

19b–4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> a proposed rule change to list and trade shares of the COTwo Advisors Physical European Carbon Allowance Trust. The proposed rule change was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on January 26, 2024.<sup>3</sup> The Commission has received no comments on the proposed rule change.

Section 19(b)(2) of the Act<sup>4</sup> provides that within 45 days of the publication of notice of the filing of a proposed rule change, or within such longer period up to 90 days as the Commission may designate if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding, or as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission shall either approve the proposed rule change, disapprove the proposed rule change, or institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved. The 45th day after publication of the notice for this proposed rule change is March 11, 2024. The Commission is extending this 45-day time period.

The Commission finds it appropriate to designate a longer period within which to take action on the proposed rule change so that it has sufficient time to consider the proposed rule change. Accordingly, the Commission, pursuant to section 19(b)(2) of the Act,<sup>5</sup> designates April 25, 2024 as the date by which the Commission shall either approve or disapprove, or institute proceedings to determine whether to disapprove, the proposed rule change (File No. SR–NYSEARCA–2024–05).

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>6</sup>

**Sherry R. Haywood,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–99664; File No. SR–NYSECHX–2024–07]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE Chicago, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Modify Rule 7.31

March 4, 2024.

Pursuant to section 19(b)(1)<sup>1</sup> of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)<sup>2</sup> and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,<sup>3</sup> notice is hereby given that, on February 26, 2024, the NYSE Chicago, Inc. (“NYSE Chicago” or the “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “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 proposes to modify Rule 7.31 regarding Primary Pegged Orders. The proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s website at [www.nyse.com](http://www.nyse.com), at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

#### 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 self-regulatory organization included statements concerning the purpose of, and basis for, the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of those statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant parts of such statements.

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

###### 1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 7.31 regarding Primary Pegged Orders.

Rule 7.31(h) defines a Pegged Order as a Limit Order that does not route with

a working price that is pegged to a dynamic reference price. If the designated reference price is higher (lower) than the limit price of a Pegged Order to buy (sell), the working price will be the limit price of the order.

Rule 7.31(h)(2) defines a Primary Pegged Order as a Pegged Order to buy (sell) with a working price that is pegged to the PBB (PBO), with no offset allowed. A Primary Pegged Order to buy (sell) will be rejected on arrival, or cancelled when resting, if there is no PBB (PBO) against which to peg.

Rule 7.31(h)(2)(A) currently provides that a Primary Pegged Order must include a minimum of one round lot displayed. Rule 7.31(h)(2)(A) further provides that the working price of a Primary Pegged Order equals the display price, the display quantity is ranked Priority 2—Display Orders, and the reserve interest is ranked Priority 3—Non-Display Orders.

Rule 7.31(h)(2)(B) provides that a Primary Pegged Order will be rejected if the PBBO is locked or crossed. If the PBBO is locked or crossed when the display quantity of a Primary Pegged Reserve Order is replenished, the entire order will be cancelled. If after arrival, the PBBO becomes locked or crossed, the Primary Pegged Order will wait for a PBBO that is not locked or crossed before the display and working price are adjusted and remains eligible to trade at its current working price.

The Exchange proposes to modify Rule 7.31(h)(2)(A) to permit Primary Pegged Orders to be entered in any size and thus proposes to eliminate rule text currently providing that a Primary Pegged Order must include a minimum of one round lot displayed. The Exchange believes that requiring Primary Pegged Orders to be entered in round lots is unnecessary and that providing Participants with the option to enter Primary Pegged Orders in odd lots could increase liquidity and enhance opportunities for order execution on the Exchange. The Exchange notes that permitting odd-lot order quantities is not novel on the Exchange or other cash equity exchanges and believes that this proposed change would align the Exchange’s handling of Primary Pegged Orders with the treatment of equivalent order types on other cash equity exchanges.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> See, e.g., Members Exchange Rules 11.8(c)(2) (providing that a Primary Peg Order may be entered as an odd lot, round lot, or mixed lot). The Exchange also notes that the rules of the Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (“Nasdaq”), Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc. (“BZX”), and Cboe BYX Exchange, Inc. (“BYX”) appear to permit orders, including orders

Continued

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

<sup>3</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 99409 (January 22, 2024), 89 FR 5273.

<sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(31).

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

<sup>2</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78a.

<sup>3</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

Because of the technology changes associated with this proposed rule change, the Exchange will announce the implementation date by Trader Update, which, subject to effectiveness of this proposed rule change, will be in the first quarter of 2024.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The proposed rule change is consistent with section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>5</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of section 6(b)(5),<sup>6</sup> in particular, because it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to, and perfect the mechanism of, a free and open market and a national market system and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

The Exchange believes that the proposed change would promote just and equitable principles of trade, remove impediments to, and perfect the mechanism of, a free and open market and a national market system, and protect investors and the public interest because it would provide Participants with the option to enter Primary Pegged Orders in odd-lot sized orders, which could encourage order flow to the Exchange and promote opportunities for order execution on the Exchange, to the benefit of all market participants. The Exchange notes that the proposed change would not otherwise impact the operation of Primary Pegged Orders as provided under current Exchange rules. The Exchange also believes that the proposed change would align Exchange rules with the treatment of orders analogous to Primary Pegged Orders on other cash equity exchanges, thereby removing impediments to, and perfecting the mechanism of, a free and open market and a national market system.<sup>7</sup>

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. As noted

above, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change would allow the Exchange to accept Primary Pegged Orders of any size and align the Exchange's handling of such orders with other cash equity exchanges' handling of similar order types,<sup>8</sup> thereby promoting competition among exchanges by offering Participants options available on other cash equity exchanges. The Exchange also believes that, to the extent the proposed change would increase opportunities for order execution, the proposed change would promote competition by making the Exchange a more attractive venue for order flow and enhancing market quality for all market participants.

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

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

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

The Exchange has filed the proposed rule change pursuant to section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act<sup>9</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.<sup>10</sup> Because the proposed rule change does not: (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become operative prior to 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest, the proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) thereunder.<sup>11</sup>

A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b-4(f)(6)<sup>12</sup> normally does not become operative prior to 30 days after the date of the filing. However, pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii),<sup>13</sup> the Commission may designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange has asked the Commission to

waive the 30-day operative delay to allow it to accept Primary Pegged Orders of any size as soon as the technology associated with the proposed change is available. The Exchange states that the proposal raises no novel issues and that waiver of the operative delay would allow the Exchange to more expeditiously offer increased flexibility to member organizations and promote additional trading opportunities for all market participants. The Commission finds that, because the proposal does not change the operation of Primary Pegged Orders, other than to expand their use to odd-lot orders, waiver of the operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. Accordingly, the Commission hereby waives the 30-day operative delay and designates the proposal operative upon filing.<sup>14</sup>

At any time within 60 days of the filing of such proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend 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. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings under section 19(b)(2)(B)<sup>15</sup> of the Act to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved.

## 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. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

### Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission's internet comment form (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an email to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include file number SR-NYSECHX-2024-07 on the subject line.

### Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.
- All submissions should refer to file number SR-NYSECHX-2024-07. This

<sup>14</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).

<sup>15</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B).

analogous to Primary Pegged Orders, to be entered in any size. See Nasdaq Rule 4703(b) (providing that an order may be entered in any whole share size, except as otherwise provided); BZX Rule 11.2 (providing that orders are eligible for odd-lot, round-lot, and mixed-lot executions unless otherwise indicated); BYX Rule 11.2 (same).

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

<sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>7</sup> See note 4, *supra*.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

<sup>10</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>11</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii). In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6) requires a self-regulatory organization to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. The Exchange has satisfied this requirement.

<sup>12</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>13</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's internet website (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). 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 website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection. All submissions should refer to file number SR-NYSECHX-2024-07 and should be submitted on or before March 29, 2024.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>16</sup>

**Sherry R. Haywood,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-99665; File No. SR-NASDAQ-2023-045]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC; Order Instituting Proceedings To Determine Whether To Approve or Disapprove a Proposed Rule Change To List and Trade Shares of the iShares Ethereum Trust Under Nasdaq Rule 5711(d), Commodity-Based Trust Shares

March 4, 2024.

On November 21, 2023, The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission

("Commission"), pursuant to section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> a proposed rule change to list and trade shares ("Shares") of the iShares Ethereum Trust ("Trust") under Nasdaq Rule 5711(d), Commodity-Based Trust Shares. The proposed rule change was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on December 11, 2023.<sup>3</sup>

On January 24, 2024, pursuant to section 19(b)(2) of the Act,<sup>4</sup> the Commission designated a longer period within which to approve the proposed rule change, disapprove the proposed rule change, or institute proceedings to determine whether to disapprove the proposed rule change.<sup>5</sup> This order institutes proceedings under section 19(b)(2)(B) of the Act<sup>6</sup> to determine whether to approve or disapprove the proposed rule change.

#### I. Summary of the Proposal

As described in more detail in the Notice,<sup>7</sup> the Exchange proposes to list and trade the Shares of the Trust under Nasdaq Rule 5711(d), which governs the listing and trading of Commodity-Based Trust Shares on the Exchange.

According to the Exchange, the investment objective of the Trust is to reflect generally the performance of the price of ether, before payment of the Trust's expenses and liabilities.<sup>8</sup> The assets of the Trust consist primarily of ether held by a custodian on behalf of the Trust.<sup>9</sup> On each Business Day, as soon as practicable after 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time ("ET"), the administrator of the Trust will evaluate the ether held by the Trust as reflected by the CF Benchmarks Index and determine the net asset value of the Trust.<sup>10</sup> The Trust will issue and redeem baskets of Shares on a continuous basis only in exchange for an amount of ether determined by the trustee of the Trust.<sup>11</sup>

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

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

<sup>3</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 99081 (Dec. 5, 2023), 88 FR 85945 ("Notice"). The Commission has received no comments on the proposal.

<sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

<sup>5</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 99419, 89 FR 5970 (Jan. 30, 2024). The Commission designated March 10, 2024, as the date by which the Commission shall approve or disapprove, or institute proceedings to determine whether to disapprove, the proposed rule change.

<sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B).

<sup>7</sup> See Notice, *supra* note 3.

<sup>8</sup> See *id.* at 85946. iShares Delaware Trust Sponsor LLC ("Sponsor") is the sponsor of the Trust and is an indirect subsidiary of BlackRock, Inc. See *id.* at 85945.

<sup>9</sup> See *id.* at 85946.

<sup>10</sup> See *id.*

<sup>11</sup> See *id.* at 85947.

#### II. Proceedings To Determine Whether To Approve or Disapprove SR-NASDAQ-2023-045 and Grounds for Disapproval Under Consideration

The Commission is instituting proceedings pursuant to section 19(b)(2)(B) of the Act<sup>12</sup> to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved. Institution of proceedings is appropriate at this time in view of the legal and policy issues raised by the proposed rule change, as discussed below. Institution of proceedings does not indicate that the Commission has reached any conclusions with respect to any of the issues involved. Rather, as described below, the Commission seeks and encourages interested persons to provide comments on the proposed rule change.

Pursuant to section 19(b)(2)(B) of the Act,<sup>13</sup> the Commission is providing notice of the grounds for disapproval under consideration. The Commission is instituting proceedings to allow for additional analysis of the proposed rule change's consistency with section 6(b)(5) of the Act, which requires, among other things, that the rules of a national securities exchange be "designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices" and "to protect investors and the public interest."<sup>14</sup>

The Commission asks that commenters address the sufficiency of the Exchange's statements in support of the proposal, which are set forth in the Notice, in addition to any other comments they may wish to submit about the proposed rule change. In particular, the Commission seeks comment on the following questions and asks commenters to submit data where appropriate to support their views:

1. Given the nature of the underlying assets held by the Trust, has the Exchange properly filed its proposal to list and trade the Shares under Nasdaq Rule 5711(d), Commodity-Based Trust Shares?<sup>15</sup>

<sup>12</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B).

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

<sup>14</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>15</sup> Nasdaq Rule 5711(d)(iv)(A) defines the term "Commodity-Based Trust Shares" as a security (1) that is issued by a trust that holds (a) a specified commodity deposited with the trust, or (b) a specified commodity and, in addition to such specified commodity, cash; (2) that is issued by such trust in a specified aggregate minimum number in return for a deposit of a quantity of the underlying commodity and/or cash; and (3) that, when aggregated in the same specified minimum number, may be redeemed at a holder's request by such trust which will deliver to the redeeming holder the quantity of the underlying commodity and/or cash.

<sup>16</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).