

*It is therefore ordered*, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,<sup>13</sup> that the proposed rule change (File No. SR–OCC–2010–19) be and hereby is approved.<sup>14</sup>

For the Commission by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>15</sup>

**Cathy H. Ahn,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–64192; File No. SR–FINRA–2011–015]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Extend the Effective Date of the Trading Pause Pilot

April 5, 2011.

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 March 30, 2011, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (“FINRA”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by FINRA. 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

FINRA is proposing to amend FINRA Rule 6121 (Trading Halts Due to Extraordinary Market Volatility) to extend the effective date of the single stock circuit breaker pilot program until the earlier of August 11, 2011 or the date on which a limit up/down mechanism to address extraordinary market volatility, if adopted, applies to the pilot securities.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on FINRA’s Web site at <http://www.finra.org>, at the principal office of FINRA 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, FINRA 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. FINRA 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

FINRA proposes to amend FINRA Rule 6121.01 to extend the effective date of the pilot by which such rule operates, which is currently scheduled to expire on April 11, 2011, until the earlier of August 11, 2011 or the date on which a limit up/down mechanism to address extraordinary market volatility, if adopted, applies to the pilot securities.

FINRA Rule 6121.01 provides that if a primary listing market has issued an individual stock trading pause under its rules, FINRA will halt trading otherwise than on an exchange in that security until trading has resumed on the primary listing market. The pilot was developed and implemented as a market-wide initiative by FINRA and other self-regulatory organizations (“SROs”) in consultation with Commission staff, and is currently applicable to the S&P 500® Index,<sup>3</sup> the Russell 1000® Index and a pilot list of Exchange Traded Products,<sup>4</sup> together, the “pilot securities.”

The extension proposed herein would allow the pilot to continue to operate without interruption while FINRA and the other SROs further assess the effect of the pilot on the marketplace and whether other initiatives should be adopted in lieu of the current pilot.

FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness and has requested that the SEC waive the requirement that the proposed rule change not become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, such that the pilot can continue to operate without

interruption for the benefit of the marketplace and the investing public.

###### 2. Statutory Basis

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act,<sup>5</sup> which requires, among other things, that FINRA rules must be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. FINRA believes that the proposed rule change meets these requirements in that it promotes uniformity across markets concerning decisions to pause trading in a security when there are significant price movements.

Additionally, extension of the pilot until the earlier of August 11, 2011 or the date on which a limit up/down mechanism to address extraordinary market volatility, if adopted, applies to the pilot securities, would allow the pilot to continue to operate without interruption while FINRA and the other SROs further assess the effect of the pilot on the marketplace and whether other initiatives should be adopted in lieu of the current pilot.

##### B. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement on Burden on Competition

FINRA does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in 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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

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

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not: (i) Significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>6</sup> and Rule 19b–4(f)(6) thereunder.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78o–3(b)(6).

<sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>7</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b–4(f)(6). When filing a proposed rule change pursuant to Rule 19b–4(f)(6) under the

Continued

<sup>13</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

<sup>14</sup> In approving the proposed rule change, the Commission considered the proposal’s impact on efficiency, competition and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

<sup>15</sup> 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12).

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

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

<sup>3</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 62251 (June 10, 2010), 75 FR 34183 (June 16, 2010) (Order Approving File No. SR–FINRA–2010–025).

<sup>4</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 62883 (September 10, 2010), 75 FR 56608 (September 16, 2010) (Order Approving File No. SR–FINRA–2010–033).

A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b-4(f)(6) normally may not become operative prior to 30 days after the date of filing.<sup>8</sup> However, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)<sup>9</sup> permits the Commission to designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange has requested that the Commission waive the 30-day operative delay.

The Commission has considered the Exchange's request to waive the 30-day operative delay. The Commission believes that waiving the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest, as it will allow the pilot program to continue uninterrupted, thereby avoiding the investor confusion that could result from a temporary interruption in the pilot program.<sup>10</sup> For this reason, the Commission designates the proposed rule change to be operative upon filing.

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 shall 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, as amended, 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 e-mail to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File

Act, an exchange is required to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change, along with a brief description and text of the proposed rule change, at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. The Commission notes that the Exchange has satisfied this requirement.

<sup>8</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> For the purposes only of waiving the operative delay of this proposal, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

Number SR-FINRA-2011-015 on the subject line.

##### *Paper Comments*

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FINRA-2011-015. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, 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 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal offices of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FINRA-2011-015, and should be submitted on or before May 2, 2011.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>11</sup>

**Cathy H. Ahn,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-64189; File No. SR-CBOE-2011-008]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated; Order Granting Approval of Proposed Rule Change To Permit the Listing of Series With \$0.50 and \$1 Strike Price Increments on Certain Options Used To Calculate Volatility Indexes

April 5, 2011.

#### I. Introduction

On February 4, 2011, the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated ("CBOE" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission"), 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> a proposed rule change to expand the \$2.50 Strike Price Program. The proposed rule change was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on February 24, 2011.<sup>3</sup> The Commission received no comment letters on the proposal. This order approves the proposed rule change.

#### II. Description of the Proposal

CBOE has proposed to amend Rules 5.5 and 24.9 to permit the listing of strike prices in \$0.50 intervals where the strike price is less than \$75, and strike prices in \$1.00 intervals where the strike price is between \$75 and \$150 for option classes used to calculate volatility indexes. The Exchange also proposed to amend Interpretation and Policy .08 to Rule 5.5 to permit \$0.50 strike price intervals where the strike price is less than \$75 for options on exchange-traded funds ("ETFs") that are used to calculate a volatility index.

In its proposal, CBOE seeks to apply its VIX methodology<sup>4</sup> to options on certain ETFs and individual equity

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

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

<sup>3</sup> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 63927 (February 17, 2011), 76 FR 10412 ("Notice").

<sup>4</sup> The VIX methodology is derived from a body of research showing that it is possible to create pure exposure to volatility by assembling a special portfolio of options. While the price of a single option depends on both the underlying price and volatility, this special portfolio is constructed, in the aggregate, to eliminate the stock price dependence. In theory, this option portfolio would be comprised of an infinite number of options with continuous strike prices. In practice, however, the options that are used to calculate VIX—as well as other volatility indexes—are finite in number and are subject to a minimum interval between strike prices. The narrower this minimum interval, the more accurate the expression of volatility should be.

<sup>11</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).