2026; *Filing Authority:* 39 U.S.C. 3642 and 3633, 39 CFR 3035.105, and 39 CFR 3041.325.

2. *Docket No(s).:* MC2026–353 and K2026–346; *Filing Title:* USPS Request to Add New Fulfillment Standardized Distinct Product, PM–GA Contract 1073, and Notice of Filing Materials Under Seal; *Filing Acceptance Date:* August 20, 2026; *Filing Authority:* 39 U.S.C. 3642 and 3633, 39 CFR 3035.105, and 39 CFR 3041.325.

3. *Docket No(s).:* MC2026–354 and K2026–347; *Filing Title:* USPS Request to Add New Fulfillment Standardized Distinct Product, PM–GA Contract 1074, and Notice of Filing Materials Under Seal; *Filing Acceptance Date:* August 20, 2026; *Filing Authority:* 39 U.S.C. 3642 and 3633, 39 CFR 3035.105, and 39 CFR 3041.325.

This Notice will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Danielle LeFlore,

Legal Assistant.

[FR Doc. 2026–17313 Filed 8–24–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710–FW–P

OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

United States Global Change Research Program; Availability for Public Comment on the Proposed Amendment to the Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5)

AGENCY: United States Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).

ACTION: Notice of availability for public comment.

SUMMARY: OSTP, on behalf of the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), announces the availability of a proposed amendment and clarification to the Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5) for public comment. The proposed amendment addresses the interpretation and Federal use of NCA5 results that depend materially on RCP8.5, SSP5–8.5, SRES A2, or analogous high-emissions pathways.

DATES: Comments must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time September 9, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Interested individuals and organizations should submit comments electronically to *federalregister@ostp.eop.gov* and include ''RFI Response: Proposed Amendment to NCA5'' in the subject line of the email. Mailed paper submissions will not be accepted, and electronic submissions received after the deadline may not be taken into consideration.

Instructions: Response to this RFI is voluntary. Each individual or institution is requested to submit only one response. Electronic responses must be provided as attachments to an email rather than a link. Comments of seven pages or fewer (3,500 words) are requested; longer responses will not be considered. Responses should include the name of the person(s) or organization(s) filing the response. Responses containing references, studies, research, and other empirical data that are not widely published should include copies of or electronic links to the referenced materials. Responses containing profanity, vulgarity, threats, or other inappropriate language or content will not be considered.

USGCRP will not respond to individual submissions. A response to this RFI will not be viewed as a binding commitment to develop or pursue the project or ideas discussed. This RFI is not accepting applications for financial assistance or financial incentives.

Comments submitted in response to this notice are subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). No business proprietary information, copyrighted information, or personally identifiable information should be submitted in response to this RFI. Please be aware that comments submitted in response to this RFI, including the submitter's identification (as noted above), may be posted, without change, on OSTP's or another Federal website or otherwise released publicly.

After the public comment period closes, relevant Federal officials and participating agencies will consider the comments as appropriate. The proposed amendment may be revised before any final action.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Matthew Wielicki, Director, U.S. Global Change Research Program, Office of Science and Technology Policy; email: *federalregister@ostp.eop.gov;* tel: 202–456–4444.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed amendment will be available at *https://www.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/2026-08/NCA5-Proposed-Amendment-August-2026.pdf.* The USGCRP is mandated under the Global Change Research Act of 1990 to conduct a quadrennial National Climate Assessment to evaluate scientific findings and uncertainties related to global change, analyze the effects of global change, and analyze current and projected trends in global change, both human-induced and natural.

NCA5 was released in November 2023. The proposed amendment would clarify the interpretation and Federal use of NCA5 statements, figures, tables, traceable accounts, regional summaries, public summaries, and derivative Federal communications that rely materially on RCP8.5, SSP5–8.5, SRES A2, or analogous high-emissions pathways. The proposed amendment would not withdraw NCA5 in its entirety or disturb its compilation of observations, regional information, adaptation considerations, or appropriately described scenario-based analyses.

The proposed amendment would clarify that results dependent on these pathways should not be presented as expected, baseline, business-as-usual, likely, central, or ordinary Federal planning futures unless the same result is independently reproduced under a presently plausible scenario and evaluated against observations. Such results may remain useful as sensitivity analyses, bounding exercises, or stress tests when the applicable scenario, material assumptions, and limitations are clearly disclosed where the projected impact is communicated.

USGCRP invites public comment on the scientific basis for the proposed amendment; NCA5 material that may require clarification; methods for labeling and communicating scenario-dependent results; the use of observational evidence and plausible comparator scenarios; and implications for Federal planning, analysis, and public communications. Commenters are encouraged to provide citations, data, or other supporting material.

Authority: 15 U.S.C. Chapter 56A

Dated: August 20, 2026.

Stacy Murphy,

Deputy Chief Operations Officer/Security Officer.

[FR Doc. 2026–17289 Filed 8–24–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3270–F1–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–106167; File No. SR–ICC–2026–008]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; ICE Clear Credit LLC; Order Approving Proposed Rule Change Relating to the CDS Instrument On-Boarding Policies and Procedures

August 20, 2026.

I. Introduction

On June 26, 2026, ICE Clear Credit LLC (''ICC'') filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the ''Commission''), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the ''Act'') [1] and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,[2] a proposed rule change to revise the ICC CDS Instrument On-boarding Policies and Procedures (the ''Proposed Rule Change''). The Proposed Rule Change was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on July 13, 2026.[3] The Commission has not received comments regarding the Proposed Rule Change. For the reasons discussed below, the Commission is approving the Proposed Rule Change.

II. Description of the Proposed Rule Change

ICC is registered with the Commission as a clearing agency for the purpose of clearing CDS contracts for its Clearing Participants.[4] The ICC CDS Instrument On-boarding Policies and Procedures (the ''Instrument On-boarding Policy'') provide an overview of ICC's on-boarding process for new instruments, which includes selecting new instruments for clearing, configuring internal systems, notifying and receiving feedback from stakeholders, and ensuring operational readiness by ICC and its Clearing Participants.[5] The Proposed Rule Change would amend the Instrument On-boarding Policy's guiding principles that ICC maintains for instrument selection.

ICC proposes to amend Section III.A. of the Instrument On-boarding Policy, which discusses the guiding principles that ICC maintains for considering instruments for clearing. These principles are designed to ensure that ICC proceeds in a prudent manner with respect to instrument selection while also providing the best opportunity for Clearing Participants to minimize their risk.

Currently under Section III.A, ICC considers for clearing instruments that among other things are not constituents of currently clearable indices but meet certain other criteria. ICC proposes to amend this guiding principle. Currently, under this guiding principle, ICC considers instruments for clearing (i) with uncleared gross notional open interest among ICC's Clearing Participants, or with an average bilateral weekly volume equal to or greater than the average cleared volume across currently cleared instruments belonging to the same product type over the last twelve months or (ii) with bilateral open interest held by at least three Affiliate Groups of Clearing Participants.

The Proposed Rule Change would introduce a third criterion to this guiding principle. ICC proposes to also consider for clearing instruments that are not constituents of currently clearable indices but that are single name instruments with reference entities with minimum outstanding debt notional of 500 million U.S. Dollars or Euros.

To further emphasize that an instrument considered under this guiding principle needs only to satisfy one of the criteria or sub-bullets specified in the ICC On-boarding Policy to be considered for clearing, ICC proposes to revise the punctuation by replacing periods in the first two criteria with semi-colons and adding ''or'' before the third criteria. ICC states that instruments subject to the amended guiding principles would continue to be subject to effective controls through existing governance, risk, pricing, and operations reviews, which ultimately determine the instruments that ICC may clear.[6]

III. Discussion

Section 19(b)(2)(C) of the Act directs the Commission to approve a proposed rule change of a self-regulatory organization if it finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to such organization.[7] Under the Commission's Rules of Practice, the ''burden to demonstrate that a proposed rule change is consistent with the Act and the rules and regulations issued thereunder . . . is on the self-regulatory organization ['SRO'] that proposed the rule change.'' [8]

The description of a proposed rule change, its purpose and operation, its effect, and a legal analysis of its consistency with applicable requirements must all be sufficiently detailed and specific to support an affirmative Commission finding,[9] and any failure of an SRO to provide this information may result in the Commission not having a sufficient basis to make an affirmative finding that a proposed rule change is consistent with the Act and the applicable rules and regulations.[10] Moreover, ''unquestioning reliance'' on an SRO's representations in a proposed rule change is not sufficient to justify Commission approval of a proposed rule change.[11]

After carefully considering the Proposed Rule Change, the Commission finds that the Proposed Rule Change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to ICC. Specifically, the Commission finds that the proposal is consistent with Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Act [12] and Rule 17ad–22(e)(1) thereunder,[13] as described in detail below.

A. Consistency With Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Act

Under Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Act, ICC's rules, among other things, must be ''designed to promote the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions and . . . to assure the safeguarding of securities and funds which are in the custody or control of the clearing agency or for which it is responsible . . . .'' Based on a review of the record, and for the reasons discussed below, the Proposed Rule Change is consistent with Section 17A(b)(3)(F).

As discussed above, ICC is proposing to add a third criterion for instrument selection so that single name instruments with reference entities having a minimum outstanding debt notional of $500MM or €500MM may be considered for clearing, even if the instrument is not a constituent of a currently clearable index. By expanding the universe of instruments eligible for consideration under the guiding principles, the Proposed Rule Change enhances ICC's ability to offer clearing for a broader range of CDS instruments, thereby promoting the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of instruments for which ICC is responsible. Instruments considered for clearing under the amended guiding principles remain subject to ICC's existing governance, risk, pricing, and operations reviews, which serve as effective controls to ensure that only appropriate instruments are admitted to clearing, thereby safeguarding the securities and funds in ICC's custody or control. By potentially allowing

[1] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

[2] 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

[3] Self-Regulatory Organizations; ICE Clear Credit LLC; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change Relating to the CDS Instrument On-boarding Policies and Procedures, Exchange Act Release No. 105863 (July 8, 2026), 91 FR 42983 (July 13, 2026) (File No. SR–ICC–2026–008) (''Notice'').

[4] Capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein have the meanings assigned to them in ICC's Clearing Rules or the Instrument On-boarding Policy, as applicable. The Rules are available at *https://www.ice.com/clear-credit/regulation.*

[5] Notice, 91 FR at 42984.

[6] Notice, 91 FR at 42984.

[7] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(C).

[8] Rule 700(b)(3), Commission Rules of Practice, 17 CFR 201.700(b)(3).

[9] *Id.*

[10] *Id.*

[11] *Susquehanna Int'l Group, LLP* v. *Securities and Exchange Commission,* 866 F.3d 442, 447 (D.C. Cir. 2017) (''Susquehanna'').

[12] 15 U.S.C. 78q–1(b)(3)(F).

[13] 17 CFR 240.17ad–22(e)(1).

Clearing Participants to centrally clear additional transactions and mitigating risk for ICC and its Clearing Participants, the Proposed Rule Change promotes the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions and assures the safeguarding of securities and funds in ICC's custody and control.

As discussed above, the Proposed Rule Change also would clarify the On-boarding Policy by revising the punctuation by replacing periods in the first two criteria with semi-colons and adding ''or'' before the third criterion. A clearer On-boarding Policy helps lower the chance that there are any delays or disruptions to the instrument on-boarding process. Given the smoother process, these proposed changes promote the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions.

The Proposed Rule Change therefore facilitates the expansion of clearing services in a manner that supports market efficiency and preserves the integrity of ICC's risk management framework. Accordingly, the Proposed Rule Change is consistent with Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Act.[14]

B. Consistency With Rule 17Ad–22(e)(1)

Rule 17Ad–22(e)(1) requires ICC to establish, implement, maintain, and enforce written policies and procedures reasonably designed to provide for a well-founded, clear, transparent, and enforceable legal basis for each aspect of its activities in all relevant jurisdictions.[15]

The proposed rule change would help provide a well-founded, clear, transparent, and enforceable legal basis for ICC's clearance of additional instruments. The proposed amendments to the On-boarding Policy advance these objectives by codifying an additional, clearly defined quantitative criterion. As discussed above, the proposed rule change would allow single name instruments to be considered for clearing, even if they are not constituents of a currently clearable index, where their reference entities have a minimum outstanding debt notional threshold of $500MM or €500MM. By memorializing this criterion in written policy, ICC enhances the transparency and clarity of its instrument selection framework, ensuring that the On-boarding Policy is well-founded and enforceable. Furthermore, the proposed structural revisions to the punctuation and organization of the sub-bullets further reinforce the transparent and unambiguous application of the guiding principles, leaving no uncertainty as to how instruments may qualify for clearing consideration under this provision.

The Proposed Rule Change therefore provides a well-founded, clear, transparent, and enforceable legal basis for ICC to clear additional instruments. Accordingly, the Proposed Rule Change is consistent with Rule 17Ad–22(e)(1).[16]

IV. Conclusion

On the basis of the foregoing, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act, and in particular, with the requirements of Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Act[16] and Rule 17ad–22(e)(1) thereunder.[17]

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act[18] that the proposed rule change (SR–ICC–2026–008) be, and hereby is, approved.[19]

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.[20]

Vanessa A. Countryman,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–17283 Filed 8–24–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

---

[14] *Id.*

[15] 17 CFR 240.17Ad–22(e)(1).

[16] 15 U.S.C. 78q–1(b)(3)(F).

[17] 17 CFR 240.17ad–22(e)(1).

[18] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

[19] 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).

[20] 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12).

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–106166; File No. SR–IEX–2026–27]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Investors Exchange LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Enhance Certain Aspects of the Activity-Based Risk Controls Applicable to IEX Options Members Set Forth in IEX Rule 22.250, and To Make Conforming and Typo Clean-Up Changes to IEX Rules 22.250 and 22.260

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1)[1] of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the ''Act'')[2] and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,[3] notice is hereby given that, on August 13, 2026, the Investors Exchange LLC (''IEX'' or the ''Exchange'') filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the ''Commission'') the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the self-regulatory organization. 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

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) under the Act,[4] and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,[5] the Exchange is filing with the Commission a rule change proposal to enhance certain aspects of the Activity-Based Risk Controls applicable to IEX Options Members[6] set forth in IEX Rule 22.250, and to make conforming and typo clean-up changes to IEX Rules 22.250 and 22.260. The Exchange has designated this rule change as ''non-controversial'' under Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act[7] and provided the Commission with the notice required by Rule 19b–4(f)(6) thereunder.[8]

The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Exchange's website at *https://www.iexexchange.io/resources/regulation/rule-filings* and at the principal office of the Exchange.

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

In its filing with the Commission, the self-regulatory organization 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 self-regulatory organization 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 the Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

On September 18, 2025, the Commission approved IEX's proposal to adopt rules governing the trading of options on the Exchange in a new facility called ''IEX Options'';[9] IEX

---

[1] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

[2] 15 U.S.C. 78a.

[3] 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

[4] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

[5] 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

[6] *See* Rule 17.100.

[7] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

[8] 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

[9] *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 103998 (September 18, 2025), 90 FR 45861 (September 23, 2025) (SR–IEX–2025–02) (Commission order approving a Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by

Continued