

corresponding increase in order flow from other market participants.

Moreover, unlike others market participants each BX Options Market Maker commits to various obligations. These obligations include, for example, transactions of a BX Market Maker must constitute a course of dealings reasonably calculated to contribute to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market, and Market Makers should not make bids or offers or enter into transactions that are inconsistent with such course of dealings.<sup>38</sup>

In this instance, the proposed changes to the fees and rebates for Penny Pilot Options and for Non-Penny Pilot Options to add a new Firm column, and establishing a SPY Options Tiers Schedule, do not impose a burden on competition because the Exchange's execution and routing services are completely voluntary and subject to extensive competition both from other exchanges and from off-exchange venues. If the changes proposed herein are unattractive to market participants, it is likely that the Exchange will lose market share as a result. Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed changes will impair the ability of members or competing order execution venues to maintain their competitive standing in the financial markets. Additionally, the changes proposed herein are pro-competitive to the extent that they continue to allow the Exchange to promote and maintain order executions.

#### *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**

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act,<sup>39</sup> the Exchange has designated this proposal as establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the self-regulatory organization on any person, whether or not the person is a member of the self-regulatory organization, which renders the proposed rule change effective 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: (i) Necessary or appropriate in the public interest; (ii) for the protection of investors; or (iii) 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 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](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-BX-2016-010 on the subject line.

#### *Paper Comments*

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Brent J. Fields, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-BX-2016-010. 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 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-

2016-010 and should be submitted on or before March 11, 2016.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>40</sup>

**Robert W. Errett,**  
*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2016-03392 Filed 2-18-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

## **SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

[Release No. 34-77122; File No. 4-697]

### **Program for Allocation of Regulatory Responsibilities Pursuant to Rule 17d-2; Notice of Filing of Proposed Plan for the Allocation of Regulatory Responsibilities Between the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. and ISE Mercury, LLC**

February 11, 2016.

Pursuant to Section 17(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 17d-2 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on February 9, 2016, ISE Mercury, LLC ("ISE Mercury") and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA") (together with ISE Mercury, the "Parties") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission" or "SEC") a plan for the allocation of regulatory responsibilities, dated February 8, 2016 ("17d-2 Plan" or the "Plan"). The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the 17d-2 Plan from interested persons.

#### **I. Introduction**

Section 19(g)(1) of the Act,<sup>3</sup> among other things, requires every self-regulatory organization ("SRO") registered as either a national securities exchange or national securities association to examine for, and enforce compliance by, its members and persons associated with its members with the Act, the rules and regulations thereunder, and the SRO's own rules, unless the SRO is relieved of this responsibility pursuant to Section 17(d) or Section 19(g)(2) of the Act.<sup>4</sup> Without this relief, the statutory obligation of each individual SRO could result in a pattern of multiple examinations of broker-dealers that maintain memberships in more than one SRO ("common members") for compliance with certain rules that are substantially

<sup>40</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78q(d).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.17d-2.

<sup>3</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(g)(1).

<sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78q(d) and 15 U.S.C. 78s(g)(2), respectively.

<sup>38</sup> See Chapter VII, Section 5, entitled "Obligations of Market Makers".

<sup>39</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

identical across multiple SROs. Such regulatory duplication would add unnecessary expenses for common members and their SROs.

Section 17(d)(1) of the Act<sup>5</sup> was intended, in part, to eliminate unnecessary multiple examinations and regulatory duplication.<sup>6</sup> With respect to a common member, Section 17(d)(1) authorizes the Commission, by rule or order, to relieve an SRO of the responsibility to receive regulatory reports, to examine for and enforce compliance with applicable statutes, rules, and regulations, or to perform other specified regulatory functions.

To implement Section 17(d)(1), the Commission adopted two rules: Rule 17d-1 and Rule 17d-2 under the Act.<sup>7</sup> Rule 17d-1 authorizes the Commission to name a single SRO as the designated examining authority (“DEA”) to examine common members for compliance with the financial responsibility requirements imposed by the Act, or by Commission or SRO rules.<sup>8</sup> When an SRO has been named as a common member’s DEA, all other SROs to which the common member belongs are relieved of the responsibility to examine the firm for compliance with the applicable financial responsibility rules. On its face, Rule 17d-1 deals only with an SRO’s obligations to enforce member compliance with financial responsibility requirements. Rule 17d-1 does not relieve an SRO from its obligation to examine a common member for compliance with its own rules and provisions of the federal securities laws governing matters other than financial responsibility, including sales practices and trading activities and practices.

To address regulatory duplication in these and other areas, the Commission adopted Rule 17d-2 under the Act.<sup>9</sup> Rule 17d-2 permits SROs to propose joint plans for the allocation of regulatory responsibilities with respect to their common members. Under paragraph (c) of Rule 17d-2, the Commission may declare such a plan effective if, after providing for appropriate notice and comment, it determines that the plan is necessary or appropriate in the public interest and for the protection of investors; to foster

cooperation and coordination among the SROs; to remove impediments to, and foster the development of, a national market system and a national clearance and settlement system; and is in conformity with the factors set forth in Section 17(d) of the Act. Commission approval of a plan filed pursuant to Rule 17d-2 relieves an SRO of those regulatory responsibilities allocated by the plan to another SRO.

## II. Proposed Plan

The proposed 17d-2 Plan is intended to reduce regulatory duplication for firms that are common members of both ISE Mercury and FINRA.<sup>10</sup> Pursuant to the proposed 17d-2 Plan, FINRA would assume certain examination and enforcement responsibilities for common members with respect to certain applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

The text of the Plan delineates the proposed regulatory responsibilities with respect to the Parties. Included in the proposed Plan is an exhibit (the “ISE Mercury Certification of Common Rules,” referred to herein as the “Certification”) that lists every ISE Mercury rule, and select federal securities laws, rules, and regulations, for which FINRA would bear responsibility under the Plan for overseeing and enforcing with respect to ISE Mercury members that are also members of FINRA and the associated persons therewith (“Dual Members”).

Specifically, under the 17d-2 Plan, FINRA would assume examination and enforcement responsibility relating to compliance by Dual Members with the rules of ISE Mercury that are substantially similar to the applicable rules of FINRA,<sup>11</sup> as well as any provisions of the federal securities laws and the rules and regulations thereunder delineated in the Certification (“Common Rules”). In the event that a Dual Member is the subject of an investigation relating to a transaction on ISE Mercury, the plan acknowledges that ISE Mercury may, in its discretion, exercise concurrent

jurisdiction and responsibility for such matter.<sup>12</sup>

Under the Plan, ISE Mercury would retain full responsibility for surveillance and enforcement with respect to trading activities or practices involving ISE Mercury’s own marketplace, including, without limitation, registration pursuant to its applicable rules of associated persons (*i.e.*, registration rules that are not Common Rules); its duties as a DEA pursuant to Rule 17d-1 under the Act; and any ISE Mercury rules that are not Common Rules.<sup>13</sup>

The text of the proposed 17d-2 Plan is as follows:

AGREEMENT BETWEEN FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY, INC. AND ISE MERCURY, LLC PURSUANT TO RULE 17d-2 UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

This Agreement, by and between Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (“FINRA”) and ISE Mercury, LLC (“ISE Mercury”), is made this 8th day of February, 2016 (the “Agreement”), pursuant to Section 17(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”) and Rule 17d-2 thereunder which permits agreements between self-regulatory organizations to allocate regulatory responsibility to eliminate regulatory duplication. FINRA and ISE Mercury may be referred to individually as a “party” and together as the “parties.”

WHEREAS, FINRA and ISE Mercury desire to reduce duplication in the examination of their Dual Members (as defined herein) and in the filing and processing of certain registration and membership records; and

WHEREAS, FINRA and ISE Mercury desire to execute an agreement covering such subjects pursuant to the provisions of Rule 17d-2 under the Exchange Act and to file such agreement with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC” or “Commission”) for its approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants contained hereinafter, FINRA and ISE Mercury hereby agree as follows:

**1. Definitions.** Unless otherwise defined in this Agreement or the context otherwise requires, the terms used in this Agreement shall have the same meaning as they have under the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder. As used in this Agreement, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

<sup>10</sup> The proposed 17d-2 Plan refers to these common members as “Dual Members.” See Paragraph 1(c) of the proposed 17d-2 Plan.

<sup>11</sup> See paragraph 1(b) of the proposed 17d-2 Plan (defining Common Rules). See also paragraph 1(f) of the proposed 17d-2 Plan (defining Regulatory Responsibilities). Paragraph 2 of the Plan provides that annually, or more frequently as required by changes in either ISE MERCURY rules or FINRA rules, the parties shall review and update, if necessary, the list of Common Rules. Further, paragraph 3 of the Plan provides that ISE MERCURY shall furnish FINRA with a list of Dual Members, and shall update the list no less frequently than once each calendar quarter.

<sup>12</sup> See paragraph 6 of the proposed 17d-2 Plan.

<sup>13</sup> See paragraph 2 of the proposed 17d-2 Plan.

<sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78q(d)(1).

<sup>6</sup> See Securities Act Amendments of 1975, Report of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs to Accompany S. 249, S. Rep. No. 94-75, 94th Cong., 1st Session 32 (1975).

<sup>7</sup> 17 CFR 240.17d-1 and 17 CFR 240.17d-2, respectively.

<sup>8</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 12352 (April 20, 1976), 41 FR 18808 (May 7, 1976).

<sup>9</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 12935 (October 28, 1976), 41 FR 49091 (November 8, 1976).

(a) “*ISE Mercury Rules*” or “*FINRA Rules*” shall mean the rules of ISE Mercury or FINRA, respectively, as the rules of an exchange or association are defined in Exchange Act Section 3(a)(27).

(b) “*Common Rules*” shall mean the ISE Mercury Rules that are substantially similar to the applicable FINRA Rules set forth in *Exhibit 1* in that examination for compliance with such rules would not require FINRA to develop one or more new examination standards, modules, procedures, or criteria in order to analyze the application of the rule, or a Dual Member’s activity, conduct, or output in relation to such rule.

(c) “*Dual Members*” shall mean those ISE Mercury members that are also members of FINRA and the associated persons therewith.

(d) “*Effective Date*” shall have the meaning set forth in paragraph 13.

(e) “*Enforcement Responsibilities*” shall mean the conduct of appropriate proceedings, in accordance with the FINRA Code of Procedure (the Rule 9000 Series) and other applicable FINRA procedural rules, to determine whether violations of Common Rules have occurred, and if such violations are deemed to have occurred, the imposition of appropriate sanctions as specified under the FINRA’s Code of Procedure and sanctions guidelines.

(f) “*Regulatory Responsibilities*” shall mean the examination responsibilities and Enforcement Responsibilities relating to compliance by the Dual Members with the Common Rules and the provisions of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder, and other applicable laws, rules and regulations, each as set forth on *Exhibit 1* attached hereto.

## 2. Regulatory and Enforcement

**Responsibilities.** FINRA shall assume Regulatory Responsibilities and Enforcement Responsibilities for Dual Members. Attached as *Exhibit 1* to this Agreement and made part hereof, ISE Mercury furnished FINRA with a current list of Common Rules and certified to FINRA that such rules are substantially similar to the corresponding FINRA Rule (the “*Certification*”). FINRA hereby agrees that the rules listed in the *Certification* are Common Rules as defined in this Agreement. Each year following the Effective Date of this Agreement, or more frequently if required by changes in either the ISE Mercury Rules or FINRA Rules, ISE Mercury shall submit an updated list of Common Rules to FINRA for review which shall add ISE Mercury Rules not included in the current list of Common Rules that qualify as Common Rules as defined in

this Agreement; delete ISE Mercury Rules included in the current list of Common Rules that no longer qualify as Common Rules as defined in this Agreement; and confirm that the remaining rules on the current list of Common Rules continue to be ISE Mercury Rules that qualify as Common Rules as defined in this Agreement. Within 30 days of receipt of such updated list, FINRA shall confirm in writing whether the rules listed in any updated list are Common Rules as defined in this Agreement.

Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, it is explicitly understood that the term “*Regulatory Responsibilities*” does not include, and ISE Mercury shall retain full responsibility for (unless otherwise addressed by separate agreement or rule) the following (collectively, the “*Retained Responsibilities*”):

(a) surveillance and enforcement with respect to trading activities or practices involving ISE Mercury’s own marketplaces, including without limitation ISE Mercury’s Rules relating to the rights and obligations of market makers;

(b) registration pursuant to its applicable rules of associated persons (*i.e.*, registration rules that are not Common Rules);

(c) discharge of its duties and obligations as a Designated Examining Authority pursuant to Rule 17d–1 under the Exchange Act; and

(d) any ISE Mercury Rules that are not Common Rules.

**3. Dual Members.** Prior to the Effective Date, ISE Mercury shall furnish FINRA with a current list of Dual Members, which shall be updated no less frequently than once each quarter.

**4. No Charge.** There shall be no charge to ISE Mercury by FINRA for performing the Regulatory Responsibilities and Enforcement Responsibilities under this Agreement except as hereinafter provided. FINRA shall provide ISE Mercury with ninety (90) days advance written notice in the event FINRA decides to impose any charges to ISE Mercury for performing the Regulatory Responsibilities under this Agreement. If FINRA determines to impose a charge, ISE Mercury shall have the right at the time of the imposition of such charge to terminate this Agreement; provided, however, that FINRA’s Regulatory Responsibilities under this Agreement shall continue until the Commission approves the termination of this Agreement.

**5. Reassignment of Regulatory Responsibilities.** Notwithstanding any provision hereof, this Agreement shall

be subject to any statute, or any rule or order of the Commission. To the extent such action is inconsistent with this Agreement, such action shall supersede the provisions hereof to the extent necessary for them to be properly effectuated and the provisions hereof in that respect shall be null and void.

**6. Notification of Violations.** In the event that FINRA becomes aware of apparent violations of any ISE Mercury Rules, which are not listed as Common Rules, discovered pursuant to the performance of the Regulatory Responsibilities assumed hereunder, FINRA shall notify ISE Mercury of those apparent violations for such response as ISE Mercury deems appropriate. In the event ISE Mercury becomes aware of apparent violations of the Common Rules, discovered pursuant to the performance of the Retained Responsibilities, ISE Mercury shall notify FINRA of those apparent violations and such matters shall be handled by FINRA as provided in this Agreement. Apparent violations of all the Common Rules shall be processed by, and enforcement proceedings in respect thereto shall be conducted by FINRA as provided hereinbefore; provided, however, that in the event a Dual Member is the subject of an investigation relating to a transaction on ISE Mercury, ISE Mercury may in its discretion assume concurrent jurisdiction and responsibility. Each party agrees to make available promptly all files, records and witnesses necessary to assist the other in its investigation or proceedings.

**7. Continued Assistance.** FINRA shall make available to ISE Mercury all information obtained by FINRA in the performance by it of the Regulatory Responsibilities hereunder in respect to the Dual Members subject to this Agreement. In particular, and not in limitation of the foregoing, FINRA shall furnish ISE Mercury any information it obtains about Dual Members which reflects adversely on their financial condition. It is understood that such information is of an extremely sensitive nature and, accordingly, ISE Mercury acknowledges and agrees to take all reasonable steps to maintain its confidentiality. ISE Mercury shall make available to FINRA any information coming to its attention that reflects adversely on the financial condition of Dual Members or indicates possible violations of applicable laws, rules or regulations by such firms.

## 8. Dual Member Applications.

(a) Dual Members subject to this Agreement shall be required to submit, and FINRA shall be responsible for processing and acting upon all

applications submitted on behalf of allied persons, partners, officers, registered personnel and any other person required to be approved by the ISE Mercury Rules and FINRA Rules or associated with Dual Members thereof. Upon request, FINRA shall advise ISE Mercury of any changes of allied members, partners, officers, registered personnel and other persons required to be approved by the ISE Mercury Rules and FINRA Rules.

(b) Dual Members shall be required to send to FINRA all letters, termination notices or other material respecting the individuals listed in paragraph 8(a).

(c) When as a result of processing such submissions FINRA becomes aware of a statutory disqualification as defined in the Exchange Act with respect to a Dual Member, FINRA shall determine pursuant to Sections 15A(g) and/or Section 6(c) of the Exchange Act the acceptability or continued applicability of the person to whom such disqualification applies and keep ISE Mercury advised of its actions in this regard for such subsequent proceedings as ISE Mercury may initiate.

(d) Notwithstanding the foregoing, FINRA shall not review the membership application, reports, filings, fingerprint cards, notices, or other writings filed to determine if such documentation submitted by a broker or dealer, or a person associated therewith or other persons required to register or qualify by examination: (i) meets the ISE Mercury requirements for general membership or for specified categories of membership or participation in ISE Mercury, such as (A) Primary Market Maker Membership ("PMM"); (B) Competitive Market Maker Membership ("CMM"); (C) Electronic Access Membership ("EAM") (or any similar type of ISE Mercury membership or participation that is created after this Agreement is executed); or (ii) meets the ISE Mercury requirements to be associated with, or employed by, a ISE Mercury member or participant in any capacity, such as a Designated Trading Representative ("DTR") (or any similar type of participation, employment category or title, or associate-person category or class that is created after this Agreement is executed). FINRA shall not review applications or other documentation filed to request a change in the rights or status described in this paragraph 8(d), including termination or limitation on activities, of a member or a participant of ISE Mercury, or a person associated with, or requesting association with, a member or participant of ISE Mercury.

**9. Branch Office Information.** FINRA shall also be responsible for processing

and, if required, acting upon all requests for the opening, address changes, and terminations of branch offices by Dual Members and any other applications required of Dual Members with respect to the Common Rules as they may be amended from time to time. Upon request, FINRA shall advise ISE Mercury of the opening, address change and termination of branch and main offices of Dual Members and the names of such branch office managers.

**10. Customer Complaints.** ISE Mercury shall forward to FINRA copies of all customer complaints involving Dual Members received by ISE Mercury relating to FINRA's Regulatory Responsibilities under this Agreement. It shall be FINRA's responsibility to review and take appropriate action in respect to such complaints.

**11. No Restrictions on Regulatory Action.** Nothing contained in this Agreement shall restrict or in any way encumber the right of either party to conduct its own independent or concurrent investigation, examination or enforcement proceeding of or against Dual Members, as either party, in its sole discretion, shall deem appropriate or necessary.

**12. Termination.** This Agreement may be terminated by ISE Mercury or FINRA at any time upon the approval of the Commission after one (1) year's written notice to the other party (or such shorter time as may be agreed by the parties), except as provided in paragraph 4.

**13. Effective Date.** This Agreement shall be effective upon approval of the Commission.

**14. Arbitration.** In the event of a dispute between the parties as to the operation of this Agreement, ISE Mercury and FINRA hereby agree that any such dispute shall be settled by arbitration in Washington, DC in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association then in effect, or such other procedures as the parties may mutually agree upon. Judgment on the award rendered by the arbitrator(s) may be entered in any court having jurisdiction.

**15. Separate Agreement.** This Agreement is wholly separate from (1) the multiparty Agreement made pursuant to Rule 17d-2 of the Exchange Act among BATS Exchange, Inc., BOX Options Exchange, LLC, the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated, C2 Options Exchange, Incorporated, the International Securities Exchange, LLC, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc., Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC, the New York Stock Exchange, LLC, the NYSE MKT LLC, the NYSE Arca Inc., The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC, NASDAQ OMX BX,

Inc., and the NASDAQ OMX PHLX, LLC approved by the Commission on December 5, 2012 involving the allocation of regulatory responsibilities with respect to common members for compliance with common rules relating to the conduct by broker-dealers of accounts for listed options or index warrants or (2) the multiparty Agreement made pursuant to Rule 17d-2 of the Exchange Act among NYSE MKT LLC, BATS Exchange, Inc., BOX Options Exchange, LLC, C2 Options Exchange, Incorporated, Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated, International Securities Exchange LLC, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc., NYSE Arca, Inc., The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC, NASDAQ OMX BX, Inc., NASDAQ OMX PHLX, Inc. and Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC, approved by the Commission on December 5, 2012 involving options-related market surveillance matters and such agreements as may be amended from time to time.

**16. Notification of Members.** ISE Mercury and FINRA shall notify Dual Members of this Agreement after the Effective Date by means of a uniform joint notice.

**17. Amendment.** This Agreement may be amended in writing duly approved by each party. All such amendments must be filed with and approved by the Commission before they become effective.

**18. Limitation of Liability.** Neither FINRA nor ISE Mercury nor any of their respective directors, governors, officers or employees shall be liable to the other party to this Agreement for any liability, loss or damage resulting from or claimed to have resulted from any delays, inaccuracies, errors or omissions with respect to the provision of Regulatory Responsibilities as provided hereby or for the failure to provide any such responsibility, except with respect to such liability, loss or damages as shall have been suffered by one or the other of FINRA or ISE Mercury and caused by the willful misconduct of the other party or their respective directors, governors, officers or employees. No warranties, express or implied, are made by FINRA or ISE Mercury with respect to any of the responsibilities to be performed by each of them hereunder.

**19. Severability.** Any term or provision of this Agreement that is invalid or unenforceable in any jurisdiction shall, as to such jurisdiction, be ineffective to the extent of such invalidity or unenforceability without rendering invalid or unenforceable the remaining terms and provisions of this Agreement or

affecting the validity or enforceability of any of the terms or provisions of this Agreement in any other jurisdiction.

**20. Relief from Responsibility.**

Pursuant to Sections 17(d)(1)(A) and 19(g) of the Exchange Act and Rule 17d-2 thereunder, FINRA and ISE Mercury join in requesting the Commission, upon its approval of this Agreement or any part thereof, to relieve ISE Mercury of any and all responsibilities with respect to matters allocated to FINRA pursuant to this Agreement; provided, however, that this Agreement shall not be effective until the Effective Date.

**21. Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, and such counterparts together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each party has executed or caused this Agreement to be executed on its behalf by a duly authorized officer as of the date first written above.  
FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY, INC.

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Name:  
Title:

ISE MERCURY, LLC  
By \_\_\_\_\_  
Name:  
Title:

**EXHIBIT 1**

**ISE MERCURY CERTIFICATION OF COMMON RULES**

ISE Mercury hereby certifies that the requirements contained in the rules listed below for ISE Mercury are identical to, or substantially similar to, the comparable FINRA Rules or SEC Rules identified.

| ISE Mercury rule  | FINRA or SEC rule <sup>1</sup>  |
|---|---|
| 400 Just and Equitable Principles of Trade .....  | FINRA Rule 2010 Standards of Commercial Honor and Just and Equitable Principles of Trade; FINRA Rule 0140(a) Applicability. |
| 408(a)(1) Prevention of the Misuse of Material, Nonpublic Information ..                              | Section 15(f) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.   |
| 409 Disciplinary Action # .....   | FINRA Rule 4530(a)(1)(A) and (2) Reporting Requirements.  |
| 420 Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Program # .....  | FINRA Rule 3310 Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Program.   |
| 603 Termination of Registered Persons .....   | FINRA By-Laws, Article V, Section 3.  |
| 604 Continuing Education for Registered Persons <sup>2</sup> # .....                                  | FINRA Rule 1250 Continuing Education Requirements.  |
| 614 Statements of Financial Condition to Customers .....  | Rule 17a-5 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.  |
| 622 Transfer of Accounts .....  | FINRA rule 11870 Customer Account Transfer Contracts.   |
| 626 Telephone Solicitation .....  | FINRA Rule 3230 Telemarketing.  |
| 1400(a) Maintenance, Retention, and Furnishing of Books, Records and Other Information <sup>3</sup> . | FINRA Rule 4511(a) Books and Records—Requirements.  |

<sup>#</sup> INRA shall not have Regulatory Responsibilities regarding notification or reporting to ISE Mercury. In addition, FINRA shall only have Regulatory Responsibilities to the extent the exercise of discretion by ISE Mercury is the same as FINRA.

<sup>1</sup> ISE Mercury will be responsible for any significant differences between its rules and the comparable FINRA rule identified, until such time amendments to such rule(s) become operative.

<sup>2</sup> FINRA shall not have Regulatory Responsibilities with regard to the application of the rule to the Series 56 registration.

<sup>3</sup> FINRA shall not have Regulatory Responsibilities regarding the requirement to “keep current and preserve such books and records as the Exchange may prescribe;” responsibility for such requirement remains with ISE Mercury.

**III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Plan and Timing for Commission Action**

Pursuant to Section 17(d)(1) of the Act<sup>14</sup> and Rule 17d-2 thereunder,<sup>15</sup> after March 7, 2016, the Commission may, by written notice, declare the plan submitted by ISE Mercury and FINRA, File No. 4-697, to be effective if the Commission finds that the plan is necessary or appropriate in the public interest and for the protection of investors, to foster cooperation and coordination among self-regulatory organizations, or to remove impediments to and foster the development of the national market system and a national system for the clearance and settlement of securities transactions and in conformity with the factors set forth in Section 17(d) of the Act.

**IV. Solicitation of Comments**

In order to assist the Commission in determining whether to approve the proposed 17d-2 Plan and to relieve ISE

Mercury of the responsibilities which would be assigned to FINRA, interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

*Electronic Comments*

- Use the Commission’s Internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/other.shtml>); or
- Send an email to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number 4-697 on the subject line.

*Paper Comments*

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, Station Place, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090. All submissions should refer to File Number 4-697. 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 Web site (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/other.shtml>). Copies of the submission,

all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed plan that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed plan 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, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of the plan also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal offices of ISE Mercury and FINRA. 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 4-697 and should be submitted on or before March 7, 2016.

<sup>14</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78q(d)(1).

<sup>15</sup> 17 CFR 240.17d-2.

<sup>16</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(34).

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>16</sup>

**Robert W. Errett,**  
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2016-03300 Filed 2-18-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

*Upon Written Request Copies Available From:* Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of FOIA Services, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549-2736.

*Extension:*

Schedule 14D-9F, SEC File No. 270-339, OMB Control No. 3235-0382.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Schedule 14D-9F (17 CFR 240.14d-103) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78 *et seq.*) is used by any foreign private issuer incorporated or organized under the laws of Canada or by any director or officer of such issuer, where the issuer is the subject of a cash tender or exchange offer for a class of securities filed on Schedule 14D-1F. The information required to be filed with the Commission is intended to permit verification of compliance with the securities law requirements and assures the public availability of such information. We estimate that Schedule 14D-9F takes approximately 2 hours per response to prepare and is filed by approximately 6 respondents annually for a total reporting burden of 12 hours (2 hours per response x 6 responses).

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether this proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden imposed by the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection

techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

Please direct your written comment to Pamela Dyson, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Remi Pavlik-Simon, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549 or send an email to: [PRA\\_Mailbox@sec.gov](mailto:PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov).

Dated: February 12, 2016.

**Robert W. Errett,**  
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2016-03403 Filed 2-18-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

*Upon Written Request Copies Available From:* Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of FOIA Services, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549-2736.

*Extension:* Rule 14f-1, SEC File No. 270-127, OMB Control No. 3235-0108.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Under Exchange Act Rule 14f-1 (17 CFR 240.14f-1), if a person or persons have acquired securities of an issuer in a transaction subject to Sections 13(d) or 14(d) of the Exchange Act, and changes a majority of the directors of the issuer otherwise than at a meeting of security holders, then the issuer must file with the Commission and transmit to security holders information related to the change in directors within 10 days prior to the date the new majority takes office as directors. The information filed under Rule 14f-1 must be filed with the Commission and is publicly available. We estimate that it takes approximately 18 burden hours to provide the information required under Rule 14f-1 and that the information is filed by approximately 64 respondents for a total

annual reporting burden of 1,152 hours (18 hours per response x 64 responses).

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether this proposed collection of information is necessary for the performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden imposed by the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

Please direct your written comment to Pamela Dyson, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Remi Pavlik-Simon, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549 or send an email to: [PRA\\_Mailbox@sec.gov](mailto:PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov).

Dated: February 12, 2016.

**Robert W. Errett,**  
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2016-03400 Filed 2-18-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-77125; File No. SR-Phlx-2016-14]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; NASDAQ OMX PHLX LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Amend Rule 1066

February 12, 2016.

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 4, 2016, NASDAQ OMX PHLX LLC ("Phlx" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "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

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

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