

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Investment Company Act Release No. 29163; 812-13161-01]

First Trust/Aberdeen Global Opportunity Income Fund, et al.; Notice of Application  
February 26, 2010

Agency: Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”).

Action: Notice of application under section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (“Act”) for an exemption from section 19(b) of the Act and rule 19b-1 under the Act.

Summary of Application: Applicants request an order to permit certain closed-end investment companies to make periodic distributions of long-term capital gains with respect to their outstanding common stock as frequently as twelve times each year, and as frequently as distributions are specified by or in accordance with the terms of any outstanding preferred stock that such investment companies may issue.

Applicants: First Trust/Aberdeen Global Opportunity Income Fund, First Trust Enhanced Equity Income Fund, First Trust/Four Corners Senior Floating Rate Income Fund, First Trust/Four Corners Senior Floating Rate Income Fund II, Macquarie/First Trust Global Infrastructure/Utilities Dividend & Income Fund, First Trust/FIDAC Mortgage Income Fund, First Trust Strategic High Income Fund, First Trust Strategic High Income Fund II, First Trust Strategic High Income Fund III, First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund, First Trust Specialty Finance and Financial Opportunities Fund, First Trust Active Dividend Income Fund, First Trust Municipal Target Term Trust, First Trust/StoneCastle Bank Select Income Fund, First Trust Income Fund, First

Trust/Chartwell Total Return Equity Income Fund, First Trust/Aberdeen Global Credit Strategies Fund (collectively, the “Current Funds”), First Trust Advisors L.P. (the “Adviser”) and First Trust Portfolios, L.P. (the “Broker-Dealer”).

Filing Dates: January 26, 2005, August 9, 2007, September 9, 2008, December 12, 2008, April 20, 2009 and August 11, 2009.

Hearing or Notification of Hearing: An order granting the application will be issued unless the Commission orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the Commission’s Secretary and serving applicants with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the Commission by 5:30 p.m. on March 23, 2010, and should be accompanied by proof of service on applicants, 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 Commission’s Secretary.

Addresses: Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20549-1090; Applicants, Chapman and Cutler LLP, 111 West Monroe St., Chicago, Illinois 60603, attention: Eric F. Fess, Esq. and Suzanne M. Russell, Esq.

For Further Information Contact: Wendy Friedlander, Senior Counsel, at (202) 551-6837, or James M. Curtis, Branch Chief, at (202) 551-6712 (Division of Investment Management, Office of Chief Counsel).

Supplementary Information: The following is a summary of the application. The complete application may be obtained via the Commission’s Web site by searching for

the file number, or an applicant using the Company name box, at <http://www.sec.gov/search/search.htm> or by calling (202) 551-8090.

Applicants' Representations:

1. Each Current Fund and any future fund that may rely on the requested order (each a "Fund" and collectively the "Funds") is or will be registered under the Act as a closed-end management investment company.<sup>1</sup> Each Fund's common stock is or will be listed and traded on a "national securities exchange," as defined in section 2(a)(26) of the Act. Any preferred stock that has been or may be issued by a Fund is not and will not be listed or traded on any exchange. Applicants believe that the common stockholders of the Funds are or will be generally conservative, dividend- and income-sensitive investors who desire current income periodically.
2. The Adviser is an Illinois limited partnership and is registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. The Adviser is or will be responsible for implementing each Fund's overall investment strategy. The Adviser is controlled by Grace Partners of DuPage L.P. ("Grace") and The Charger Corporation ("Charger"). Grace's general partner is Charger, which is controlled by the Robert Donald Van Kampen family.
3. The Broker-Dealer is registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as a broker-dealer and is an "affiliated person" of the Adviser as defined in section 2(a)(3) of

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<sup>1</sup> Applicants request that any order issued granting the relief requested in the application also apply to any closed-end investment company that in the future: (a) is advised by the Adviser (including any successor in interest) or by any entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control (within the meaning of section 2(a)(9) of the Act) with the Adviser; and (b) complies with the terms and conditions of the requested order. A successor in interest is limited to entities that result from a reorganization into another jurisdiction or a change in the type of business organization.

the Act. Applicants represent that the Broker-Dealer maintains a Web site that includes information on financial products that it offers or distributes, including information about the Current Funds that have issued publicly-offered stock.

4. Applicants represent that, before any Fund will implement a policy to make level, periodic distributions with respect to its common stock, the board of trustees (the “Board”) of such Fund, including a majority of the trustees who are not “interested persons” as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the Act (each an “Independent Trustee”) of the respective Fund will approve the Fund’s adoption of such policy. Applicants represent that the Board will request, and the Adviser will provide, such information as is reasonably necessary for the Board to make an informed determination of whether the Fund should adopt the proposed distribution policy. Applicants represent that, in particular, the Board, including the Independent Trustees, will review information regarding the purpose and terms of the proposed distribution policy, the likely effects of such policy on the Fund’s long-term total return (in relation to market price and net asset value (“NAV”) per common share) and the relationship between the Fund’s distribution rate on its common stock under the policy and the Fund’s total return (in relation to NAV per common share). Applicants represent that the Independent Trustees also will consider what conflicts of interest the Adviser and the affiliated persons of the Adviser and the Fund might have with respect to the adoption or implementation of such policy. Applicants represent that after considering such information the Board, including the Independent Trustees, will approve the distribution policy with respect to the Fund’s common stock (the “Plan”), provided that the Board, including the Independent Trustees,

determines that the Plan is consistent with the Fund's investment objective(s) and in the best interests of the Fund's common stockholders.

5. Applicants represent that the purpose of any Plan will be to permit a Fund to provide its common stockholders with level, periodic distributions. Applicants represent that, under the Plan of a Fund, such Fund would distribute to its respective common stockholders a fixed percentage of the market price of the Fund's common stock at a particular point in time or a fixed percentage of NAV per common share at a particular point in time or a fixed amount per common share, any of which may be adjusted from time to time. Applicants state that the minimum annual distribution rate with respect to a Fund's common stock under its respective Plan would be independent of the Fund's performance during any particular period but would be expected to correlate with the Fund's performance over time. Applicants explain that each distribution on the common stock would be at the stated rate then in effect except for extraordinary distributions and potential increases or decreases in the final dividend periods in light of the Fund's performance for the entire calendar or taxable year and to enable the Fund to comply with the distribution requirements of Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code") for the calendar or taxable year.

6. Applicants represent that the Board of each Fund that relies on the order also will approve the Fund's adoption of policies and procedures under rule 38a-1 under the Act that are reasonably designed to ensure that all notices sent to stockholders with distributions under the Plan ("Notices") comply with condition II.A below, and that all other written communications by any such Fund or its agents regarding distributions under the Plan include the disclosure required by condition III.A below. Applicants state

that the Board of each Fund also will approve the Fund's adoption of policies and procedures that require such Fund to keep records that demonstrate the Fund's compliance with all of the conditions of the requested order and that are necessary for the Fund to form the basis for, or demonstrate the calculation of, the amounts disclosed in its Notices.

Applicants' Legal Analysis:

1. Section 19(b) generally makes it unlawful for any registered investment company to make long-term capital gains distributions more than once each year. Rule 19b-1 limits the number of capital gains dividends, as defined in section 852(b)(3)(C) of the Code ("distributions"), that a fund may make with respect to any one taxable year to one, plus a supplemental "clean up" distribution made pursuant to section 855 of the Code not exceeding 10% of the total amount distributed for the year, plus one additional capital gain dividend made in whole or in part to avoid the excise tax under section 4982 of the Code.

2. Section 6(c) provides that the Commission may, by order upon application, conditionally or unconditionally exempt any person, security, or transaction, or any class or classes of persons, securities or transactions, from any provision of the Act, if and to the extent that the exemption is necessary or appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the Act.

3. Applicants state that the one of the concerns underlying section 19(b) and rule 19b-1 is that shareholders might be unable to differentiate between regular distributions of capital gains and distributions of investment income. Applicants state, however, that

rule 19a-1 effectively addresses this concern by requiring that a separate statement showing the sources of a distribution (e.g., estimated net income, net short-term capital gains, net long-term capital gains and/or return of capital) accompany any distributions (or the confirmation of the reinvestment of distributions) estimated to be sourced in part from capital gains or capital. Applicants state that the same information also is included in each fund's reports to shareholders and on its IRS Form 1099-DIV, which is sent to each common and preferred shareholder who received distributions during the year.

4. Applicants further state that each Fund will make the additional disclosures required by the conditions set forth below, and each of them will adopt compliance policies and procedures in accordance with rule 38a-1 to ensure that all required Notices and disclosures are sent to shareholders. Applicants argue that by providing the information required by section 19(a) and rule 19a-1, and by complying with the procedures adopted under each Plan and the conditions listed below, the Funds would ensure that each Fund's shareholders are provided sufficient information to understand that their periodic distributions are not tied to the Fund's net investment income (which for this purpose is the Fund's taxable income other than from capital gains) and realized capital gains to date, and may not represent yield or investment return. Applicants also state that compliance with each Fund's compliance procedures and condition III set forth below will ensure that prospective shareholders and third parties are provided with the same information. Accordingly, applicants assert that continuing to subject the Funds to section 19(b) and rule 19b-1 would afford shareholders no extra protection.

5. Applicants note that section 19(b) and rule 19b-1 also were intended to prevent certain improper sales practices, including, in particular, the practice of urging an

investor to purchase shares of a fund on the basis of an upcoming capital gains dividend (“selling the dividend”), where the dividend would result in an immediate corresponding reduction in NAV and would be in effect a taxable return of the investor’s capital.

Applicants assert that the “selling the dividend” concern should not apply to closed-end investment companies which do not continuously distribute shares. According to Applicants, if the underlying concern extends to secondary market purchases of shares of closed-end funds that are subject to a large upcoming capital gains dividend, adoption of a Plan actually helps minimize the concern by avoiding, through periodic distributions, any buildup of large end-of-the-year distributions.

6. Applicants also note that common shares of closed-end funds that invest primarily in equity securities often trade in the marketplace at a discount to their NAV. Applicants believe that this discount may be reduced for closed-end funds that pay relatively frequent dividends on their common shares at a consistent rate, whether or not those dividends contain an element of long-term capital gain.

7. Applicants assert that the application of rule 19b-1 to a Plan actually could have an undesirable influence on portfolio management decisions. Applicants state that, in the absence of an exemption from rule 19b-1, the implementation of a Plan imposes pressure on management (i) not to realize any net long-term capital gains until the point in the year that the fund can pay all of its remaining distributions in accordance with rule 19b-1, and (ii) not to realize any long-term capital gains during any particular year in excess of the amount of the aggregate pay-out for the year (since as a practical matter excess gains must be distributed and accordingly would not be available to satisfy pay-out requirements in following years), notwithstanding that purely investment considerations

might favor realization of long-term gains at different times or in different amounts.

Applicants thus assert that the limitation on the number of capital gains distributions that a fund may make with respect to any one year imposed by rule 19b-1 may prevent the efficient operation of a Plan whenever that fund's realized net long-term capital gains in any year exceed the total of the periodic distributions that may include such capital gains under the rule.

8. In addition, Applicants assert that rule 19b-1 may cause fixed regular periodic distributions under a Plan to be funded with returns of capital<sup>2</sup> (to the extent net investment income and realized short-term capital gains are insufficient to fund the distribution), even though realized net long-term capital gains otherwise could be available. To distribute all of a fund's long-term capital gains within the limits in rule 19b-1, a fund may be required to make total distributions in excess of the annual amount called for by its Plan, or to retain and pay taxes on the excess amount. Applicants thus assert that the requested order would minimize these effects of rule 19b-1 by enabling the funds to realize long-term capital gains as often as investment considerations dictate without fear of violating rule 19b-1.

9. Applicants state that Revenue Ruling 89-81 under the Code requires that a fund that has both common stock and preferred stock outstanding designate the types of income, e.g., investment income and capital gains, in the same proportion as the total distributions distributed to each class for the tax year. To satisfy the proportionate designation requirements of Revenue Ruling 89-81, whenever a fund has realized a long-

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<sup>2</sup> Returns of capital as used in the application means return of capital for financial accounting purposes and not for tax accounting purposes.

term capital gain with respect to a given tax year, the fund must designate the required proportionate share of such capital gain to be included in common and preferred stock dividends. Applicants state that although rule 19b-1 allows a fund some flexibility with respect to the frequency of capital gains distributions, a fund might use all of the exceptions available under the rule for a tax year and still need to distribute additional capital gains allocated to the preferred stock to comply with Revenue Ruling 89-81.

10. Applicants assert that the potential abuses addressed by section 19(b) and rule 19b-1 do not arise with respect to preferred stock issued by a closed-end fund. Applicants assert that such distributions are fixed or determined in periodic auctions by reference to short-term interest rates rather than by reference to performance of the issuer and Revenue Ruling 89-81 determines the proportion of such distributions that are comprised of the long-term capital gains.

11. Applicants also submit that the “selling the dividend” concern is not applicable to preferred stock, which entitles a holder to no more than a periodic dividend at a fixed rate or the rate determined by the market, and, like a debt security, is priced based upon its liquidation value, credit quality, and frequency of payment. Applicants state that investors buy preferred shares for the purpose of receiving payments at the frequency bargained for, and do not expect the liquidation value of their shares to change.

12. Applicants request an order under section 6(c) granting an exemption from the provisions of section 19(b) and rule 19b-1 to permit each Fund to distribute periodic capital gains dividends (as defined in section 852(b)(3)(C) of the Code) as often as

monthly in any one taxable year in respect of its common stock and as often as specified by or determined in accordance with the terms thereof in respect of its preferred stock.<sup>3</sup>

Applicants' Conditions:

Applicants agree that, with respect to each Fund seeking to rely on the order, the order will be subject to the following conditions:

I. Compliance Review and Reporting. The fund's chief compliance officer will: (a) report to the fund Board, no less frequently than once every three months or at the next regularly scheduled quarterly board meeting, whether (i) the fund and the Adviser have complied with the conditions to the requested order, and (ii) a Material Compliance Matter, as defined in rule 38a-1(e)(2), has occurred with respect to compliance with such conditions; and (b) review the adequacy of the policies and procedures adopted by the fund no less frequently than annually.

II. Disclosures to Fund Shareholders:

A. Each Notice to the holders of the fund's common stock, in addition to the information required by section 19(a) and rule 19a-1:

1. will provide, in a tabular or graphical format:

(a) the amount of the distribution, on a per common share basis, together with the amounts of such distribution amount, on a per common share basis and as a percentage of such distribution amount, from estimated: (A) net investment income; (B) net realized short-term capital gains; (C) net realized long-term capital gains; and (D) return of capital or other capital source;

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<sup>3</sup> Applicants state that a future fund that relies on the requested order will satisfy each of the representations in the application except that such representations will be made in respect of actions by the board of trustees of such future fund and will be made at a future time.

(b) the fiscal year-to-date cumulative amount of distributions, on a per common share basis, together with the amounts of such cumulative amount, on a per common share basis and as a percentage of such cumulative amount of distributions, from estimated: (A) net investment income; (B) net realized short-term capital gains; (C) net realized long-term capital gains; and (D) return of capital or other capital source;

(c) the average annual total return in relation to the change in NAV for the 5-year period (or, if the fund's history of operations is less than five years, the time period commencing immediately following the fund's first public offering) ending on the last day of the month prior to the most recent distribution record date compared to the current fiscal period's annualized distribution rate expressed as a percentage of NAV as of the last day of the month prior to the most recent distribution record date; and

(d) the cumulative total return in relation to the change in NAV from the last completed fiscal year to the last day of the month prior to the most recent distribution record date compared to the fiscal year-to-date cumulative distribution rate expressed as a percentage of NAV as of the last day of the month prior to the most recent distribution record date.

Such disclosure shall be made in a type size at least as large and as prominent as the estimate of the sources of the current distribution; and

2. will include the following disclosure:

(a) "You should not draw any conclusions about the fund's investment performance from the amount of this distribution or from the terms of the fund's Plan";

(b) “The fund estimates that it has distributed more than its income and net realized capital gains; therefore, a portion of your distribution may be a return of capital. A return of capital may occur for example, when some or all of the money that you invested in the fund is paid back to you. A return of capital distribution does not necessarily reflect the fund’s investment performance and should not be confused with ‘yield’ or ‘income’”;<sup>4</sup> and

(c) “The amounts and sources of distributions reported in this Notice are only estimates and are not being provided for tax reporting purposes. The actual amounts and sources of the amounts for tax reporting purposes will depend upon the fund’s investment experience during the remainder of its fiscal year and may be subject to changes based on tax regulations. The fund will send you a Form 1099-DIV for the calendar year that will tell you how to report these distributions for federal income tax purposes.”

Such disclosure shall be made in a type size at least as large as and as prominent as any other information in the Notice and placed on the same page in close proximity to the amount and the sources of the distribution.

B. On the inside front cover of each report to shareholders under rule 30e-1 under the Act, the fund will:

1. describe the terms of the Plan (including the fixed amount or fixed percentage of the distributions and the frequency of the distributions);
2. include the disclosure required by condition II.A.2.a above;

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<sup>4</sup> This disclosure will be included only if the current distribution or the fiscal year-to-date cumulative distributions are estimated to include a return of capital.

3. state, if applicable, that the Plan provides that the Board may amend or terminate the Plan at any time without prior notice to fund shareholders; and

4. describe any reasonably foreseeable circumstances that might cause the fund to terminate the Plan and any reasonably foreseeable consequences of such termination.

C. Each report provided to shareholders under rule 30e-1 and each prospectus filed with the Commission on Form N-2 under the Act, will provide the fund's total return in relation to changes in NAV in the financial highlights table and in any discussion about the fund's total return.

III. Disclosure to Shareholders, Prospective Shareholders and Third Parties:

A. The fund will include the information contained in the relevant Notice, including the disclosure required by condition II.A.2 above, in any written communication (other than a Form 1099) about the Plan or distributions under the Plan by the fund, or agents that the fund has authorized to make such communication on the fund's behalf, to any fund common shareholder, prospective common shareholder or third-party information provider;

B. The fund will issue, contemporaneously with the issuance of any Notice, a press release containing the information in the Notice and will file with the Commission the information contained in such Notice, including the disclosure required by condition II.A.2 above, as an exhibit to its next filed Form N-CSR; and

C. The fund will post prominently on the Web site maintained by the Broker-Dealer, an affiliated person of the Adviser, a statement containing the information in each

Notice, including the disclosure required by condition II.A.2 above, and will maintain such information on such Web site for at least 24 months.<sup>5</sup>

IV. Delivery of Notices to Beneficial Owners: If a broker, dealer, bank or other person (“financial intermediary”) holds common stock issued by the fund in nominee name, or otherwise, on behalf of a beneficial owner, the fund: (a) will request that the financial intermediary, or its agent, forward the Notice to all beneficial owners of the fund’s stock held through such financial intermediary; (b) will provide, in a timely manner, to the financial intermediary, or its agent, enough copies of the Notice assembled in the form and at the place that the financial intermediary, or its agent, reasonably requests to facilitate the financial intermediary’s sending of the Notice to each beneficial owner of the fund’s stock; and (c) upon the request of any financial intermediary, or its agent, that receives copies of the Notice, will pay the financial intermediary, or its agent, the reasonable expenses of sending the Notice to such beneficial owners.

V. Additional Board Determinations for Funds Whose Shares Trade at a Premium: If:

A. The fund’s common stock has traded on the exchange that it primarily trades on at the time in question at an average premium to NAV equal to or greater than 10%, as determined on the basis of the average of the discount or premium to NAV of the fund’s common stock as of the close of each trading day over a 12-week rolling period (each such 12-week rolling period ending on the last trading day of each week); and

B. The fund’s annualized distribution rate for such 12-week rolling period, expressed as a percentage of NAV as of the ending date of such 12-week rolling period,

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<sup>5</sup> None of the funds nor the Adviser maintains a Web site. First Trust Portfolios, a registered broker-dealer and an affiliate of the Adviser, maintains a Web site that is used by the Adviser and the funds.

is greater than the fund's average annual total return in relation to the change in NAV over the 2-year period ending on the last day of such 12-week rolling period; then:

1. At the earlier of the next regularly scheduled meeting or within four months of the last day of such 12-week rolling period the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees:

(a) will request and evaluate, and the Adviser will furnish, such information as may be reasonably necessary to make an informed determination of whether the Plan should be continued or continued after amendment;

(b) will determine whether continuation, or continuation after amendment, of the Plan is consistent with the fund's investment objective(s) and policies and in the best interests of the fund and its stockholders, after considering the information in condition V.B.1.a above; including, without limitation:

(1) whether the Plan is accomplishing its purpose(s);

(2) the reasonably foreseeable effects of the Plan on the fund's long-term total return in relation to the market price and NAV of the fund's common stock; and

(3) the fund's current distribution rate, as described in condition V.B above, compared to with the fund's average annual total return over the 2-year period, as described in condition V.B, or such longer period as the board deems appropriate; and

(c) based upon that determination, will approve or disapprove the continuation, or continuation after amendment, of the Plan; and

2. The Board will record the information considered by it and the basis for its approval or disapproval of the continuation, or continuation after amendment, of the Plan in its meeting minutes, which must be made and preserved for a period of not less than six years from the date of such meeting, the first two years in an easily accessible place.

VI. Public Offerings: The fund will not make a public offering of the fund's common stock other than:

- A. a rights offering below NAV to holders of the fund's common stock;
- B. an offering in connection with a dividend reinvestment plan, merger, consolidation, acquisition, spin-off or reorganization of the fund; or
- C. an offering other than an offering described in conditions VI.A and VI.B above, unless, with respect to such other offering:

1. the fund's annualized distribution rate for the six months ending on the last day of the month ended immediately prior to the most recent distribution declaration date,<sup>6</sup> expressed as a percentage of NAV per share as of such date, is no more than 1 percentage point greater than the fund's average annual total return for the 5-year period ending on such date;<sup>7</sup> and

2. the transmittal letter accompanying any registration statement filed with the Commission in connection with such offering discloses that the fund has received an order under section 19(b) to permit it to make periodic distributions of long-

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<sup>6</sup> If the fund has been in operation fewer than six months, the measured period will begin immediately following the fund's first public offering.

<sup>7</sup> If the fund has been in operation fewer than five years, the measured period will begin immediately following the fund's first public offering.

term capital gains with respect to its common stock as frequently as twelve times each year, and as frequently as distributions are specified in accordance with the terms of any outstanding preferred stock that such fund may issue.

VII. Amendments to Rule 19b-1. The requested relief will expire on the effective date of any amendment to rule 19b-1 that provides relief permitting certain closed-end investment companies to make periodic distributions of long-term capital gains with respect to their outstanding common stock as frequently as twelve times each year.

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

Florence E. Harmon  
Deputy Secretary