

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

In a release dated June 8, 2000, the Commission ordered the ISE, the other registered national securities exchanges, and the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD") to submit to the Commission, by June 8, 2001, a study regarding the effects of decimal trading.³ The Decimalization Order also required the exchanges and the NASD to submit proposed rule changes establishing minimum pricing increments for quotations in the securities they trade.

On September 10, 2001, the ISE submitted its decimalization study ("Study"). Because the ISE did not have significant empirical data regarding the effects of decimalization on its market, the Exchange based its study on responses to a questionnaire it had sent to its members. The Study concluded that decimalization had little effect on the ISE market.

The ISE also submitted its required rule change establishing minimum pricing increments for quotations.⁴ The Exchange established minimum increments of \$.05 for options trading at less than \$3.00 and \$.10 for options trading at \$3.00 or more. Those were the same increments the Exchange had applied during its conversion to decimal pricing. The purpose of this proposed rule change is to reaffirm the pricing increments in the ISE's rule in light of the results of the Study. Because the Study indicated that the conversion to decimal pricing did not have a significant effect on the ISE's market, the ISE does not believe it is necessary or appropriate at this time to change its minimum pricing increments.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with section 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁵ in that it fosters cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transaction in securities,

removes impediments to and perfects the mechanism for a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, protects investors and the public interest.

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

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

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

The Exchange has not solicited, and does not intend to solicit, comments on the proposed rule change. The Exchange has not received any unsolicited written comments from members or other interested parties.

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

Within 35 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 90 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 Exchange consents, the Commission will:

- (a) By order approve such 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. 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 such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at

the principal office of the ISE. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-ISE-2002-06 and should be submitted by April 8, 2002.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁶

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-45546; File No. SR-NYSE-2002-14]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. Extending the Pilot Regarding Shareholder Approval of Stock Option Plans Through May 13, 2002

March 12, 2002.

Pursuant to section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on March 11, 2002, the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. ("NYSE" 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 Exchange. 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 extend, until May 13, 2002, the effectiveness of the amendments to Sections 312.01, 312.03 and 312.04 of the Exchange's Listed Company Manual with respect to the definition of a "broadly-based" stock option plan, which were approved by the Commission on a pilot basis (the "Pilot") on June 4, 1999.³ The Pilot was subsequently amended and extended on March 30, 2001 until September 30, 2001.⁴ The Pilot has since been

⁶ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 41479, 64 FR 31667 (June 11, 1999) (notice of filing and order granting accelerated approval, on a pilot basis, to File No. SR-NYSE-98-32) ("Original Pilot Approval Order").

⁴ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 44141, 66 FR 18334 (April 6, 2001) (order granting approval, on a pilot basis, to the File No. SR-NYSE-00-32).

³ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 42914 (June 8, 2000), 65 FR 38010 (June 19, 2000) ("Decimalization Order"). The Commission extended the date by which the studies were due to September 10, 2001. Securities Exchange Act Release No. 44336 (May 22, 2001), 66 FR 29368 (May 30, 2001).

⁴ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 44349 (May 24, 2001), 66 FR 29617 (May 31, 2001).

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

extended until January 11, 2002⁵ and March 11, 2002.⁶

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 on the proposed rule change. The text of these 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 aspects of such statements.

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

1. Purpose

On July 13, 2000, the Exchange filed a proposed rule change seeking to extend the effectiveness of the Pilot until September 30, 2003.⁷ Following receipt of comments from interested parties and the SEC staff, on January 19, 2001, the Exchange amended the 2000 Extension Request to shorten the three-year extension request to one year and to amend the definition of "broadly based" under the Exchange's rule. While the 2000 Extension Request was under consideration, the Commission extended the Pilot to provide the Commission and the Exchange with additional time to review and evaluate comment letters.⁸ On March 30, 2001, the Commission approved the 2000 Extension Request, which amended and extended the Pilot, on a pilot basis until September 30, 2001.⁹ The Exchange's 2001 Extension Request became effective on September 28, 2001, on a

pilot basis, and extended the Pilot until January 11, 2002 to provide additional time to evaluate the issues presented by the Pilot.¹⁰ The Pilot was again extended until March 11, 2002 for the same reasons.¹¹

The Exchange proposes to further extend the effectiveness of the Pilot until May 13, 2002 to provide additional time to evaluate the issues presented by the Pilot, in light of recently adopted requirements relating to disclosure of equity compensation plan information.¹²

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with section 6(b)(5) of the Act,¹³ which requires, among other things, that an Exchange have rules 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, ingeneral, to protect investors and the public interest.

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.

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

The Exchange has neither solicited nor received written comments on the proposed rule change.

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

Because the proposed rule change (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, the proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹⁴ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)¹⁵ thereunder.

A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b-4(f)(6)¹⁶ normally does not become operative prior to 30 days after the date of filing. However, pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii),¹⁷ the Commission may designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and public interest. The Exchange seeks to have the proposed rule change become operative on or before March 11, 2002, in order to allow the Pilot to continue in effect on an uninterrupted basis. In addition, under Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii), the Exchange is required to provide the Commission with written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change at least five business days prior to the filing date or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. The Commission waived the five-day pre-notice and thirty-day operative date requirements for this proposed rule change.

The Commission, consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest, has determined to make the proposed rule change to extend the Pilot through May 13, 2002, become operative on March 11, 2002. The Commission notes that unless the Pilot is extended, the Pilot will expire and the provisions of Sections 312.01, 312.03, and 312.04 of the Exchange's Listed Company Manual that were amended in the Pilot will revert to those in effect prior to June 4, 1999. The Commission believes that such a result could lead to confusion.

The Commission recognizes that the Pilot has generated many comment letters from commenters that do not support the NYSE's definition of "broadly-based" stock option plans under the Pilot.¹⁸ The Commission also notes that many commenters were

⁵ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 44886 (September 28, 2001), 66 FR 51083 (October 5, 2001) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of File No. SR-NYSE-2001-37) ("2001 Extension Request").

⁶ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 45275 (January 14, 2002), 67 FR 2718 (January 18, 2002) (File No. SR-NYSE-2002-03).

⁷ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 43111 (August 2, 2000), 65 FR 49046 (August 10, 2000) (notice of filing of File No. SR-NYSE-00-32) ("2000 Extension Request").

⁸ See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 43329 (September 22, 2000), 65 FR 58833 (October 2, 2000) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of File No. SR-NYSE-00-38); 43647 (November 30, 2000), 65 FR 77407 (December 11, 2000) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of File No. SR-NYSE-00-52); and 44018 (February 28, 2001), 66 FR 13821 (March 7, 2001) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of File No. SR-NYSE-2001-04).

⁹ See note 4 *supra*.

¹⁰ See note 5 *supra*. One comment letter was received regarding the extension of the Pilot by the 2001 Extension Request. See letter from Sarah A.B. Teslick, Executive Director, Council of Institutional Investors ("CII") to Jonathan G. Katz, Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Commission, dated October 16, 2001. The CII commented that the 2001 Extension Request should have been released for public comment prior to the Commission approving another extension to the Pilot and that any future proposed extensions should be released for prior public comment, that the Pilot not be extended after January 11, 2002, that the NYSE should be required to submit a dilution standard for approval which should be in place before the 2002 proxy season, and that the Commission act on the proposed disclosure standards for stock option plans. The Commission notes that the disclosure standards were approved by it on December 21, 2001. See note 12 *infra* below.

¹¹ See note 6 *supra*.

¹² Release Nos. 33-8048 and 34-45189 (December 21, 2001), 67 FR 232 (January 2, 2002).

¹³ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

¹⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁵ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

¹⁸ See Original Pilot Approval Order, note 3 *supra*.

critical of the NYSE's existing rules on broadly-based plans prior to the adoption of the original Pilot. As noted above, if the Pilot is not extended, the rules prior to the Pilot will go into effect. The proposed rule change merely extends the duration of the Pilot for only a short period of time and does not deal with the substantive issues presented by the Pilot itself.

Based on these reasons, the Commission believes that it is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest that the proposed rule change to extend the Pilot through May 13, 2002, become operative on March 11, 2002.¹⁹ At any time within 60 days of the filing of the 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.

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 such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the above-mentioned self-regulatory organization. All submissions should refer to the File No. SR-NYSE-2002-14 and should be submitted by April 18, 2002.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.²⁰

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-45544; File No. SR-PCX-2002-04]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change by the Pacific Exchange, Inc. Relating to Permanent Adoption of Decimal Pricing and the Establishment of a Minimum Price Variation for Quoting in Equity Securities and Options

March 12, 2002.

Pursuant to section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on January 15, 2002, the Pacific Exchange, Inc. ("PCX" or "Exchange") 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 by the PCX. 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 PCX fully implemented the Commission's order requiring it to convert prices in equity securities and options from fractions to decimals on a pilot basis. Having fully implemented decimal pricing and established the minimum price variation ("MPV") in each market for quoting equity securities and options, the Exchange submits this proposal to permanently adopt the changes that the Exchange has made to its rules. The Exchange is not making any changes to its rules; rather, the Exchange is permanently adopting the rule changes that were initially implemented on a pilot basis.³

The text of the proposed rule change is available at the PCX and at the Commission.

²⁰ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 43369 (September 27, 2000), 65 FR 59485 (October 5, 2000) (SR-PCX-2000-23); see also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 45077 (November 19, 2001), 66 FR 59280 (November 27, 2001) (SR-PCX-2001-39) (eliminating all references to fractional pricing from its rules).

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 on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item III below. The Exchange 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

On June 8, 2000, the Commission issued an order ("Order") that provided a framework for the national securities exchanges and the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. (collectively "Participants") to convert quotation pricing in equity securities and options from fractions to decimals.⁴ The Order required that: (i) Participants submit studies analyzing how decimal conversion affects systems capacity, liquidity, and trading behavior; and (ii) Participants submit rule filings that individually establish the MPV for each market.

In complying with the Order, the Participants submitted to the Commission on July 26, 2000, the Decimals Implementation Plan for the Equities and Options Markets⁵ and successfully completed the phasing-in of decimal pricing in all equity securities and options. In connection with the full implementation, the Exchange modified its rules to include pricing in decimal format with cross-references to fractional pricing. This was done to allow the Exchange to trade, during the phase-in, some securities in decimals and some in fractions. The Exchange also established an MPV scheme for each market (equities and options) and submitted its study of the results on September 10, 2001.⁶ The Exchange completed its transition to decimal pricing by eliminating references to fractional

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 42914 (June 8, 2000), 65 FR 38010 (June 19, 2000).

⁵ See letter from Dennis L. Covelli, Vice President, New York Stock Exchange, Inc. to Annette Nazareth, Director, Division of Market Regulation, Commission, dated July 25, 2000.

⁶ See The Pacific Exchange, Inc. Report on Decimal Trading (September 10, 2001).

¹⁹ For purposes only of accelerating the operative date of this proposal, the Commission notes that it has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).