

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Investment Company Act Release No. 33075; File No. 812-14857]

The Swiss Helvetia Fund, Inc., et al.

April 23, 2018.

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

ACTION: Notice.

Notice of an 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 to permit a registered closed-end investment company to make periodic distributions of long-term capital gains more frequently than permitted by section 19(b) or rule 19b-1.

APPLICANTS: The Swiss Helvetia Fund, Inc. (the “Fund”), a non-diversified closed-end investment company registered under the Act and organized as a corporation under the laws of Delaware, and Schroder Investment Management North America Inc., a corporation organized under the laws of the state of Delaware (“SIMNA”), and Schroder Investment Management North America Limited, a corporation organized under the laws of the United Kingdom (“SIMNA Ltd.”), each registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, and serving as investment adviser and sub-adviser to the Fund, respectively (together with the Fund, the “Applicants”).¹

FILING DATES: The application was filed on December 22, 2017, and amended on April 12, 2018.

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 May 18, 2018, and should be accompanied by proof of service on applicants, in the form of an

¹ Applicants request that the order also apply to each other registered closed-end investment company advised or to be advised in the future by SIMNA or SIMNA Ltd. or by an entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control (within the meaning of section 2(a)(9) of the Act) with SIMNA or SIMNA Ltd. (including any successor in interest) (each such entity, together with SIMNA and SIMNA Ltd., the “Advisers”) that in the future seeks to rely on the order (such investment companies, together with the Fund, are collectively the “Funds” and, individually, a “Fund”). 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.

affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Pursuant to Rule 0-5 under the Act, hearing requests should state the nature of the writer’s interest, any facts bearing upon the desirability of a hearing on the matter, 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:

The Commission: Secretary, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

Applicants: Carin F. Muhlbaum, Schroder Investment Management North America Inc., 7 Bryant Park, New York, NY 10018 and Nicole M. Runyan, Esq., Proskauer Rose LLP, Eleven Times Square, New York, NY 10036.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jean E. Minarick, Senior Counsel at (202) 551-6811, or Kaitlin C. Bottock, Branch Chief, at (202) 551-6825 (Division of Investment Management, Chief Counsel’s Office).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following is a summary of the application. The complete application may be obtained via the Commission’s website by searching for the file number, or for an applicant using the Company name box, at <http://www.sec.gov/search/search.htm>, or by calling (202) 551-8090.

Summary of the Application

1. Section 19(b) of the Act generally makes it unlawful for any registered investment company (“fund”) to make long-term capital gains distributions more than once every twelve months. Rule 19b-1 under the Act limits to one the number of capital gain dividends, as defined in section 852(b)(3)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (“Code,” and such dividends, “distributions”), that a fund may make with respect to any one taxable year, plus a supplemental 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. Applicants believe that investors in certain closed-end funds may prefer an investment vehicle that provides regular current income through a fixed distribution policy (“Distribution Policy”). Applicants propose that the Fund be permitted to adopt a Distribution Policy, pursuant to which the Fund would distribute periodically to its 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 net asset value at a particular time or a fixed amount per share of common stock, any of which may be adjusted from time to time.

3. Applicants request an order under section 6(c) of the Act granting an exemption from section 19(b) of the Act and rule 19b-1 to permit a Fund to distribute periodic capital gain dividends (as defined in section 852(b)(3)(C) of the Code) as frequently as twelve times in any one taxable year in respect of its common stock and as often as specified by, or determined in accordance with the terms of, any preferred stock issued by the Fund. Section 6(c) of the Act provides, in relevant part, that the Commission may exempt any person or transaction from any provision of the Act to the extent that such 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.

4. Applicants state that any order granting the requested relief will be subject to the terms and conditions stated in the application, which generally are designed to address the concerns underlying section 19(b) and rule 19b-1, including concerns about proper disclosures and shareholders’ understanding of the source(s) of a Fund’s distributions and concerns about improper sales practices. Among other things, such terms and conditions require that (1) the board of directors or trustees of the Fund (the “Board”) review such information as is reasonably necessary to make an informed determination of whether to adopt the proposed Distribution Policy and that the Board periodically review the amount of the distributions in light of the investment experience of the Fund, and (2) that the Fund’s shareholders receive appropriate disclosures concerning the distributions.

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

Eduardo A. Aleman,
Assistant Secretary.

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