

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

Written comments were not and are not intended to be solicited with respect to the proposed rule change, and none have been 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)(iii) of the Act⁵ and Rule 19b-4(f)(4)⁶ thereunder because it effects a change in an existing service of OCC that (i) does not adversely affect the safeguarding of securities or funds in the custody or control of OCC or for which it is responsible and (ii) does not significantly affect the respective rights or obligations of OCC or persons using the service. At any time within sixty days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission could have summarily abrogated 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.

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. Comments may also be submitted electronically at the following e-mail address: rule-comments@sec.gov. All comment letters should refer to File No. SR-OCC-2003-12. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, comments should be sent either in hardcopy or by e-mail but not by both methods. 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 Section, 450 Fifth Street NW., Washington, DC 20549. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of OCC and on OCC's Web site at <http://www.optionsclearing.com>. All submissions should refer to the File No. SR-OCC-2003-12 and should be submitted by April 22, 2004.

For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁷

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-7276 Filed 3-31-04; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-49478; File No. SR-OCC-2003-09]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Options Clearing Corporation; Notice of Filing of a Proposed Rule Change Relating to Minimum Net Capital Requirements for Appointed Clearing Members

March 25, 2004.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),¹ notice is hereby given that on August 22, 2003, The Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which items have been prepared primarily by OCC. 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 proposed rule change would specify minimum net capital requirements for appointed clearing members, which are OCC clearing members that facilitate stock settlement for other clearing members.

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

In its filing with the Commission, OCC 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 these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. OCC has prepared summaries, set forth in sections (A), (B), and (C) below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.²

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

OCC's by-laws define an "underlying security" with respect to physically settled stock options and stock futures to mean the security or other asset that OCC is obligated to sell or purchase upon exercise or maturity of the contract. Normally, underlying securities are delivered and paid for through the facilities of the National Securities Clearing Corporation ("NSCC"), and clearing members that are eligible to clear and carry stock options and stock futures contracts must be NSCC participants except as otherwise provided in OCC's rules. OCC's by-laws and rules permit a clearing member ("Appointing Clearing Member") that is not an NSCC member to appoint another clearing member ("Appointed Clearing Member") that is an NSCC member to deliver or to receive underlying securities and to effect payment therefore through the facilities of NSCC obligations of the Appointing Clearing Member.

In connection with providing stock settlement services, an Appointed Clearing Member may be subject to increased risk of operational or other errors that could be charged against the Appointed Clearing Member's net capital. As a result, OCC has determined that Appointed Clearing Members should be required to maintain a specified minimum amount of net capital in order to perform such services. Therefore, OCC is proposing new Rule 309A to apply to stock settlement arrangements between clearing members the minimum net capital standards that currently are applied to facilities management arrangements between clearing members in Rule 309. This minimum net capital standard would require every Appointed Clearing Member to maintain net capital of not less than the greater of (i) the minimum net capital required under the provisions of OCC Rule 302 or (ii) the sum of (A) \$2,000,000 plus (B) \$100,000 times the number of Appointing Clearing Members in excess of four on whose behalf the Appointed Clearing Member effects settlements.

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

⁶ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(4).

⁷ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² The Commission has modified parts of these statements.

OCC believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the purposes and requirements of Section 17A of the Act because it specifies the minimum net capital requirement for clearing members that facilitate stock settlements on behalf of other clearing members.

(B) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

OCC does not believe that the proposed rule change would impose any burden on competition.

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

Written comments were not and are not intended to be solicited with respect to the proposed rule change, and none have been received.

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

Within thirty five days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to ninety days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

- (a) By order approve the proposed rule change or
- (b) Institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be 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. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. Comments may also be submitted electronically at the following e-mail address: rule-comments@sec.gov. All comment letters should refer to File No. SR-OCC-2003-09. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, comments should be sent in hardcopy or by e-mail but not by both methods. 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 Section, 450 Fifth Street NW., Washington, DC 20549. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of OCC and on OCC's Web site at <http://www.optionsclearing.com>. All submissions should refer to the File No. SR-OCC-2003-09 and should be submitted by April 16, 2004.

For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.³

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-7277 Filed 3-31-04; 8:45 am]
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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-49487; File No. SR-PCX-2004-05]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Pacific Exchange, Inc; Order Approving Proposed Rule Change Imposing a Connectivity Fee Applicable to Non-Members That Maintain a Connectivity Line With the Exchange

March 26, 2004.

On January 28, 2004, the Pacific Exchange, Inc. ("PCX" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² a proposed rule change to amend the Floor, Market Maker and Remote Market Maker portion of its Schedule of Fees and Charges ("Schedule") in order to create a connectivity fee of \$300 per line per month that would be applicable to non-members that maintain a connectivity line with the Exchange.³ The proposed rule change was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on February 24, 2004.⁴ The Commission received no comment letters on the proposal.

The Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with

the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to a national securities exchange⁵ and, particularly, section 6(b)(4) of the Act.⁶ The Commission believes that amending the Exchange's rule to impose such a connectivity fee should promote equitable allocation of fees and other charges among Exchange members and other persons using the Exchange's facilities.

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to section 19(b)(2) of the Act,⁷ that the proposed rule change (SR-PCX-2004-05) is approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁸

Jill M. Peterson,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-7324 Filed 3-21-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Bureau of Nonproliferation

[Public Notice 4676]

Termination of Chemical and Biological Weapons Proliferation Sanctions Against a Foreign Person

SUMMARY: The United States Government has determined to terminate sanctions imposed on a foreign person who had engaged in chemical weapons proliferation activities that required the imposition of sanctions pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act and the Export Administration Act of 1979.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Vann H. Van Diepen, Office of Chemical, Biological and Missile Nonproliferation, Bureau of Nonproliferation, Department of State (202-647-1142).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to Section 81(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2798(d)) and Section 11C(d) of the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended (50 U.S.C. app. 2410c(d)), the Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Affairs determined and certified to Congress that reliable information indicated that the following foreign person has ceased

³ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ The PCX recently implemented this charge for its members. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 48970 (December 22, 2003), 68 FR 75306 (December 30, 2003).

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 49263 (February 17, 2004), 69 FR 8509.

⁵ In approving this proposed rule change, the Commission has considered its impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

⁸ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).