

Subcommittee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff and other interested persons regarding this matter. The Subcommittee will gather information, analyze relevant issues and facts, and formulate proposed positions and actions, as appropriate, for deliberation by the full Committee.

Members of the public desiring to provide oral statements and/or written comments should notify the Designated Federal Official, Mr. Michael R. Snodderly (Telephone: 301-415-6927) five days prior to the meeting, if possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Electronic recordings will be permitted during the meeting.

Further information regarding this meeting can be obtained by contacting the Designated Federal Officials between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. (ET). Persons planning to attend this meeting are urged to contact the above named individual at least two working days prior to the meeting to be advised of any potential changes to the agenda.

Dated: November 4, 2003.

**Sher Bahadur,**

*Associate Director for Technical Support,  
ACRS/ACNW.*

[FR Doc. 03-28179 Filed 11-7-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**Upon Written Request; Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549**

*Extension:* Rule 12g3-2, OMB Control No. 3235-0119, SEC File No. 270-104. Rules 7a-15 thru 7a-37, OMB Control No. 3235-0132, SEC File No. 270-115. Rule 13e-1, OMB Control No. 3235-0305, SEC File No. 270-255

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is soliciting comments on the collections of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit these existing collections of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Rule 12g3-2 (OMB 3235-0119; SEC File No. 270-104) provides an exemption from Section 12(g) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for

foreign private issuers. Rule 12g3-2 is designed to provide investors in foreign securities with information about such securities and the foreign issuer. It estimated that 1,800 foreign issuers make submissions pursuant to Rule 12g3-2 annually and it takes approximately one burden hour per response for a total annual burden of 1,800 hours. It is estimated that 100% of the burden is prepared by the filer.

Rules 7a-15 through 7a-37 (OMB 3235-0132; SEC File No. 270-115) set forth the general requirements relating to applications, statements and reports that must be filed under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 by issuers and trustees qualifying indentures under that Act for offerings of debt securities. The respondents are persons and entities subject to the Trust Indenture Act requirements. Rules 7a-15 through 7a-37 are disclosure guidelines and do not directly result in any collection of information. The Rules are assigned only one burden hour for administrative convenience.

Rule 13e-1 (OMB 3235-0305; SEC File No. 270-255) makes it unlawful for an issuer who has received notice that it is the subject of a tender offer made under 14(d)(1) of the Act and which has commenced under Rule 14d-2 to purchase any of its equity securities during the tender offer unless it first files a statement with the Commission containing information required by the Rule. This rule is in keeping with the Commission's statutory responsibility to prescribe rules and regulations that are necessary for the protection of investors. Public companies are the respondents. Rule 13e-1 submissions take approximately 10 burden hours to prepare and are filed by 20 respondents. It is estimated that 25% of 200 total burden hours (50 hours) is prepared by the company. The remaining 75% of the total burden is attributed to outside cost.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether these proposed collections of information are necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

Please direct your written comments to Kenneth A. Fogash, Acting Associate Executive Director/CIO, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549.

Dated: October 30, 2003.

**Jill M. Peterson,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 03-28186 Filed 11-7-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-48742; File No. SR-CHX-2003-35]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by the Chicago Stock Exchange, Inc. Relating to the Trading of Nasdaq/NM Securities

November 3, 2003.

Pursuant to section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice hereby is given that on October 31, 2003, the Chicago Stock Exchange, Incorporated ("CHX" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II and III below, which Items have been prepared by the self-regulatory organization. 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 has requested a one-year extension of the pilot relating to the trading of Nasdaq/NM securities on the Exchange. Specifically, the pilot amended CHX Article XX, Rule 37 and CHX Article XX, Rule 43. The pilot currently is due to expire on November 1, 2003. The Exchange proposes that the pilot remain in effect on a pilot basis through November 1, 2004. The text of the proposed rule change is available at the principal offices of the CHX and at the Commission. This proposed extension of the pilot does not alter the text of the pilot language, but simply extends the expiration date of the pilot through November 1, 2004.

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

## II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of, and basis for, the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received regarding the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. CHX has prepared summaries, set forth in Sections A, B and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

### A. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

#### 1. Purpose

The Exchange has requested a one-year extension of the pilot relating to the trading of Nasdaq/NM securities on the Exchange. Specifically, the pilot amends CHX Article XX, Rule 37 and CHX Article XX, Rule 43. The pilot currently is due to expire on November 1, 2003; the Exchange proposes that the amendments remain in effect on a pilot basis through November 1, 2004.

On May 4, 1987, the Commission approved certain Exchange rules and procedures relating to the trading of Nasdaq/NM securities on the Exchange.<sup>3</sup> Among other things, these rules rendered the Exchange's BEST Rule guarantee (CHX Article XX, Rule 37(a)) applicable to Nasdaq/NM securities and made Nasdaq/NM securities eligible for the automatic execution feature of the Exchange's Midwest Automated Execution System (the "MAX" system).<sup>4</sup>

On January 3, 1997, the Commission approved, on a one year pilot basis, a program that eliminated the requirement that CHX specialists automatically execute orders for Nasdaq/NM securities when the

specialist is not quoting at the national best bid or best offer disseminated pursuant to SEC Rule 11Ac1-1 (the "NBBO").<sup>5</sup> When the Commission approved the program on a pilot basis, it requested that the Exchange submit a report to the Commission describing the Exchange's experience with the pilot program. The Commission stated that the report should include at least six months of trading data. Due to programming issues, the pilot program was not implemented until April 1997. Six months of trading data did not become available until November 1997. As a result, the Exchange requested an additional three-month extension to collect the data and prepare the report for the Commission.

On December 31, 1997, the Commission extended the pilot program for an additional three months, until March 31, 1998, to give the Exchange additional time to prepare and submit the report and to give the Commission adequate time to review the report prior to approving the pilot on a permanent basis.<sup>6</sup> The Exchange submitted the report to the Commission on January 30, 1998. Subsequently, the Exchange requested another three-month extension, in order to give the Commission adequate time to approve the pilot program on a permanent basis. On March 31, 1998, the Commission approved the pilot for an additional three-month period, until June 30, 1998.<sup>7</sup> On July 1, 1998, the Commission approved the pilot for an additional six-month period, until December 31, 1998.<sup>8</sup> On December 31, 1998, the Commission approved the pilot for an additional six-month period, until June 30, 1999.<sup>9</sup> On June 30, 1999, the Commission approved the pilot for an additional seven-month period, until January 31, 2000.<sup>10</sup> On January 31, 2000, the Commission approved the pilot for an additional three-month period, until May 1, 2000.<sup>11</sup> On May 1, 2000, the Commission approved the pilot for an additional six-month period, until November 1, 2000.<sup>12</sup> On November 15, 2000, the Commission approved the

pilot for an additional one-year period, until November 1, 2001.<sup>13</sup> On November 1, 2001, the pilot was extended for an additional one-year period, until November 1, 2002.<sup>14</sup> On November 1, 2002, the pilot was extended for an additional one-year period, until November 1, 2003.<sup>15</sup> In light of the evolving nature of the Nasdaq market and unlisted trading of Nasdaq/NM securities, the Exchange now requests another extension of the current pilot program, through November 1, 2004. The Exchange is not requesting approval of any changes to the pilot in this submission.

Under the pilot program, specialists must continue to accept agency market orders<sup>16</sup> or marketable limit orders, but only for orders of 100 to 5099 shares in Nasdaq/NM securities. This threshold order acceptance requirement is referred to as the "auto acceptance threshold." Specialists, however, must accept all agency limit orders in Nasdaq/NM securities from 100 up to and including 10,000 shares for placement in the limit order book. Specialists are required to automatically execute Nasdaq/NM orders in accordance with certain amendments to the pilot program that were approved by the Commission.<sup>17</sup>

The pilot program requires the specialist to set the MAX auto-execution threshold at 100 shares or greater for Nasdaq/NM securities. When a CHX specialist is quoting at the NBBO, orders for a number of shares less than or equal to the size of the specialist's quote are executed automatically (in an amount up to the size of the specialist's quote). Orders of a size greater than the specialist's quote are automatically executed up to the size of the specialist's quote, with the balance of the order designated as an open order in the specialist's book, to be filled in accordance with the Exchange's rules for manual execution of orders for Nasdaq/NM securities. Such rules

<sup>3</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 24424 (May 4, 1987), 52 FR 17868 (May 12, 1987) (order approving File No. SR-MSER-87-2); see also Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 28146 (June 26, 1990), 55 FR 27917 (July 6, 1990) (order expanding the number of eligible securities to 100); 36102 (August 14, 1995), 60 FR 43626 (August 22, 1995) (order expanding the number of eligible securities to 500); 41392 (May 12, 1999), 64 FR 27839 (May 21, 1999) (order expanding the number of eligible securities to 1000).

<sup>4</sup> The MAX system may be used to provide an automated delivery and execution facility for orders that are eligible for execution under the Exchange's BEST Rule and certain other orders. See CHX Rules, Art. XX, Rule 37(b). A MAX order that fits within the BEST parameters is executed pursuant to the BEST Rule via the MAX system. If an order is outside the BEST parameters, the BEST rule does not apply, but MAX system handling rules remain applicable.

<sup>5</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 38119 (January 3, 1997), 62 FR 1788 (January 13, 1997).

<sup>6</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 39512 (December 31, 1997), 63 FR 1517 (January 9, 1998).

<sup>7</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 39823 (March 31, 1998), 63 FR 17246 (April 8, 1998).

<sup>8</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 40150 (July 1, 1998), 63 FR 36983 (July 8, 1998).

<sup>9</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 40868 (December 31, 1998), 64 FR 1845 (January 12, 1999).

<sup>10</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 41586 (June 30, 1999), 64 FR 36938 (July 8, 1999).

<sup>11</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 42372 (January 31, 2000), 65 FR 6425 (February 9, 2000).

<sup>12</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 42740 (May 1, 2000) 65 FR 26649 (May 8, 2000).

<sup>13</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 43565 (November 15, 2000), 65 FR 71166 (November 29, 2000).

<sup>14</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 45010 (November 1, 2001), 66 FR 56585 (November 8, 2001).

<sup>15</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 46932 (November 29, 2002), 67 FR 72990 (December 9, 2002).

<sup>16</sup> The term "agency order" means an order for the account of a customer, but does not include professional orders, as defined in CHX Rules, Art. XXX, Rule 2, Interpretation and Policy .04. The rule defines a "professional order" as any order for the account of a broker-dealer, the account of an associated person of a broker-dealer, or any account in which a broker-dealer or an associated person of a broker-dealer has any direct or indirect interest.

<sup>17</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 44778 (September 7, 2001), 66 FR 48075 (September 17, 2001).

dictate that the specialist must either manually execute the order at the NBBO or a better price or act as agent for the order in seeking to obtain the best available price for the order on a marketplace other than the Exchange. If the specialist decides to act as agent for the order, the pilot program requires the specialist to use order-routing systems to obtain an execution where appropriate. Orders for securities quoted with a spread greater than the minimum variation are executed automatically after a fifteen second delay from the time the order is entered into MAX. The size of the specialist's bid or offer is then automatically decremented by the size of the execution. When the specialist's quote is exhausted, the system generates an autoquote at an increment away from the NBBO for 100 shares.

When the specialist is not quoting a Nasdaq/NM security at the NBBO, an order that is of a size less than or equal to the auto execution threshold designated by the specialist will execute automatically at the NBBO price up to the size of the auto execution threshold. Orders of a size greater than the auto execution threshold will be designated as open orders in the specialist's book and manually executed, unless the order-sending firm previously has advised the specialist that it elects partial automatic execution, in which event the order will be executed automatically up to the size of the auto execution threshold, with the balance of the order to be designated as an open order in the specialist's book.

Whether the specialist is quoting at the NBBO or not, "oversized" orders, *i.e.*, orders that are of a size greater than the auto acceptance threshold of 5099 shares (as designated by the specialist), are not subject to the foregoing requirements, and may be canceled within one minute of being entered into MAX or designated as an open order.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The CHX believes that the proposed rule is consistent with section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>18</sup> generally, and section 6(b)(5) of the Act<sup>19</sup> in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments and to perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

## B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any inappropriate burden on competition.

## C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments Regarding the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants or Others

No written comments were either solicited or received.

## III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>20</sup> and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4<sup>21</sup> thereunder because the proposal: (1) Does not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (2) does not impose any significant burden on competition; and (3) does not become operative for 30 days from the date of filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest; provided that the Exchange has given the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change at least five business days prior to the filing date of the proposed rule change. At any time within 60 days of the filing of such proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate, in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

The Exchange has requested that the Commission waive the 5-day pre-filing notification requirement and the 30-day operative delay. The Commission believes that waiving the 5-day pre-filing notification requirement and the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest.<sup>22</sup> The Commission notes that waiver of the 5-day pre-filing requirement and acceleration of the operative date will prevent the Exchange's pilot program relating to the trade of Nasdaq/NM securities from lapsing, and will allow the current rules to remain effective.

<sup>20</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>21</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

<sup>22</sup> For purposes only of accelerating the operative date of this proposal, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

## IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington DC 20549-0609. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of the filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-CHX-2003-35 and should be submitted by December 1, 2003.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>23</sup>

Jill M. Peterson,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-28149 Filed 11-7-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-48744; File Nos. SR-NSCC-2003-19 and SR-DTC-2003-11]

## Self-Regulatory Organizations; National Securities Clearing Corporation; The Depository Trust Company; Order Granting Accelerated Approval of a Proposed Rule Change Relating to the Consolidation of Settlement Processing Operations and to the Use of the Federal Reserve Banks' Net Settlement Service

November 4, 2003.

## I. Introduction

On September 26, 2003, the National Securities Clearing Corporation ("NSCC") and The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") proposed rule change File No. SR-NSCC-2003-19 and proposed rule change File No. SR-DTC-2003-11 pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of

<sup>18</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>19</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>23</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).