

Agreement”), among CL&P and WMECO on the one hand and several banks with Citibank, N.A. as Administrative Agent on the other. The Regulated Credit Agreement provides a credit facility of up to \$500 million comprised of borrowing commitments. The Regulated Credit Agreement has a termination date of November 16, 2001.

On November 9, 2000, NAEC entered into an unsecured \$200 million 364-day Term Credit Agreement with four banks, which was approved by the NHPUC.

Yankee Gas currently has a revolving line of credit of \$60 million, which terminates November 16, 2001.

For the Commission, by the Division of Investment Management, pursuant to delegated authority.

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the Government in the Sunshine Act, Pub. L. 94-409, that the Securities and Exchange Commission will hold the following meeting during the week of February 26, 2001.

A closed meeting will be held on Thursday, March 1, 2001, at 2:30 p.m.

Commissioners, Counsel to the Commissioners, the Secretary to the Commission, and recording secretaries will attend the closed meeting. Certain staff members who have an interest in the matters may also be present.

The General Counsel of the Commission, or his designee, has certified that, in his opinion, one or more of the exemptions set forth in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4), (8), (9)(A), and (10) and 17 CFR 200.402(a)(4), (8), (9)(A) and (10), permit consideration of the scheduled matters at the closed meeting.

The subject matters of the closed meeting will be:

institution and settlement of injunctive actions; and

institution and settlement of administrative proceedings of an enforcement nature.

At times, changes in Commission priorities require alterations in the scheduling of meeting items. For further information and to ascertain what, if any, matters have been added, deleted or postponed, please contact:

The Office of the Secretary at (202) 942-7070.

Dated: February 22, 2001.

Jonathan G. Katz,
Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-43974; File No. SR-CHX-01-03]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of a Proposed Rule Change by the Chicago Stock Exchange, Incorporated Extending Pilot Rules Relating to the Securities Industry Transition to Decimal Pricing

February 16, 2001.

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 19, 2001, the Chicago Stock Exchange, Incorporated (“CHX” or “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) the proposed rule change, as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the CHX. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons and to approve the proposed rule change on an accelerated basis.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to extend, through July 9, 2001, pilot rule changes amending certain CHX rules that have been impacted by the securities industry transition to decimal pricing. Specifically, the pilot rule changes amend portions of Article XX, Rule 37. The pilot currently is due to expire on February 28, 2001. The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Commission and the CHX.

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 CHX included statements concerning the purpose of, and basis for, the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received regarding the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The CHX has prepared summaries, set forth

in Sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

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

1. Purpose

On August 24, 2000, the Commission approved, on a pilot basis through February 28, 2001, rule changes amending certain CHX rules that were impacted by the securities industry transition to decimal pricing. ³ The Exchange proposes to extend the current pilot through July 9, 2001. ⁴

The Exchange proposes continued pilot approval of three groups of changes to Article XX, Rule 37, which would: (1) Allow specialists to elect, on an issue by issue basis, to either manually or automatically execute limit orders when a trade-through occurs in the primary market; (2) remove the “pending auto-stop” functionality in the Exchange's systems; and (3) allow a specialist, on an issue by issue basis, to establish an auto execution guarantee that is not dependent on the ITS Best Bid or Offer (“ITS BBO”) or National Best Bid or Offer (“NBBO”) size. The Exchange believes that decimal pricing is likely to continue to affect the CHX trading environment, and the interaction between the CHX and the national market system, in a manner that necessitates extension of these pilot rule amendments, which are designed to minimize any adverse impacts of decimalization on trading operations. ⁵

Manual or automatic execution of limit orders when a trade-through

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 43204 (August 24, 2000), 65 FR 53065 (August 31, 2000) (SR-CHX-00-22).

⁴ The Exchange notes that following approval of the pilot rule changes, which included changes to the Exchange's then-current price improvement programs, the Commission approved the Exchange's proposed new price improvement program, called SuperMAX 2000, which is a voluntary price improvement program that will govern price improvement of all orders for issues trading in decimal price increments. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 43742 (December 19, 2000) 65 FR 83119 (December 29, 2000) (SR-CHX-00-37). Because SuperMAX 2000 is intended to replace the Exchange's previous price improvement programs, the Exchange is not requesting an extension of the pilot rule changes that dealt with price improvement.

⁵ This proposal does not concern “typographical” amendments to CHX rules, where the sole change that was proposed by the Exchange was the substitution of a decimal price increment for the fractional price increment set forth in certain CHX rules. Those amendments were the subject of a separate submission previously approved by the Commission on a permanent basis. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 43256 (September 6, 2000), 65 FR 55659 (September 14, 2000) (SR-CHX-00-25).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.