York, NY

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial condition of Abel/Noser Corp. as of December 31, 2003, and the related statements of income, changes in stockholders' equity, and cash flows for the year then ended that you are filing pursuant to Rule 17a-5 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. These financial statements are the responsibility of the company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Abel/Noser Corp. as of December 31, 2003, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The information contained in the Supplementary Information section is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements, but is supplementary information required by Rule 17a-5 under the Securities Act of 1934. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

*Bernard Katz & Co., P.C.*

Eastchester, New York  
February 19, 2004

**ABEL/NOSER CORP.**  
**Statement of Financial Condition**  
**December 31, 2003**

**ASSETS**

Cash	\$ 952,221
Cash segregated in compliance with federal and other regulations	79,372
Receivable from clearing broker	260,448
Receivables - other	278,825
Prepaid expenses	449,992
Marketable securities, at cost, which equals market value	922,622
United States Treasury Note segregated in compliance with federal and other regulations, at market	4,395,700
Securities not readily marketable	3,300
Exchange membership, at cost (market value \$1,500,000)	372,500
Property and improvements	597,115
Rent security deposits and prepaid relocation expense	<u>556,470</u>
	<u>\$ 8,868,565</u>

**LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY**

Payable to customers	\$ 3,351,264
Accounts payable, accrued expenses, and other liabilities	<u>837,484</u>
	4,188,748
Commitments and contingent liabilities	
Stockholders' equity	
Capital stock	60,504
Retained earnings	<u>4,619,313</u>
Total stockholders' equity	<u>4,679,817</u>
	<u>\$ 8,868,565</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

**ABEL/NOSER CORP.**  
**Statement of Income**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2003**

**Revenues**

Net commissions	\$ 23,177,563
Transaction measurement analyses fees	1,168,506
Interest and dividends	90,829
Grant income and insurance recovery	164,515
Other	<u>333,379</u>
	<u>24,934,792</u>

**Expenses**

Employee compensation and benefits	14,021,514
Floor brokerage, exchange and clearance fees	4,610,066
Communications and data processing	538,051
Information services	1,301,465
Occupancy costs	369,809
Other operating expenses	<u>1,563,738</u>
	<u>22,404,643</u>

Income before income taxes 2,530,149

Provision for income taxes 207,056

**Net income** \$ 2,323,093

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

**ABEL/NOSER CORP.**  
**Statement of Changes in Stockholders' Equity**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2003**

	<u>Capital Stock</u>	<u>Retained Earnings</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balances at January 1, 2003	\$ 60,504	\$ 5,296,220	\$ 5,356,724
Net income		2,323,093	2,323,093
Distributions to shareholders		<u>(3,000,000)</u>	<u>(3,000,000)</u>
<b>Balances at December 31, 2003</b>	<u>\$ 60,504</u>	<u>\$ 4,619,313</u>	<u>\$ 4,679,817</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

**ABEL/NOSER CORP.**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2003**

**OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

Net income	\$ 2,323,093
Adjustments to reconcile net income to cash provided from operating activities:	
Depreciation and amortization	309,651
Decrease (increase) in operating assets:	
Receivable from clearing broker	571,673
Receivables - other	(94,052)
Prepaid expenses	(220,525)
Increase (decrease) in operating liabilities:	
Payable to customers	(1,780,349)
Accounts payable, accrued expenses, and other liabilities	<u>(36,277)</u>
Cash provided from operations	<u>1,073,214</u>

**INVESTING ACTIVITIES**

Acquisitions of property and improvements	(397,198)
Proceeds from sale of marketable securities	3,056,636
Redemption of United States Treasury Note	4,343,962
Acquisition of United States Treasury Note	(4,376,995)
Accrued interest	(18,704)
Rent security deposits and prepaid relocation expense increase	<u>(493,563)</u>
Cash provided from investing activities	<u>2,114,138</u>

**FINANCING ACTIVITIES**

Distribution to shareholders	<u>(3,000,000)</u>
Cash (used for) financing activities	<u>(3,000,000)</u>
Increase in cash	<u>187,352</u>
Increase in cash - unsegregated	107,980
Increase in cash - segregated	<u>79,372</u>
Total	187,352
Cash - beginning of year	<u>844,241</u>
<b>Cash - end of year</b>	<u><u>\$ 1,031,593</u></u>

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

Cash paid during the year for income taxes	<u><u>\$ 312,370</u></u>
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

**ABEL/NOSER CORP.**  
**Schedules**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2003**

**Employee compensation and benefits**

**Salaries**

Trading department	\$ 2,342,542
Sales department	3,631,367
Computer department	1,668,148
Administrative and compliance	716,548
Officers	<u>4,849,615</u>

13,208,220

**Payroll taxes and employee fringe benefits**

Trading department	112,123
Sales department	135,437
Computer department	99,431
Administrative and compliance	37,331
Officers	81,919
Medical benefits	<u>347,053</u>

813,294

\$ 14,021,514

**Other operating expenses**

**Trading department**

Travel and meals	\$ 176,603
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**Sales department**

Travel and meals	528,563
Dues, subscriptions and other	36,545
Sales support	25,281

**General administrative**

Maintenance and repairs	37,912
Insurance	68,103

Travel and meals	87,824
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Office supplies	70,529
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Charitable contributions	24,513
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Professional fees	127,438
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Other	70,776
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Depreciation and amortization	<u>309,651</u>
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\$ 1,563,738

**ABEL/NOSER CORP.**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2003**

**1 - Organization and description of business**

Abel/Noser Corp. (the Company) is a New York corporation which commenced operations in October, 1975. The Company is owned equally by two of its officers, Stanley S. Abel and Eugene A. Noser, Jr.

The Company is an institutional discount brokerage firm that specializes in valuation, transaction measurement, and securities trading services, primarily for corporate and institutional retirement plans. The Company is a member of the New York Stock Exchange and other regional exchanges, as well as the Securities Investor Protection Corporation.

Net commissions generated by one of the Company's customers were \$4,400,000 which was 19% of the Company's net commissions.

**2 - Significant accounting policies**

**Proprietary securities transactions**

Marketable securities and United States Treasury Notes are recorded at market value. Securities not readily marketable are recorded at fair value as determined by management.

**Exchange membership**

Exchange membership is carried at cost.

**Net Commissions**

Commissions and related clearing expenses are recorded on a trade date basis.

**Depreciation**

Furniture and equipment are depreciated over seven years, computer hardware and software are depreciated over three years using the straight-line method. Leasehold improvements are amortized on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease. Automobiles are depreciated on an accelerated basis using rates prescribed by the Internal Revenue Service.

**2 - Significant accounting policies (continued)**

**Income taxes**

The Company and its shareholders have elected for the Company to be treated as a Subchapter S Corporation and accordingly it is not subject to federal corporate income taxes. However, the Company is subject to New York State Franchise and New York City General Corporation taxes.

**Use of estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements. Actual amounts could differ from those estimates.

**3 - Receivables - other**

This is comprised of the following:

Transaction measurement service fees	\$ 145,500
Advances to customers	122,848
Employee and sundry receivables	<u>10,477</u>
Total	<u>\$278,825</u>

**4 - Marketable securities, at cost, which equals market value**

The Company has deposited these funds in the JP Morgan Prime Money Market Select Shares fund.

**5 - United States Treasury Note segregated in compliance with federal and other regulations**

Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15c3-3 requires the Company to maintain on deposit, in a segregated account, the excess of certain customer related credits over the customer related debits. At December 31, 2003 the company had cash and a United States Treasury Note totaling \$4,475,072 segregated in a special reserve account. The customer credit balances reserved for at December 31, 2003 were as follows:

Refund clients	\$ 639,055
Pension clients	<u>1,224,231</u>
Total	<u>\$1,863,286</u>

**6 – Property and improvements**

This is comprised of:

Furniture and fixtures	\$ 371,251
Computer equipment and software	1,689,232
Automobiles	69,778
Leasehold improvements	<u>613,324</u>
	2,743,585
Less - accumulated depreciation and amortization	<u>2,146,470</u>
Fixed assets, net	<u>\$ 597,115</u>

**7 - Accounts payable, accrued expenses and other liabilities**

This is comprised of the following:

Trade payables	\$ 429,600
Accrued salaries, commissions and bonuses	284,889
Other accrued expenses	119,246
Deferred income	<u>3,750</u>
Total	<u>\$ 837,485</u>

**8 - Capital stock and stockholders' equity**

There are 200 shares of common stock without par value authorized; 100 shares are issued and outstanding.

**9 - Net capital requirements**

Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15c3-1 requires the Company to maintain a minimum net capital as adjusted for certain nonallowable assets and discounts. The rule also requires that the ratio of aggregate indebtedness to net capital, both as defined, shall not exceed 15 to 1.

At December 31, 2003, the Company had net capital, as adjusted, of \$2,358,806, which was \$2,079,556 in excess of the required \$279,250. The Company's net capital ratio was 1.78 to 1.

**10 - Commitments and contingencies**

In January 2004, the Company entered into a ten year non-cancelable lease effective February 11, 2004 for new office space. Rent payments commence one year after the landlord completes certain alterations. The leases require the following minimum annual payments:

2004	\$ 98,000
2005	\$ 387,000
2006-2008	\$ 465,000
2009-2013	\$ 516,000
2014	\$ 86,000

The new lease is subject to periodic escalation charges. The Company has an option to extend the lease for an additional five year term. Rent expense for 2003 was \$319,038.

The Company projects the net cost of improving the new premises and the associated relocation costs to be approximately \$2,000,000 after credits for landlord's work contribution and New York City grants.

**11 - Retirement savings plan**

All employees of the Company are eligible to participate in the Abel/Noser Corp. Voluntary Retirement Savings Plan, which is a 401(k) pretax salary reduction plan with no matching contributions by the employer.

**12 - Off Balance - Sheet Credit Risk**

In the normal course of business, the Company's customer and correspondent clearance activities involve the execution and settlement of various customer securities transactions. These activities may expose the Company to off balance-sheet risk in the event the customer is unable to fulfill its contracted obligations.

The Company's customer securities activities are transacted on either a delivery versus payment, cash or margin basis. In delivery versus payment transactions, the Company is exposed to risk of loss in the event of the customers' or brokers' inability to meet the terms of their contracts. In the event the customers or brokers fail to satisfy their obligations, the Company may be required to purchase or sell securities at prevailing market prices in order to fulfill the obligations.

The Company's exposure to credit risk can be directly impacted by volatile securities markets which may impair the ability of counterparties to satisfy their contractual obligations. The Company seeks to control its credit risk through a variety of reporting and control procedures. The company has historically maintained credit policies which are more stringent than regulatory guidelines.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
PURSUANT TO RULE 17a-5 OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2003**

## **BERNARD KATZ & Co., P.C.**

Certified Public Accountants

One Mayfair Road/One Michael Frey Dr.  
Eastchester, N.Y. 10709  
Tel: (914) 779-7555  
Fax: (914) 779-0024  
e-mail: cpa@bkatzcopc.com

### **Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Structure Required by SEC Rule 17a-5**

Board of Directors  
Abel/Noser Corp.  
New York, NY

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of Abel/Noser Corp. (the Company) for the year ended December 31, 2003, we considered its internal control, including control activities for safeguarding securities, in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control.

Also, as required by Rule 17a-5(g)(1) of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), we have made a study of the practices and procedures followed by the Company, including tests of compliance with such practices and procedures followed by the Company that we considered relevant to the objectives stated in Rule 17a-5(g) in the following: (1) making the periodic computations of aggregate indebtedness (or aggregate debits) and net capital under Rule 17a-3(a)(11) and the reserve required by Rule 15c3-3(e); (2) making the quarterly securities examinations, counts, verifications and comparisons, and the recordation of differences required by Rule 17a-13; (3) complying with the requirements for prompt payment for securities under Section 8 of Regulation T of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; and (4) obtaining and maintaining physical possession or control of all fully paid and excess margin securities of customers as required by Rule 15c3-3.

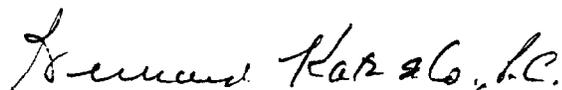
The management of the Company is responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of internal controls and the practices and procedures referred to in the preceding paragraph. In fulfilling this responsibility, estimates and judgments by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of controls, and of the practices and procedures referred to in the preceding paragraph, and to assess whether those practices and procedures can be expected to achieve the SEC's above-mentioned objectives. Two of the objectives of internal control and the practices and procedures are to provide management with reasonable, but not absolute assurance that assets for which the Company has responsibility are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition and that transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization and recorded properly to permit preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. Rule 17a-5(g) lists additional objectives of the practices and procedures listed in the preceding paragraph.

Because of inherent limitations in internal control or the practices and procedures referred to above, error or fraud may occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any evaluation of them to future periods is subject to the risk that they may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the effectiveness of their design and operation may deteriorate.

Our consideration of internal control would not necessarily disclose all matters in internal control that might be material weaknesses under standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of the specific internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that error or fraud in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. However, we noted no matters involving internal control, including control activities for safeguarding securities, that we consider to be material weaknesses as defined above.

We understand that practices and procedures that accomplish the objectives referred to in the second paragraph of this report are considered by the SEC to be adequate for its purposes in accordance with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and related regulations, and that practices and procedures that do not accomplish such objectives in all material respects indicate a material inadequacy for such purposes. Based on this understanding and on our study, we believe that the Company's practices and procedures were adequate at December 31, 2003 to meet the SEC's objectives.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Directors, management, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the New York Stock Exchange and other regulatory agencies which rely on Rule 17a-5(g) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 in their regulation of registered brokers and dealers, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.



Bernard Katz & Co., P.C.  
Eastchester, New York  
February 19, 2004

**ABEL/NOSER CORP.**  
**Computation of Net Capital Under Rule 15c3-1 of the**  
**Securities and Exchange Commission**  
**As of December 31, 2003**

NET CAPITAL

Total stockholders' equity	\$ 4,679,817
Deductions and/or charges: Non-allowable assets	
Exchange membership	\$ 372,500
Property and improvements	597,115
Receivables - other	278,825
Prepaid expenses	449,992
Rent security deposits and prepaid relocation expense	556,470
Securities not readily marketable	3,300
Other	400
	2,258,602
Net capital before haircuts on securities positions	2,421,215
Haircuts on securities positions	62,409
Net capital	\$ 2,358,806

AGGREGATE INDEBTEDNESS

Customer credits payable - 28(e)	\$ 3,351,264
Accounts payable, accrued expenses, and other liabilities	837,484
Total aggregate indebtedness	\$ 4,188,748

COMPUTATION OF BASIC NET CAPITAL REQUIREMENT

Minimum net capital required, at 6 2/3% of aggregate indebtedness	\$ 279,250
Minimum net capital requirement for Broker/Dealer under the S.E.C. Uniform Net Capital Rule	\$ 250,000
Greater of the two minimum requirement amounts above	\$ 279,250
Net capital	\$ 2,358,806
Excess Net Capital	\$ 2,079,556
Ratio: Aggregate indebtedness to net capital	1.78 to 1

No material differences exist between the above computation of net capital and the computation included in the Company's unaudited Focus Report, Form X-17-A-5, Part IIA filing.

**ABEL/NOSER CORP.**  
**COMPUTATION FOR DETERMINATION OF RESERVE REQUIREMENTS**  
**UNDER RULE 15c3-3 OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2003**

**CREDIT BALANCES**

Customer credits payable to 28(e) refund and  
pension clients - December 31, 2003 \$ 1,863,286

Total credit items 1,863,286

**DEBIT BALANCES** None

**Excess of total credits over total debits** \$ 1,863,286

**RESERVE COMPUTATION**

Required reserve balance \$ 1,863,286

Amount held on deposit in Special Reserve accounts  
at December 31, 2003 4,475,072

Excess of reserve accounts over required reserve \$ 2,611,786

The Company computes its reserve requirements weekly and covers its deposit requirements by no later than one hour after the opening of banking business on the second business day following the determination.

No material differences exist between the above computation and the computation included in the Company's unaudited Focus Report, Form X-17A-5, Part II filing.

**Reconciliation of Audited and Unaudited Financial Condition**

Total ownership equity per unaudited Focus Report \$ 4,679,817

Total ownership equity per Audit Report \$ 4,679,817

**ABEL/NOSER CORP.**

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
PURSUANT TO RULE 17a-5 OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2003**

**Material Inadequacies**

Our audit program included periodic reviews of practices and procedures of the Company to ascertain that (1) computations of aggregate indebtedness and net capital under Rule 17A-5 are proper and within prescribed limits, (2) the conditions of Rule 15C-3-3 are being complied with.

There were no material inadequacies at the date of our examination in the accounting system or internal accounting controls with regard to the computation of aggregate indebtedness and net capital under Rule 17A-5, or complying with the conditions of Rule 15C-3-3.

No conditions or inadequacies in the Company's accounting system or internal controls have arisen since the date of our audit that require any corrective action.

See separate Report on Internal Control Structure to the Board of Directors.