

countries do not seem to have much effect in developing countries. This briefing will begin at 10 a.m. in the Commission's hearing room.

The second briefing will be presented by Postal Service Headquarters personnel. It will explain the impact of extensive changes in the design of the Service's In-Office Cost System data collection effort on the most recent (fiscal year 2005) Cost and Revenue Analysis. This briefing will begin at 2 p.m. in the Commission's hearing room.

**DATES:** March 1, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** Postal Rate Commission, 901 New York Ave., NW., Suite 200, Washington, DC 20288-0001.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Stephen L. Sharfman, General Counsel, 202-789-6820.

Steven W. Williams,

Secretary.

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Notice of Meeting; Sunshine Act

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 27, 2006:

A closed meeting will be held on Thursday, March 2, 2006 at 2 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)(3), (5), (6), (7), (9)(B), and (10) and 17 CFR 200.402(a)(3), (5), (6), (7), 9(ii) and (10) permit consideration of the scheduled matters at the closed meeting.

Commissioner Atkins, as duty officer, voted to consider the items listed for the closed meeting in closed session.

The subject matter of the closed meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 2, 2006 will be:

Formal orders of investigations; 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) 551-5400.

Dated: February 23, 2006.

Nancy M. Morris,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 06-1906 Filed 2-24-06; 11:12 am]

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-53341; File No. SR-Amex-2006-15]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; American Stock Exchange LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Increase the Options Marketing Fee Applicable to Certain Types of Equity Options

February 21, 2006.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on February 15, 2006, the American Stock Exchange LLC ("Amex" 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 Amex. The Amex has designated this proposal as one establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge imposed by a self-regulatory organization pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act<sup>3</sup> and Rule 19-4(f)(2) thereunder,<sup>4</sup> which renders the proposal effective upon filing with the Commission. 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 increase the options marketing fee applicable to certain equity options. The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Amex's Web site at <http://www.amex.com>, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

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

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

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

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

#### 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 Amex included statements concerning the purpose of, and basis for, the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposal. 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

In June 2003, the Exchange re-instated its options marketing fee of \$0.40 per contract on the transactions of specialists and registered options traders ("ROTs") in equity options.<sup>5</sup> Currently, the options marketing fee is eligible to be assessed on all equity options transactions (including options on exchange-traded funds and trust issued receipts). The Exchange now proposes to amend the equity options marketing fee to increase the fee from the current level of \$0.40 to \$0.75 per contract (except for SPDR options, which will continue to remain subject to the current fee level of \$1.00 per contract).<sup>6</sup> The Exchange also proposes to revise the equity options marketing fee by limiting its assessment to customer orders that are from payment accepting firms with whom a specialist has negotiated a payment for order flow arrangement and that are executed electronically (*i.e.*, through the Exchange's ANTE system).<sup>7</sup> The current equity options marketing fee is assessed on all executed customer orders (whether electronically or manually executed) of payment accepting firms. This revision further limits the assessment of the marketing fee to electronic executions.

The Exchange represents that it has no role with respect to the negotiations between specialists and payment accepting firms. The Exchange states that it collects and administers the payment of the fee collected on those transactions for which the specialist has

<sup>5</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 48053 (June 17, 2003), 68 FR 37880 (June 25, 2003).

<sup>6</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51685 (May 11, 2005), 70 FR 28587 (May 18, 2005).

<sup>7</sup> Telephone conversation between Caroline McCaffery, Assistant General Counsel, Amex, and Hong Anh Tran, Special Counsel, Division of Market Regulation, on February 17, 2006.