BlackRock MuniYield Michigan Quality Fund II, Inc. [File No. 811–06501]

Summary: Applicant, a closed-end investment company, seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. Applicant transferred its assets to BlackRock MuniYield Michigan Quality Fund, Inc., and effective September 14, 2015, made distributions to its shareholders based on net asset value. Expenses of approximately $331,358 incurred in connection with the reorganization were paid by Applicant and Applicant’s investment adviser.

Filing Dates: The application was filed on November 16, 2015.

Applicant’s Address: 100 Bellevue Parkway, Wilmington, Delaware 19809

Asian Small Companies Portfolio [File No. 811–07529]

Summary: Applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. On January 27, 2015 and January 28, 2015, applicant made liquidating distributions to its shareholders, based on net asset value. Applicant incurred no expenses in connection with the liquidation.

Filing Dates: The application was filed on November 6, 2015, and amended on November 18, 2015.

Applicant’s Address: Two International Place, Boston, MA 02110.

Parametric Market Neutral Portfolio [File No. 811–22597]

Summary: Applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company. On September 19, 2014, applicant made a liquidating distribution to its shareholders, based on net asset value. Applicant incurred no expenses in connection with the liquidation.

Filing Dates: The application was filed on November 6, 2015, and amended on November 18, 2015.

Applicant’s Address: Two International Place, Boston, MA 02110.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations; NASDAQ OMX BX, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Extend the Pilot Period for the Retail Price Improvement Program Until December 1, 2016

November 20, 2015.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"), and Rule 19b–4 thereunder, notice is hereby given that on November 12, 2015, NASDAQ OMX BX, Inc. ("BX" or "Exchange") 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 the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

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

[The sic] to extend the pilot period for the Exchange’s Retail Price Improvement ("RPI") Program (the "Program"), which is set to expire on December 1, 2015, for a period of one year, to expire on December 1, 2016. The Exchange has designated December 1, 2015 as the date the proposed rule change becomes effective.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s Web site at http://nasdaqomxbx.cchwallstreet.com, at the principal office of the Exchange, 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 purpose of this filing is to extend the pilot period of the RPI Program, currently scheduled to expire on December 1, 2015, for an additional year, until December 1, 2016.

2. Background

In November 2014, the Commission approved the RPI Program on a pilot basis. The Program is designed to attract retail order flow to the Exchange, and allow such order flow to receive potential price improvement. The Program is currently limited to trades occurring at prices equal to or greater than $1.00 per share. Under the Program, a new class of market participant called a Retail Member Organization ("RMO") is eligible to submit certain retail order flow ("Retail Orders") to the Exchange. BX members ("Members") are permitted to provide potential price improvement for Retail Orders in the form of non-displayed interest that is priced more aggressively than the Protected National Best Bid or Offer ("Protected NBBO").

The Program was approved by the Commission on a pilot basis running one-year from the date of implementation. The Commission approved the Program on November 28, 2014. The Exchange implemented the


A "Retail Order" is defined in BX Rule 4780(a)(2) by referencing BX Rule 4702, and BX Rule 4702(b)(6) says it is an order type with a non-display order attribute submitted to the Exchange by a RMO. A Retail Order must be an agency order, or riskless principal order that satisfies the criteria of is an agency or riskless principal order that originates from a natural person and is submitted to BX by a RMO, provided that no change is made to the terms of the order with respect to price (except in the case that a market order is changed to a marketable limit order) or side of market and the order does not originate from a trading algorithm or any other computerized methodology.

The term Protected Quotation is defined in Chapter XII, Sec. 1(19) and has the same meaning as is set forth in Regulation NMS Rule 605(b)(58). The Protected NBBO is the best-priced protected bid and offer. Generally, the Protected NBBO and the national best bid and offer ("NBBO") will be the same. However, a market center is not required to route to the NBBO if that market center is subject to an exception under Regulation NMS Rule 611(b)(1) or if such NBBO is otherwise not available for an automatic execution. In such case, the Protected NBBO would be the best-priced protected bid or offer to which a market center must route interest pursuant to Regulation NMS Rule 611.

See id.

5 A Retail Order is defined in BX Rule 4780(a)(2) by referencing BX Rule 4702, and BX Rule 4702(b)(6) says it is an order type with a non-display order attribute submitted to the Exchange by a RMO. A Retail Order must be an agency order, or riskless principal order that satisfies the criteria of is an agency or riskless principal order that originates from a natural person and is submitted to BX by a RMO, provided that no change is made to the terms of the order with respect to price (except in the case that a market order is changed to a marketable limit order) or side of market and the order does not originate from a trading algorithm or any other computerized methodology.

6 The term Protected Quotation is defined in Chapter XII, Sec. 1(19) and has the same meaning as is set forth in Regulation NMS Rule 605(b)(58). The Protected NBBO is the best-priced protected bid and offer. Generally, the Protected NBBO and the national best bid and offer ("NBBO") will be the same. However, a market center is not required to route to the NBBO if that market center is subject to an exception under Regulation NMS Rule 611(b)(1) or if such NBBO is otherwise not available for an automatic execution. In such case, the Protected NBBO would be the best-priced protected bid or offer to which a market center must route interest pursuant to Regulation NMS Rule 611.

See id.
Program on December 1, 2014. Thus, the pilot period for the Program is scheduled to end on December 1, 2015.

Proposal To Extend the Operation of the Program

The Exchange established the RPI Program in an attempt to attract retail order flow to the Exchange by potentially providing price improvement to such order flow. The Exchange believes that the Program promotes competition for retail order flow by allowing Exchange members to submit Retail Price Improvement Orders (“RPI Orders”) 9 to interact with Retail Orders. Such competition has the ability to promote efficiency by facilitating the price discovery process and generating additional investor interest in trading securities, thereby promoting capital formation. The Exchange believes that extending the pilot is appropriate because it will allow the Exchange and the Commission additional time to analyze data regarding the Program that the Exchange has committed to provide.10 As such, the Exchange believes that it is appropriate to extend the current operation of the Program.11 Through this filing, the Exchange seeks to extend the current pilot period of the Program until December 1, 2016.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 6 of the Act, 12 in general, and with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act, 13 in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, 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.

The Exchange believes that extending the pilot period for the RPI Program is consistent with these principles because the Program is reasonably designed to attract retail order flow to the exchange environment, while helping to ensure that retail investors benefit from the better price that liquidity providers are willing to give their orders. Additionally, as previously stated, the competition promoted by the Program may facilitate the price discovery process and potentially generate additional investor interest in trading securities. The extension of the pilot period will allow the Commission and the Exchange to continue to monitor the Program for its potential effects on public price discovery, and on the broader market structure.

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

The Exchange 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, as amended. The proposed rule change extends an established pilot program for one year, thus allowing the RPI Program to enhance competition for retail order flow and contribute to the public price discovery process.

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

No written comments were either solicited or received.

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 Act 14 and Rule 19b–4(f)(6) 15 thereunder because the proposal does not: (i) Significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) by its terms, 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. 

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. However, Rule 19b–4(f)(6)(iii) 17 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 period. The Exchange states that waiving the operative delay would allow the pilot period to continue uninterrupted, which the Exchange argues would be beneficial to market participants and would help to eliminate the potential for investor confusion.

The Commission believes that waiver of the 30-day operative delay period is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. Specifically, the Commission believes that the proposal would allow the RPI Program to continue uninterrupted and to provide additional time for data about the program to be generated and analyzed. For these reasons, the Commission believes that waiving the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest, and designates the proposed rule change to be operative upon filing with the Commission. 18 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. 19

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);

• Send an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR–BX–2015–073 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.

9 A Retail Price Improvement Order is defined in BX Rule 4780(a)(3) by referencing BX Rule 4702 and BX Rule 4702(b)(5) says that it is as an order type with a non-display order attribute that is held on the Exchange Book in order to provide liquidity at a price at least $0.001 better than the NBBO through a special execution process described in Rule 4780.

10 See RPI Approval Order, supra note 3 at 72051.

11 Concurrently with this filing, the Exchange has submitted a request for an extension of the exemption under Regulation NMS Rule 612 previously granted by the Commission that permits it to accept and rank the RPI orders in sub-penny increments. See Letter from Jeffrey S. Davis, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel and Secretary, NASDAQ OMX BX, Inc. to Brent J. Fields, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission dated November 12, 2015.


16 In addition, Rule 19b–4(f)(6)(iii) requires the Exchange to give the Commission written notice of the Exchange’s 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 is waiving this requirement.


18 For purposes of waiving the operative delay for this proposal, the Commission has considered the proposed rule’s impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

All submissions should refer to File Number SR–BX–2015–073. 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 Web site (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 Web site 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. 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–BX–2015–073 and should be submitted on or before December 18, 2015.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.20
Robert W. Errett,
Deputy Secretary.
[FR Doc. 2015–30076 Filed 11–25–15; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SEcurities and ExChange ComMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations: Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change by Miami International Securities Exchange LLC To Amend Exchange Rule 519

November 20, 2015.

Pursuant to the provisions of 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 November 13, 2015, Miami International Securities Exchange LLC (“MIAx” or “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) a 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 the Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend Exchange Rule 519, MIAx Order Monitor (“MOM”) to codify the Open Order and Open Contract Protection features included in MOM. The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s Web site at http://www.miaxoptions.com/filter/wotitle/rule_filing, at MIAx’s principal office, 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 Rule 519, MIAx Order Monitor, to provide details regarding Open Order and Open Contract protections. The proposal codifies existing functionality applicable to orders on the Exchange. The Exchange is also proposing a clarifying amendment to current Rule 519(b) to provide consistency in that Rule with the proposed new rules. The MOM is a risk management feature of the Exchange’s System 3 that prevents certain orders from executing or being placed on the Book at prices outside pre-set standard limits 4 and if the size of the order exceeds the order size protection designated by the Member submitting the order.5

Additionally, the System currently rejects any orders that exceed the maximum number of open orders held in the System on behalf of a particular Member (the “Open Order Protection”). The System also currently rejects any orders that cause the number of open contracts represented by orders held in the System on behalf of a particular Member (the “Open Contract Protection”) to exceed a specified maximum number of contracts. For each of these protections, the maximum number (of open orders and open contracts) is designated (or may be disabled) by the Member. The Exchange is proposing to codify the Open Order and Open Contract Protections in Rule 519.

Currently, Rule 519 only provides details regarding the System’s Order Price Protections and Order Size Protections. However, in addition to order protections based on price and order size, the System also employs order protections based on the number of open orders held in the System and on the number of contracts represented by open orders held in the System. The Exchange now proposes to codify these existing order protections into Rule 519.

Members may designate or disable the Open Order and/or the Open Contract Protections on a firm wide basis. If the maximum number of open orders or contracts is not designated by the Member, the Exchange will set a maximum number of open orders or contracts on behalf of the Member by default. The default maximum number of open orders and open contracts are determined by the Exchange and announced to Members through a Regulatory Circular. 6 The Open Order and Open Contract Protections provide market participants the flexibility to designate the level of protection they need to help prevent the potential submission of a number of orders and/or a number of contracts to the Exchange that would cause them to be at unintended risk levels.

The Exchange is also proposing a clarifying amendment to current Rule 519(b), Order Size Protections, to state that if the maximum size of orders is not designated by the Member, the Exchange will set a maximum size of orders on behalf of the Member by default. This is consistent with the Exchange’s System’s default maximum number of open orders is 30,000 and the default number of open contracts is 1,000,000.

5 See Exchange Rule 519(b).
6 The Exchange notes that the current default maximum number of open orders is 30,000 and the default number of open contracts is 1,000,000.