

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR–NSCC–2023–005. This 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 (<http://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 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of NSCC and at DTCC’s website (<http://dtcc.com/legal/sec-rule-filings.aspx>). 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–NSCC–2023–005 and should be submitted on or before June 22, 2023.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.²³

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–97580; File No. SR–C2–2023–013]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe C2 Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Amend Its Fees Schedule

May 25, 2023.

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 May 15, 2023, Cboe C2 Exchange, Inc. (“Exchange” or “C2”) 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 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

Cboe C2 Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange” or “C2”) proposes to update its Fees Schedule. The text of the proposed rule change is provided in Exhibit 5.

The text of the proposed rule change is also available on the Exchange’s website (http://markets.cboe.com/us/options/regulation/rule_filings/ctwo/), at the Exchange’s Office of the Secretary, 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 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

The Exchange proposes to amend the Market Data section of its Fees Schedule.³ Particularly, the Exchange proposes to (i) adopt a New External Credit applicable to C2 Options Top, (ii) adopt a credit towards the monthly Distribution fees for C2 Options Top, (iii) modify the C2 Options Top Enterprise Fee; and (iv) establish fees for Cboe One Options Feed.

C2 Top Data

By way of background, the Exchange offers the C2 Options Top Data feed, which is an uncompressed data feed that offers top-of-book quotations and last sale information based on options orders entered into the Exchange’s System. The C2 Options Top Data feed benefits investors by facilitating their prompt access to real-time top-of-book information contained in C2 Options Top Data. The Exchange’s affiliated options exchanges (*i.e.*, Cboe Exchange, Inc. (“Cboe Options”), Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc. (“BZX Options”), and Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc. (“EDGX Options”) (collectively, “Affiliates” and together with the Exchange, “Cboe Options Exchanges”) also offer similar top-of-book data feeds.⁴ Particularly, each of the Exchange’s Affiliates offer top-of-book quotation and last sale information based on their own quotation and trading activity that is substantially similar to the information provided by the Exchange through the C2 Options Top. The Exchange proposes to make the following fee changes relating to C2 Options Top.

New External Distributor Credit

The Exchange first proposes to adopt a New External Distributor Credit which will provide that new External Distributors of the C2 Options Top feed will not be charged an External Distributor Fee for their first three (3) months in order to incentivize External Distributors to enlist new users to receive C2 Options Top feed.⁵ The

³ The Exchange initially filed the proposed fee changes on March 1, 2023 (SR–C2–2023–008). On March 3, 2023, the Exchange withdrew that filing and submitted SR–C2–2023–009. On March 16, 2023, the Exchange withdrew that filing and submitted SR–C2–2023–010. On May 15, 2023, the Exchange withdrew that filing and submitted this proposal.

⁴ See Cboe Options Fees Schedule, EDGX Rule 21.15, and BZX Rule 21.15.

⁵ Any applicable User fees will continue to apply during this three-month period.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

²³ 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12).

Exchange notes that other exchanges, including the Exchange's affiliated equities exchanges, offer similar credits for similar market data products. For example, Cboe's equities exchanges currently offer a one (1) month New External Distributor Credit applicable to External Distributors of their top-of-book data feeds.⁶ They also offer a three (3) month new External Credit applicable to External Distributors of summary depth-of-book feeds.⁷

Distributor Fee Credit

The Exchange also proposes to provide that each External Distributor will receive a credit against its monthly Distributor Fee for the C2 Options Top equal to the amount of its monthly User Fees up to a maximum of the Distributor Fee for the C2 Options Top feed.⁸ The proposed Enterprise Fees discussed below would also be counted towards the Distributor Fee credit, equal to the amount of an External Distributor's monthly C2 Options Top External Distribution fee. For example, an External Distributor will be subject to a \$2,500 monthly Distributor Fee where they elect to receive the C2 Options Top. If that External Distributor reports User quantities totaling \$2,500 or more of monthly usage of the C2 Options Top, it will pay no net Distributor Fee, whereas if that same External Distributor were to report User quantities totaling \$1,500 of monthly usage, it will pay a net of \$1,000 for the Distributor Fee. External Distributors will remain subject to the per User fees applicable to C2 Options Top. External Distributors who choose to purchase an Enterprise license as an alternative to paying User Fees will get a credit in the amount of the External Distribution Fee, which is currently \$2,500, since the proposed Enterprise Fees are in excess of the External Distribution fee. In every case the Exchange will receive at least \$2,500 in connection with the distribution of the C2 Options Top (through a combination of the External Distribution Fee and per User Fees or Enterprise Fees, as applicable). The Exchange notes that its affiliated equities exchanges offer a similar credit for a similar market data product.⁹

⁶ See e.g., EDGX Equities Exchange Fees Schedule, Market Data Fees.

⁷ See e.g., EDGX Equities Exchange Fees Schedule, Market Data Fees, Id.

⁸ Any applicable User fees will continue to apply during this three-month period. The New External Distributor Credit will not apply during an External Distributor's trial usage period for EDGX [sic] Options Top. External Distributors who receive EDGX [sic] Options Top on a trial basis are still eligible for the New Distributor Credit thereafter.

⁹ See e.g., EDGX Equities Exchange Fees Schedule, Id.

Enterprise Fee Tiers

The Exchange currently offers Distributors the ability to purchase a monthly (and optional) Enterprise license to receive the C2 Options Top Feed for distribution to an unlimited number of Professional¹⁰ and Non-Professional¹¹ Users. The Enterprise Fee is an alternative to Professional and Non-Professional User fees and permits a Distributor to pay a flat fee for an unlimited number of Professional and Non-Professional Users and is in addition to the Distribution fees. The Exchange currently assesses a flat monthly Enterprise fee of \$10,000. The Exchange proposes to modify the current Enterprise Fee and adopt a tiered structure based on the number of Users a Distributor has. The Exchange proposes to adopt the following monthly Enterprise Fees: \$10,000 for up to 1,500,000 Users (Tier 1), \$20,000 for 1,500,001 to 2,500,000 Users (Tier 2) and \$30,000 for 2,500,001 or greater Users (Tier 3). The proposed fees are non-progressive (e.g., if a Distributor has 2,000,000 Users, it will be subject to \$20,000 for Tier 2). The Enterprise Fee may provide an opportunity to reduce fees. For example, if a Distributor has 1 million Non-Professional Users who each receive C2 Options Top at \$0.10 per month, then that Distributor will pay \$100,000 per month in Non-Professional Users fees. If the Distributor instead were to purchase the proposed Enterprise license (tier 1), it would alternatively pay a flat fee of \$10,000 for up to 1.5 million Professional and Non-Professional Users. A Distributor that pays the Tier 1 or Tier 2 Enterprise Fee will have to report its number of such Users on a monthly basis. A Distributor that pays

¹⁰ A Professional User [sic] A Professional User of an Exchange Market Data product is any User other than a Non-Professional User.

¹¹ A "Non-Professional User" of an Exchange Market Data product is a natural person or qualifying trust that uses Data only for personal purposes and not for any commercial purpose and, for a natural person who works in the United States, is not: (i) registered or qualified in any capacity with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Commodities Futures Trading Commission, any state securities agency, any securities exchange or association, or any commodities or futures contract market or association; (ii) engaged as an "investment adviser" as that term is defined in Section 202(a)(11) of the Investment Advisors Act of 1940 (whether or not registered or qualified under that Act); or (iii) employed by a bank or other organization exempt from registration under federal or state securities laws to perform functions that would require registration or qualification if such functions were performed for an organization not so exempt; or, for a natural person who works outside of the United States, does not perform the same functions as would disqualify such person as a Non-Professional User if he or she worked in the United States.

the Tier 3 Enterprise Fee will only have to report the number of its Users every six months.¹² The Exchange notes that if the reported number of Users exceed the Enterprise Tier a Distributor has purchased, the higher Tier will apply (e.g., if a Distributor purchases Tier 1, but reports 1,600,000 Users for a month, the Distributor will be assessed the Tier 2 fee).

The Exchange also proposes to allow Distributors to purchase the Enterprise Fee on a monthly or annual basis. Annual licenses will receive a 5% discount off the applicable Enterprise Tier fee.¹³ The Exchange notes that the purchase of an Enterprise license is voluntary, and a firm may elect to instead use the per User structure and benefit from the proposed per User Fees described above. For example, a firm that does not have a sufficient number of Users to benefit from purchase of a license need not do so.

Cboe One Options Feed

By way of background, the Exchange recently adopted a new market data product called Cboe One Options Feed, which is launching March 1, 2023.¹⁴ Cboe One Options Feed will provide top-of-book quotation and last sale information based on the quotation and trading activity on the Exchange and each of its Affiliates, which the Exchange believes offers a comprehensive and highly representative view of US options pricing to market participants. More specifically, Cboe One Options Feed will contain the aggregate best bid and offer ("BBO") of all displayed orders for options traded on the Exchange and its Affiliates, as well as individual last sale information and volume, which includes the price, time of execution and individual Cboe options exchange on which the trade was executed.

The Cboe One Options Feed will also consist of Symbol Summary,¹⁵ Market

¹² See Cboe Global Markets north American Data Policies.

¹³ The discount will be taken off the Enterprise Tier fee assessed each fee [sic]. For example, if a Distributor elects to purchase an annual license and is in Tier 1 for any 9 months of the year and Tier 2 for any 3 months of the year, the total amount of fees paid for one year will be \$142,500 (\$10,000 – 5% × 9 months + \$20,000 – 5% × 3 months) as compared to \$150,000 (\$10,000 × 9 months + \$20,000 × 3 months).

¹⁴ See SR-CboeEDGX-2023-013 [sic].

¹⁵ The Symbol Summary message will include the total executed volume across all Cboe Options Exchanges.

Status,¹⁶ Trading Status,¹⁷ and Trade Break¹⁸ messages for the Exchange and each of its Affiliates.

The Exchange will use the following data feeds to create the Cboe One Options Feed, each of which is available to other vendors and/or distributors: Cboe Options Top Data, C2 Options Top Data, EDGX Options Top and BZX Options Top. A vendor and/or distributor that wishes to create a product like the Cboe One Options Feed could instead subscribe to each of the aforementioned data feeds. Any entity that receives, or elects to receive, the individual data feeds or the feeds that may be used to create a product like the Cboe One Options Feed would be able to, if it so chooses, to create a data feed with the same information included in the Cboe One Options Feed and sell and distribute it to its clients so that it could be received by those clients as quickly as the Cboe One Options Feed would be received by those same clients.

The Exchange proposes to amend its fee schedule to incorporate fees related to the Cboe One Options Feed. The Exchange has taken into consideration its affiliated relationship with its Affiliates in its design of the Cboe One Options Feed to assure that vendors¹⁹

¹⁶ The Market Status message is disseminated to reflect a change in the status of one of the Cboe Options Exchanges. For example, the Market Status message will indicate whether one of the Cboe Options Exchanges is experiencing a systems issue or disruption and quotation or trade information from that market is not currently being disseminated via the Cboe One Options Feed as part of the aggregated BBO. The Market Status message will also indicate when a Cboe Options Exchange is no longer experiencing a systems issue or disruption to properly reflect the status of the aggregated BBO.

¹⁷ The Trade Break message will indicate when an execution on a Cboe Options Exchange is broken in accordance with the individual Cboe Options Exchange's rules (e.g., Cboe Options Rule 6.5, C2 Option Rule 6.5, BZX Options Rule 20.6, EDGX Options Rule 20.6).

¹⁸ The Trading Status message will indicate the current trading status of an option contract on each individual Cboe Options Exchange. A Trading Status message will also be sent whenever a security's trading status changes. For example, a Trading Status message will be sent when a symbol is open for trading or when a symbol is subject to a trading halt or when it resumes trading.

¹⁹ For purposes of this filing, a "vendor", which is a type of distributor, will refer to any entity that receives an exchange market data product directly from the exchange or indirectly from another entity (for example, from an extranet) and then resell that data to a third-party customer (e.g., a data provider that resells exchange market data to a retail brokerage firm). The term "distributor" herein, will refer to any entity that receives an exchange market data product, directly from the exchange or indirectly from another entity (e.g., from a data vendor) and then distributes to individual internal or external end-users (e.g., a retail brokerage firm who distributes exchange data to its individual employees and/or customers). An example of a vendor's "third-party customer" or "customer" is an institutional broker dealer or a retail broker

would be able to offer a similar product on the same terms as the Exchange from a cost perspective. Although Cboe Options Exchanges are the exclusive distributors of the individual data feeds from which certain data elements would be taken to create the Cboe One Options Feed, the Exchange would not be the exclusive distributor of the aggregated and consolidated information that compose the proposed Cboe One Options Feed. Distributors and/or vendors would be able, if they chose, to create a data feed with the same information as the Cboe One Options Feed and distribute it to their clients on a level-playing field with respect to latency and cost as compared to the Exchange's proposed Cboe One Options Feed. The pricing the Exchange proposes to charge for the Cboe One Options Feed, as described more fully below, is not lower than the cost to a distributor or vendor to obtain the underlying data feeds. In fact, the Distribution and User (Professional and Non-Professional) fees, as well as the optional Enterprise Fees, that the Exchange proposes to adopt for the Cboe One Options Feed are equal to the respective combined fees for subscribing to each individual data feed. The Exchange also proposes to adopt a "Data Consolidation Fee," which would reflect the value of the aggregation and consolidation function the Exchange performs in creating the Cboe One Options Feed. Therefore, Distributors would be enabled to create a competing product based on the individual data feeds and charge their clients a fee that they believe reflects the value of the aggregation and consolidation function that is competitive with Cboe One Options Feed pricing. For these reasons, the Exchange believes that Distributors, including vendors, could readily offer a product similar to the Cboe One Options Feed on a competitive basis at a similar cost.

The proposed Cboe One Options Feed fees include the following, each of which are described in further detail below: (i) Distributor Fees; (ii) User Fees for both Professional and Non-Professional Users; (iii) Enterprise Fees; and (iv) a Data Consolidation Fee. The Exchange also proposes to adopt a New External Distributor credit and a credit against the monthly External Distribution Fee equal to the amount of monthly User Fees or Enterprise Fees up to a maximum of the External Distributor Fee. To ensure consistency across the Cboe Options Exchanges,

dealer, who then may in turn distribute the data to their customers who are individual internal or external end-users.

Cboe Options, C2 [sic] Options, and BZX Options will be filing companion proposals to reflect this proposal in their respective fee schedules.

Distributor Fees

As proposed, each Internal Distributor that receives the Cboe One Options Feed shall pay a fee of \$15,000 per month. The proposed Internal Distribution Fee equals the combined monthly Internal Distribution fees for the underlying individual data feeds of the Cboe Options Exchanges (*i.e.*, the monthly Internal Distribution fees are \$3,000 for BZX Options Top, \$500 for EDGX Options Top, \$2,500 for C2 Options Top and \$9,000 for Cboe Options Top). The Exchange also proposes to assess External Distributors a monthly fee of \$10,000. The proposed External Distribution fee equals the combined monthly External Distribution fees for the underlying individual data feeds of the Cboe Options Exchanges (*i.e.*, the monthly External Distribution fees are \$5,000 per month for the Cboe Options Top, \$2,500 per month for C2 Options Top, \$2,000 per month for BZX Options Top, and \$500 for EDGX Options Top). As noted above, the Exchange is proposing to charge Internal Distributors an Internal Distribution Fee, and External Distributors an External Distribution Fee, that equals the combined respective Distribution fees of each individual Top feed to ensure that vendors could compete with the Exchange by creating the same product as the Cboe One Options Feed to sell to their clients.

User Fees

In addition to Internal and External Distributor Fees, the Exchange proposes to assess Professional User and Non-Professional User Fees. The proposed monthly Professional User fee for the Cboe Options Exchanges is \$30.50 per Professional User, which equals the combined monthly Professional User fees of the underlying individual Cboe Options Exchanges Top feeds (*i.e.*, \$15.50 per Professional User for the Cboe Options Top, \$5 per Professional User for C2 Options Top, \$5 per Professional User for BZX Options Top, and \$5 per Professional User for EDGX Options Top). The Exchange also proposes to adopt a monthly Non-Professional User fee of \$0.60 per Non-Professional User, which similarly represents the combined total Non-Professional User fee for the individual data feeds of the Cboe Options (*i.e.*, \$0.30 per Non-Professional User for Cboe Options Top, \$0.10 per Non-Professional User for C2 Options Top, \$0.10 per Non-Professional User for

BZX Options Top, and \$0.10 per Non-Professional User for EDGX Options Top). Similar to the individual underlying feeds, Distributors that receive Cboe One Options Feed will be required to count Professional and Non-Professional Users to which they provide the data feed. The Exchange is proposing to charge Professional and Non-Professional User fees that equal the combined respective Professional and Non-Professional User fees of each individual Top feed to ensure that vendors could compete with the Exchange by creating the same product as the Cboe One Options Feed to sell to their clients.

Enterprise Fees

The Exchange also proposes to establish Enterprise Fees that will permit a Distributor to purchase a monthly (and optional) Enterprise license to receive the Cboe One Options Feed for distribution to a specified number of Professional and Non-Professional Users. The Enterprise Fee will be an alternative to Professional and Non-Professional User fees and will permit a Distributor to pay a flat fee to receive the data for a specified number of Professional and Non-Professional Users, which the Exchange proposes to make clear in the Fee Schedule. Like User fees, the Enterprise Fee would be assessed in addition to the Distribution Fees. The Exchange proposes to adopt the following monthly Enterprise Fees: \$350,000 for up to 1,500,000 Users (Tier 1), \$550,000 for 1,500,001 to 2,500,000 Users (Tier 2) and \$750,000 for 2,500,001 or greater Users (Tier 3). The proposed fee amounts for each Tier equals the combined Enterprise Fees for the respective tiers for the underlying individual Cboe Options Exchanges Top feeds (*i.e.*, \$300,000, \$450,000 and \$600,000 for Tiers 1, 2 and 3 respectively for the Cboe Options Top; \$10,000, \$20,000 and \$30,000 for Tiers 1, 2 and 3 respectively for C2 Options Top; \$20,000, \$40,000 and \$60,000 for Tiers 1, 2 and 3 respectively for BZX Options Top; and \$20,000, \$40,000 and \$60,000 for Tiers 1, 2 and 3 respectively for EDGX Options Top). The proposed fees are non-progressive (*e.g.*, if a Distributor has 2,000,000 Users, it will be subject to \$550,000 for Tier 2). The Enterprise Fee may provide an opportunity to reduce fees. For example, if a Distributor has 1 million Non-Professional Users who each receive Cboe One Options Feed at \$0.60 per month (as proposed), then that Distributor will pay \$600,000 per month in Non-Professional Users fees. If the Distributor instead were to purchase the proposed Enterprise license (Tier 1), it

would alternatively pay a flat fee of \$350,000 for up to 1.5 million Professional and Non-Professional Users. A Distributor must pay a separate Enterprise Fee for each entity that controls the display of Cboe One Options Feed if it wishes for such Users to be covered by an Enterprise Fee rather than by per User fees.²⁰ A Distributor that pays the Tier 1 or Tier 2 Enterprise Fee will have to report its number of such Users on a monthly basis. A Distributor that pays the Tier 3 Enterprise Fee will only have to report the number of its Users every six months.²¹ The Exchange notes that if the reported number of Users exceed the Enterprise Tier a Distributor has purchased, the higher Tier will apply (*e.g.*, if a Distributor purchases Tier 1, but reports 1,600,000 Users for a month, the Distributor will be assessed the Tier 2 fee).

The Exchange also proposes to allow Distributors to purchase the Enterprise Fee on a monthly or annual basis. Annual licenses will receive a 5% discount off the applicable Enterprise Fee tier.²² The Exchange notes that the purchase of an Enterprise license is voluntary, and a firm may elect to instead use the per User structure and benefit from the proposed per User Fees described above. For example, a firm that does not have a sufficient number of Users to benefit from purchase of a license need not do so. The Exchange is proposing to charge Enterprise Fees that equal the combined respective Enterprise Fees of each individual Top feed and to adopt a 5% discount to those that purchase an Annual license to ensure that vendors could compete with the Exchange by creating the same product as the Cboe One Options Feed to sell to their clients.

New External Distributor Credit

The Exchange proposes to adopt a New External Distributor Credit which would provide that new External Distributors of the Cboe One Options Feed will not be charged an External Distributor Fee for their first three (3)

months in order to incentivize them to enlist new Users to receive the Cboe One Options Feed.²³ The Exchange notes that other exchanges, including the Exchange's affiliated equities exchanges offer similar credits for similar market data products. For example, Cboe's equities exchanges currently offer a one (1) month New External Distributor Credit applicable to the Cboe One Summary Feed and a three (3) month New External Distributor Credit applicable to the distribution of the Cboe One Premium Feed.²⁴ To alleviate any competitive issues that may arise with a vendor seeking to offer a product similar to the Cboe One Options Feed based on the underlying data feeds, the Exchange is proposing, as discussed above, to also adopt a three-month New External Distributor Credit for the underlying top-of-book data feeds for the Cboe Options Exchanges. The respective proposals to adopt a three-month credit ensures the proposed New External Distributor Credit for Cboe One Options will not cause the combined cost of subscribing to Cboe Options, C2 Options, BZX Options and EDGX Options Top feeds for new External Distributors to be greater than those that would be charged to subscribe to the Cboe One Options feed.

Distributor Fee Credit

The Exchange also proposes to provide that each External Distributor will receive a credit against its monthly Distributor Fee for the Cboe One Options Feed equal to the amount of its monthly User Fees up to a maximum of the Distributor Fee for the Cboe One Options Feed.²⁵ The proposed Enterprise Fees discussed above would also be counted towards the Distributor Fee credit, equal to the amount of its monthly Cboe One Options External Distribution fee. For example, an External Distributor will be subject to a \$10,000 monthly Distributor Fee where they elect to receive the Cboe One Options Feed. If that External Distributor reports User quantities totaling \$10,000 or more of monthly User fees of the Cboe Options One Feed, it will pay no net Distributor Fee,

²⁰ For example, if a Distributor that distributes EDGX [sic] Options Top to Retail Brokerage Firm A and Retail Brokerage Firm B and wishes to have the Users under each firm covered by an Enterprise license, the Distributor would be subject to two Enterprise Fees.

²¹ See Cboe Global Markets north American Data Policies.

²² The discount will be taken off the Enterprise Tier fee assessed each fee [sic]. For example, if a Distributor elects to purchase an annual license and is in Tier 1 for any 9 months of the year and Tier 2 for any 3 months of the year, the total amount of fees paid for one year will be \$4,560,000 (\$350,000 – 5% × 9 months + \$550,000 – 5% × 3 months) as compared to \$4,800,000 (\$350,000 × 9 months + \$550,000 × 3 months). 3150000 [sic].

²³ Any applicable User fees will continue to apply during this three-month period. The New External Distributor Credit will not apply during an External Distributor's trial usage period for Cboe One Options. External Distributors who receive Cboe One Options on a trial basis are still eligible for the New Distributor Credit thereafter.

²⁴ See *e.g.*, EDGX Equities Exchange Fees Schedule, Market Data Fees.

²⁵ The Distributor Fee Credit does not apply during any such time that an External Distributor is receiving the New External Distributor Credit or during a trial usage period for Cboe One Options.

whereas if that same External Distributor were to report User quantities totaling \$9,000 of monthly usage, it will pay a net of \$1,000 for the Distributor Fee. External Distributors will remain subject to the per User fees discussed above. External Distributors who choose to purchase an Enterprise license as an alternative to paying User Fees will get a credit in the amount of the External Distribution Fee, which is currently \$10,000, since the proposed Enterprise Fees are in excess of the External Distribution fee. In every case the Exchange will receive at least \$10,000 in connection with the distribution of the Cboe One Options Feed (through a combination of the External Distribution Fee and per User Fees or the Enterprise Fees, as applicable). The Exchange notes that its affiliated equities exchanges offer a similar credit for a similar market data product.²⁶ The proposal to adopt a Distributor Fee Credit for Cboe One Options Feed ensures the proposed credit for Cboe One Options will not cause the combined cost of subscribing to Cboe Options, C2 Options, BZX Options and EDGX Options Top feeds for External Distributors to be greater than the amount that would be charged to subscribe to the Cboe One Options feed.

Data Consolidation Fee

The Exchange also proposes to charge Distributors of the Cboe One Options Feed a separate Data Consolidation Fee, which reflects the value of the aggregation and consolidation function the Exchange performs in creating the Cboe One Options Feed. As stated above, the Exchange creates the Cboe One Options Feed from data derived from the Cboe Options Top, C2 Options Top, BZX Options Top, and EDGX Options Top Feeds. Distributors (including vendors) could similarly create a competing product to the Cboe One Options Feed based on these individual data feeds offered by the Exchanges, and could charge its clients a fee that it believes reflects the value of the aggregation and consolidation function. Accordingly, the Exchange believes that vendors could readily offer a product similar to the Cboe One Options Feed on a competitive basis at a similar cost.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act") and the rules and regulations

thereunder applicable to the Exchange and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act.²⁷ Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)²⁸ requirements that the rules of an exchange be 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 regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and 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. Additionally, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5) requirement that the rules of an exchange not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers. The Exchange also believes this proposal is consistent with Section 6(b)(8) of the Act, which requires that the rules of an exchange not impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.²⁹ In addition, the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 11(A) of the Act as it supports (i) fair competition among brokers and dealers, among exchange markets, and between exchange markets and markets other than exchange markets, and (ii) the availability to brokers, dealers, and investors of information with respect to quotations for and transactions in securities.³⁰ The Exchange also believes the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(4) of the Act,³¹ which requires that Exchange rules provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its Trading Permit Holders and other persons using its facilities.

The Exchange first notes that it operates in a highly competitive environment. Indeed, there are currently 16 registered options exchanges that trade options. Based on publicly available information, no single options exchange has more than 18% of the market share.³² The Exchange believes top-of-book quotation and transaction data is highly competitive as national

securities exchanges compete vigorously with each other to provide efficient, reliable, and low-cost data to a wide range of investors and market participants. Indeed, there are several competing products offered by other national securities exchanges today, not counting products offered by the Exchange's affiliates, and each of the Exchange's affiliated U.S. options exchanges also offers similar top-of-book data.³³ Each of those exchanges offer top-of-book quotation and last sale information based on their own quotation and trading activity that is substantially similar to the information provided by the Exchange through the C2 Options Top Data Feed. Further, the quote and last sale data contained in the C2 Data Feed is identical to the data sent to OPRA for redistribution to the public.³⁴ Accordingly, Exchange top-of-book data is widely available today from a number of different sources.

Moreover, the C2 Options Top Data Feed and Cboe One Options Feeds are distributed and purchased on a voluntary basis, in that neither the Exchange nor market data distributors are required by any rule or regulation to make these data products available. Accordingly, Distributors (including vendors) and Users can discontinue use at any time and for any reason, including due to an assessment of the reasonableness of fees charged. Further, the Exchange is not required to make any proprietary data products available or to offer any specific pricing alternatives to any customers. Moreover, persons (including broker-dealers) who subscribe to any exchange proprietary data feed must also have equivalent access to consolidated Options Information³⁵ from OPRA for the same

³³ See e.g., NYSE Arca Options Proprietary Market Data Fees Schedule, MIA Options Exchange, Fee Schedule, Section 6 (Market Data Fees), Nasdaq PHILX Options 7 Pricing Schedule, Section 10 (Proprietary Data Feed Fees) and Cboe Data Services, LLC Fees Schedule.

³⁴ The Exchange makes available the top-of-book data and last sale data that is included in the C2 Options Top Data Feed no earlier than the time at which the Exchange sends that data to OPRA.

³⁵ "Consolidated Options Information" means consolidated Last Sale Reports combined with either consolidated Quotation Information or the BBO furnished by OPRA. Access to consolidated Options Information is deemed "equivalent" if both kinds of information are equally accessible on the same terminal or work station. See Limited Liability Company Agreement of Options Price Reporting Authority, LLC ("OPRA Plan"), Section 5.2(c)(iii). The Exchange notes that this requirement under the OPRA Plan is also reiterated under the Cboe Global Markets Global Data Agreement and Cboe Global Markets North American Data Policies, which subscribers to any exchange proprietary product must sign and are subject to, respectively. Additionally, the Exchange's Data Order Form (used for requesting the Exchange's market data

Continued

²⁶ See e.g., EDGX Equities Exchange Fees Schedule, Market Data Fees.

²⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

²⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

²⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(8).

³⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78k-1.

³¹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

³² See Cboe Global Markets U.S. Options Market Month-to-Date Volume Summary (April 24, 2023), available at https://markets.cboe.com/us/options/market_statistics/.

classes or series of options that are included in the proprietary data feed, and proprietary data feeds cannot be used to meet that particular requirement.³⁶ As such, all proprietary data feeds are optional.

The Commission has repeatedly expressed its preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. Particularly, in Regulation NMS, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system “has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies.”³⁷ Making similar data products available to market participants fosters competition in the marketplace, and constrains the ability of exchanges to charge supracompetitive fees. In the event that a market participant views one exchange’s data product as more or less attractive than the competition they can and do switch between similar products. The proposed fees are a result of the competitive environment, as the Exchange seeks to adopt fees to attract purchasers of C2 Options Top Data and Cboe One Options Feed.

The Exchange has also taken into consideration its affiliated relationship with its Affiliates in its design of the Cboe One Options Feed to ensure that vendors would be able to offer a similar product on the same terms as the Exchange from a cost perspective. While the Cboe Options Exchanges are the exclusive distributors of the individual data feeds from which certain data elements may be taken to create the Cboe One Options Feed, they are not the exclusive distributors of the aggregated and consolidated information that comprises the Cboe One Options Feed. Any entity that receives, or elects to receive, the individual data feeds would be able to, if it so chooses, to create a data feed with the same information included in the Cboe One Options Feed and sell and distribute it to its clients so that it could be received by those clients as quickly as the Cboe One Options Feed would be received by those same clients with no greater cost than the Exchange.

In addition, vendors and Distributors that do not wish to purchase the Cboe One Options Feed may separately

purchase the individual underlying products, and if they so choose, perform a similar aggregation and consolidation function that the Exchange performs in creating the Cboe One Options Feed. To enable such competition, the Exchange is offering the Cboe One Options Feed on terms that a vendor of those underlying feeds could offer a competing product if it so chooses.

In addition, the fees that are the subject of this rule filing are constrained by competition. Particularly, the Exchange competes with other exchanges (and their affiliates) that may choose to offer similar market data products. If another exchange (or its affiliate) were to charge less to consolidate and distribute a similar product than the Exchange charges to consolidate and distribute the Cboe One Options Feed, prospective Users likely could choose to not subscribe to, or would cease subscribing to, the Cboe One Options Feed. In addition, the Exchange would compete with unaffiliated market data vendors who would be in a position to consolidate and distribute the same data that comprises the Cboe One Options Feed into the vendor’s own comparable market data product. If the third-party vendor is able to provide the exact same data for a lower cost, prospective Users would avail themselves of that lower cost and elect not to take the Cboe One Options Feed.

For these reasons, the Exchange believes that the proposed fees are reasonable, equitable, and not unfairly discriminatory.

User Fees. The Exchange believes that the proposed Professional and Non-Professional User fees for the Cboe One Options Feed are reasonable because they represent the combined monthly fees for Professional and Non-Professional User fees, respectively for the underlying individual data feeds, which have previously been filed with the Commission. The Exchange believes that the proposed fees are equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because they will be charged uniformly to Distributors. Combining the Professional and Non-Professional User fees, of each individual Top feed, respectively, further ensures vendors can compete with the Exchange by creating the same product as the Cboe One Options Feed to sell to their clients. Moreover, the proposed fee structure of differentiated Professional and Non-Professional fees that are paid by both Internal and External Distributors has long been used by other exchanges, including the Exchange, for their proprietary data products, and by the OPRA plan in order to reduce the price of data to retail

investors and make it more broadly available.³⁸ The Exchange also believes offering Cboe One Options Feed to Non-Professional Users at a lower cost than Professional Users results in greater equity among data recipients, as Professional Users are categorized as such based on their employment and participation in financial markets, and thus, are compensated to participate in the markets. Although Non-Professional Users too can receive significant financial benefits through their participation in the markets, the Exchange believes it is reasonable to charge more to those Users who are more directly engaged in the markets.

Enterprise Fee. The Exchange believes the proposed Enterprise Fees for the Cboe One Options Feed and proposed changes to the Enterprise Fee for the C2 Options Top feed are reasonable as the fees proposed could result in a fee reduction for Distributors of the respective products with a large number of Professional and Non-Professional Users. If a Distributor has a smaller number of Professional Users of the Cboe One Options Feed or C2 Options Top Feed, then it may continue using the per User structure and benefit from the per User Fee reductions for each respective product. By reducing prices for Distributors with a large number of Professional and Non-Professional Users, the Exchange believes that more firms may choose to receive and to distribute the Cboe One Options or C2 Options Top feeds, thereby expanding the distribution of this market data for the benefit of investors. The Exchange believes it is reasonable, equitable and not unfairly discriminatory to assess incrementally higher fees for higher tiers, because such tier covers a higher number of users (and indeed for those in Tier 3, an unlimited number of users). Also as described above, the Enterprise Fees are entirely optional. A firm that does not have a sufficient number of Users to benefit from purchase of a license, or purchase of a specific tier level, need not do so. The Exchange believes the proposed discount for an Annual license is also reasonable, equitable and not unfairly discriminatory as it provides

products) requires confirmation that the requesting market participant receives data from OPRA.

³⁶ *Id.*

³⁷ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496, 37499 (June 29, 2005) (“Regulation NMS Adopting Release”).

³⁸ See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59544 (March 9, 2009), 74 FR 11162 (March 16, 2009) (SR-NYSE-2008-131) (establishing the \$15 Non-Professional User Fee (Per User) for NYSE OpenBook); See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release No. 67589 (August 2, 2012), 77 FR 47459 (August 8, 2012) (revising OPRA’s definition of the term “Nonprofessional”); and See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 70683 (October 15, 2013), 78 FR 62798 (October 22, 2013) (SR-CBOE-2013-087) (establishing Professional and Non-Professional User fees for Cboe Options COB Data Feed).

Distributors an opportunity to be assessed lower fees and is available to any Distributor who chooses to make a one-year commitment via the Annual license. The Exchange lastly notes that the proposed Enterprise Fees for Cboe One Options and the proposed 5% discount for an Annual license equal the combined respective Enterprise Fees and discount, respectively, of each individual Top feed, thereby ensuring that vendors can compete with the Exchange by creating the same product as the Cboe One Options Feed to sell to their clients.

Distributor Fees. The Exchange believes that the proposed Distributor fees for the Cboe One Options Feed are reasonable because they represent the combined monthly fees for Internal and External Distributor fees, respectively for the underlying individual data feeds, which have previously been filed with the Commission. The Exchange believes that the proposed fees are equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because they will be charged uniformly to Internal and External Distributors. The Exchange believes that it is also fair and equitable, and not unfairly discriminatory to charge different fees for internal and external distribution of the Cboe One Options Feed. Although the proposed distribution fee charged to External Distributors will be lower than the existing [sic] distribution fee charged to Internal Distributors, External Distributors are subject to Non-Professional user fees to which Internal Distributors are not subject, in addition to Professional User fees (or alternatively the proposed Enterprise Fee). The Exchange also notes that Cboe One Options Feed, like the underlying top-of-book feeds, are more likely to be distributed externally as such data is expected to be used more frequently by Non-Professional Users who, by definition, do not receive the data for commercial purposes (e.g., retail investors) and are therefore not internal. The Exchange therefore believes that the proposed reduced fee for External Distributors is reasonable because it may encourage more distributors to choose to offer the Cboe One Options, thereby expanding the distribution of this market data for the benefit of investors, and particularly retail investors.

The proposed Distributor Fees for the Cboe One Options Feed are also designed to ensure that vendors could compete with the Exchange by creating a similar product as the Cboe One Options Feed. The Exchange believes that the proposed Distributor Fees are equitable and reasonable as they equal the combined fee of subscribing to each

individual data feed of the Cboe Options Exchanges, which have been previously published by the Commission.

New External Distributor Credit

In addition, the Exchange believes it is reasonable to not charge External Distributors of C2 Options Top and Cboe One Options Feed a Distribution Fee during their first three (3) months because such Distributors will not be subject to any External Distribution fees for those months. Additionally, the Exchange's affiliated equities exchanges offer a similar credit for a similar market data product.³⁹ The proposed credit is also intended to incentivize new External Distributors to enlist Users to subscribe to the C2 Options Top or Cboe One Options feeds in an effort to broaden the products' distribution. While this incentive is not available to Internal Distributors of these products, the Exchange believes it is appropriate as Internal Distributors have no Users outside of their own firm. Furthermore, External Distributors are subject to higher risks of launch as the data is provided outside their own firm. For these reasons, the Exchange believes it is appropriate to provide this incentive so that External Distributors have sufficient time to test the data within their own systems prior to going live externally. The Exchange also does not believe this would inhibit a vendor from creating a competing product and offer a similar free period as the Exchange. Specifically, a vendor seeking to create the Cboe One Options Feed could do so by subscribing to the underlying individual data feeds, all of which will also include a New External Distributor Credit identical to that proposed for the Cboe One Options Feed. As a result, a competing vendor would incur similar costs as the Exchange in offering such free period for a competing product and may do so on the same terms as the Exchange.

Distributor Fee Credit

The Exchange believes the proposal to provide External Distributors a credit against their monthly External Distribution Fee equal to the amount of its monthly Usage Fee or Enterprise Fees, is reasonable as it could result in the External Distributor paying a discounted, or no, External Distribution fee once such Distributor's free three-month period has ended. The Exchange notes that its affiliated equities exchanges offer a similar credit for a

similar market data product.⁴⁰ Further, in every case the Exchange will receive at least the amount of the External Distribution fee for C2 Options Top or Cboe One Options, as applicable, in connection with the distribution of each respective feed (through a combination of the External Distribution Fee and per User Fees or Enterprise Fees, as applicable). The Exchange believes it is also equitable and not unfairly discriminatory to apply the credit to External Distributors only because, like the free three-month credit described above, it is also intended to incentivize new External Distributors to enlist Users, including Non-Profession Users such as retail investors, to subscribe to the C2 Options Top or Cboe One Options Feed in an effort to broaden the products' distribution. While this incentive is not available to Internal Distributors of these products, the Exchange believes it is appropriate as Internal Distributors have no Users outside of their own firm. Furthermore, External Distributors are subject to higher risks of launch as the data is provided outside their own firm. For these reasons, the Exchange believes it is appropriate to provide this incentive to only External Distributors. The proposal to adopt a Distributor Fee Credit for Cboe One Options Feed in particular also ensures the proposed credit for Cboe One Options will not cause the combined cost of subscribing to Cboe Options, C2 Options, BZX Options and EDGX Options Top feeds for External Distributors to be greater than the amount that would be charged to subscribe to the Cboe One Options feed, thereby ensuring that vendors can compete with the Exchange by creating the same product as the Cboe One Options Feed to sell to their clients.

Data Consolidation Fee. The Exchange believes that the proposed \$500 per month Data Consolidation Fee charged to Distributors (including vendors) who receive the Cboe One Options Feed is reasonable because it represents the value of the data aggregation and consolidation function that the Exchange performs. The Exchange further believes the proposed Data Consolidation Fee is not designed to permit unfair discrimination because all Distributors who obtain the Cboe One Options Feed will be charged the same fee. Accordingly, the Exchange believes that Distributors could readily offer a product similar to the Cboe One Options Feed on a competitive basis at a similar cost. Therefore, the Exchange believes the proposed application of the

³⁹ See e.g., EDGX Equities Exchange Fees Schedule, Market Data Fees.

⁴⁰ See e.g., EDGX Equities Exchange Fees Schedule, Market Data Fees.

Data Consolidation Fee is reasonable would not permit unfair discrimination.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change would result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange operates in a highly competitive environment, and its ability to price top-of-book data is constrained by competition among exchanges that offer similar data products to their customers. Top-of-book data is broadly disseminated by competing U.S. options exchanges. In this competitive environment potential Distributors are free to choose which competing product to purchase to satisfy their respective needs for market information. Often, the choice comes down to price, as market data participants look to purchase cheaper data products, and quality, as market participants seek to purchase data that represents significant market liquidity.

The Exchange believes that the proposed fees do not impose a burden on competition or on other SROs that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. In particular, market participants are not forced to subscribe to C2 Options Top, Cboe One Options Feed or any of the Exchange's data feeds, as described above. As noted, the quote and last sale data contained in the Exchange's C2 Options Top feed is identical to the data sent to OPRA for redistribution to the public. Accordingly, Exchange top-of-book data is widely available today from a number of different sources.

The Exchange believes that the proposed fees do not put any market participants at a relative disadvantage compared to other market participants. As discussed, the proposed waiver, credits and Enterprise Fees would apply to all similarly situated Distributors of C2 Options Top on an equal and non-discriminatory basis. Because market data customers can find suitable substitute feeds, an exchange that overprices its market data products stands a high risk that users may substitute another product. These competitive pressures ensure that no one exchange's market data fees can impose an undue burden on competition, and the Exchange's proposed fees do not do so here.

Additionally, the Cboe One Options Feed will enhance competition because it provides investors with an alternative option for receiving market data. Although the Cboe Options Exchanges are the exclusive distributors of the

individual data feeds from which certain data elements would be taken to create the Cboe One Options Feed, the Exchange would not be the exclusive distributor of the aggregated and consolidated information that would compose the proposed Cboe One Options Feed. Any entity that receives, or elects to receive, the underlying data feeds would be able to, if it so chooses, to create a data feed with the same information included in the Cboe One Options Feed and sell and distribute it to its clients so that it could be received by those clients as quickly as the Cboe One Options Feed would be received by those same clients and at a similar cost.

The proposed pricing the Exchange would charge for the Cboe One Options Feed compared to the cost of the individual data feeds from the Cboe Options Exchanges would enable a vendor to receive the underlying individual data feeds and offer a similar product on a competitive basis and with no greater cost than the Exchange. The pricing the Exchange proposes to charge for the Cboe One Options Feed is not lower than the cost to a vendor of receiving the underlying data feeds. Indeed, the proposed pricing equals the combined costs of the respective fees, and the proposed waivers are also being proposed for the underlying individual feeds as well, thereby enabling a vendor to receive the underlying data feeds and offer a similar product on a competitive basis and with no greater cost than the Exchange.

The Exchange further believes that its proposed monthly Data Consolidation Fee would be pro-competitive because a vendor could create a competing product, perform a similar aggregating and consolidating function, and similarly charge for such service. The Exchange notes that a competing vendor might engage in a different analysis of assessing the cost of a competing product. For these reasons, the Exchange believes the proposed pricing, fee waiver and credit, would enable a vendor to create a competing product based on the individual data feeds and charge its clients a fee that it believes reflects the value of the aggregation and consolidation function that is competitive with Cboe One Options Feed pricing.

In establishing the proposed fees, the Exchange considered the competitiveness of the market for proprietary data and all of the implications of that competition. The Exchange believes that it has considered all relevant factors and has not considered irrelevant factors in order to establish fair, reasonable, and not unreasonably discriminatory fees and an

equitable allocation of fees among all users.

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 this proposed rule change. The Exchange has not received any written comments from members or other interested parties.

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 Act⁴¹ and paragraph (f) of Rule 19b-4⁴² thereunder. At any time within 60 days of the filing of the 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 will institute proceedings 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 (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-C2-2023-013 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-C2-2023-013. This 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 (<http://www.sec.gov/>

⁴¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁴² 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f).

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 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 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-C2-2023-013 and should be submitted on or before June 22, 2023.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.⁴³

Sherry R. Haywood,
Assistant Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-97596; File No. SR-FICC-2023-006]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Fixed Income Clearing Corporation; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Amend the Clearing Agency Investment Policy

May 25, 2023.

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 May 17, 2023, Fixed Income Clearing Corporation ("FICC") 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 clearing agency. FICC filed the proposed rule change pursuant to

Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(4) thereunder.⁴ The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Clearing Agency's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The proposed rule change amends the Clearing Agency Investment Policy ("Investment Policy", or "Policy") of FICC and its affiliates, The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") and National Securities Clearing Corporation ("NSCC," and together with DTC, the "Clearing Agencies"). Specifically, the proposed rule change would amend the Investment Policy to (1) clarify obligations regarding the separation and segregation of funds deposited to a Clearing Agency's Participants Fund or Clearing Fund;⁵ (2) clarify roles and responsibilities related to credit reviews and setting investment limits; (3) update allowable investments for the respective Clearing Funds of NSCC and FICC and other investable funds; (4) include approvals required for longer term bank deposits and reverse repurchase investments; (5) remove descriptions of hedge transactions; and (6) make technical corrections and revisions to clarify and simplify statements in the Investment Policy, as described in greater detail below.

II. Clearing Agency's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the clearing agency 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 clearing agency has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(4).

⁵ The respective Clearing Funds of NSCC and FICC, and the DTC Participants Fund are described in the Rules & Procedures of NSCC ("NSCC Rules"), the DTC Rules, By-laws and Organization Certificate ("DTC Rules"), the Clearing Rules of the Mortgage-Backed Securities Division of FICC ("MBSD Rules") or the Rulebook of the Government Securities Division of FICC ("GSD Rules"), respectively, available at <http://dtcc.com/legal/rules-and-procedures>. See Rule 4 (Clearing Fund) of the NSCC Rules, Rule 4 (Participants Fund and Participants Investment) of the DTC Rules, Rule 4 (Clearing Fund and Loss Allocation) of the GSD Rules and Rule 4 (Clearing Fund and Loss Allocation) of the MBSD Rules.

(A) *Clearing Agency's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change*

1. Purpose

The Clearing Agencies are proposing to revise the Investment Policy, which was adopted in December 2016⁶ and is maintained in compliance with Rule 17Ad-22(e)(16) under the Act.⁷ The proposed changes to the Investment Policy would (i) clarify obligations regarding the separation and segregation of funds deposited to a Clearing Agency's Participants Fund or Clearing Fund, (ii) clarify roles and responsibilities related to credit reviews and setting investment limits, (iii) update allowable investments for the respective Clearing Funds of NSCC and FICC and other investable funds, (iv) include approvals required for longer term bank deposit and reverse repurchase investments, (v) remove descriptions of hedge transactions, and (vi) make technical corrections and revisions to clarify and simplify statements in the Investment Policy, as described in greater detail below.

Overview of the Investment Policy

The Investment Policy governs the management, custody and investment of cash deposited to the respective Clearing Funds of NSCC and FICC,⁸ the DTC Participants Fund,⁹ the proprietary liquid net assets (cash and cash equivalents) of the Clearing Agencies, and other funds held by the Clearing Agencies pursuant to their respective rules.

The Investment Policy identifies the guiding principles for investments and defines the roles and responsibilities of DTCC staff in administering the Investment Policy pursuant to those principles. The Investment Policy is co-owned by DTCC's Treasury group ("Treasury") and the Counterparty Credit Risk team ("CCR") within DTCC's Group Chief Risk Office ("GCRO"). Treasury is responsible for identifying potential counterparties to investment transactions, establishing, and managing investment relationships with approved investment counterparties, and making and monitoring all investment transactions with respect to the Clearing Agencies. CCR is responsible for conducting a credit review of any potential counterparty, updating those reviews on

⁶ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 79528 (December 12, 2016), 81 FR 91232 (December 16, 2016) (SR-DTC-2016-007, SR-FICC-2016-005, SR-NSCC-2016-003).

⁷ 17 CFR 240.17Ad-22(e)(16).

⁸ *Supra* note 5.

⁹ *Id.*

⁴³ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.