

Date and Time: October 8–9, 1998; 8:30 A.M. until 5:00 P.M.

Place: Room 1020, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA.

Type of Meeting: Closed.

Contact Person: Dr. Joe Jenkins, Program Director, Analysis Program, Division of Mathematical Sciences, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 306-1879.

Purpose of Meeting: To provide advice and recommendations concerning proposals submitted to NSF for financial support.

Agenda: To review and evaluate the Analysis Program nominations/applications as part of the selection process for awards.

Reason For Closing: The proposals being reviewed include information of a proprietary or confidential nature, including technical information; financial data, such as salaries and personal information concerning individuals associated with the proposals. These matters are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: September 17, 1998.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-25525 Filed 9-23-98; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Duke Energy Corporation; Notice of Reconstitution of Board

[Docket Nos. 50-269/50-270/50-287-LR
1ASLBP No. 98-752-02-LR]

Pursuant to the authority contained in 10 C.F.R. 2.721, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board in the Duke Energy Corporation proceeding, with the above-identified Docket Number, is hereby reconstituted by appointing Administrative Judge B. Paul Cotter, Jr. as the Board Chairman in place of Administrative Judge Thomas S. Moore.

As reconstituted, the Board is comprised of the following Administrative Judges:

B. Paul Cotter, Jr., Chairman

Dr. Richard F. Cole

Dr. Peter S. Lam

All correspondence, documents and other material shall be filed with the Board in accordance with 10 C.F.R. 2.701 (1980). The address of the new member is: B. Paul Cotter, Jr., Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555.

Issued at Rockville, Maryland, this 18th day of September 1998.

B. Paul Cotter, Jr.,

Chief Administrative Judge, Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel.

[FR Doc. 98-25598 Filed 9-23-98; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-40448; International Series Release No. 1158; File No. SR-Amex-98-27]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; American Stock Exchange, Inc.; Order Granting Accelerated Approval of Proposed Rule Change and Amendment No. 1 Thereto Relating to the Settlement of the Eurotop 100 Index

September 17, 1998.

I. Introduction

On July 8, 1998, the American Stock Exchange, Inc. ("Amex" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² a proposed rule change relating to the Eurotop 100 Index's ("Index")³ settlement value methodology for options traded on the Index. On July 28, 1998, the Exchange filed an amendment to the proposed rule change ("Amendment No. 1").⁴ The proposed rule change and Amendment No. 1 were published for comment in the **Federal Register** on August 26, 1998.⁵ The Commission received no comments on the proposal. This order approves the proposed rule change, as amended, on an accelerated basis.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ The Commission notes that the Eurotop 100 Index and the Financial Times—Stock Exchange ("FTSE") Eurotop 100 Index are referring to the same index. Telephone conversation between Scott G. Van Hatten, Legal Counsel, Amex, and James T. McHale, Special Counsel, Division of Market Regulation ("Division"), Commission, on September 15, 1998.

⁴ Amendment No. 1 made the following clarifications: (i) the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange ("LIFFE") will be the new official calculation agent of settlement values; (ii) the current agent is the European Options Exchange; and (iii) reference to the maintenance of the Index by the Exchange is deleted from the filing. See letter from Scott G. Van Hatten, Legal Counsel, Amex to Sharon Lawson, Senior Special Counsel, Division, Commission (July 27, 1998).

⁵ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 40343 (August 19, 1998), 63 FR 45538 (August 26, 1998).

II. Description of the Proposal

The Exchange proposes to revise the settlement value methodology for options on the Index in response to a change in the official calculation agent from EOE to LIFFE. Currently, the settlement value for options overlying the Index, calculated on the third Friday of the month, is based on the average of the Index values calculated at 5 minute intervals between 12:30 p.m. and 1 p.m. Central European Time (C.E.T.) (6:30 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (E.S.T.)).⁶ Accordingly, on each expiration Friday, the settlement value is calculated by averaging the Index values quoted at 12:30, 12:35, 12:40, 12:45, 12:50, 12:55 and 1:00 p.m. The Exchange settles its Index options contracts based on this value, reduced by a factor of one-tenth (0.10).

The new settlement value calculation uses a similar averaging methodology, but instead of every five minutes, the new settlement value will be an average of the Index's values taken every fifteen seconds during the period of 12:40 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. C.E.T. The values averaged during the twenty minute period will exclude the twelve highest and twelve lowest values, resulting in a settlement value made up of the average of 57 individual index values.⁷ The Exchange has represented the FTSE Eurotop 100 Index futures contracts traded on the New York Mercantile Exchange ("NYMEX") will settle using the new settlement methodology for all Index futures contracts expiring after December 1998. Moreover, the Amex has represented that in June 1998, FTSE Eurotop 100 Index futures contracts traded on LIFFE and the Amsterdam Exchange FTSE Eurotop 100 Ecu options contracts began settling using the new settlement methodology.

The settlement value using the existing methodology will continue to be disseminated by the Exchange and used to settle contracts expiring through December 1998. Options expiring after December 1998 will be settled using the new settlement methodology.⁸ No other changes are being proposed to the Index. The Exchange will inform its members of the change in the settlement

⁶ The current settlement methodology has been used since initial approval of options on the Index in 1992. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 30463 (March 11, 1992), 57 FR 9284 (March 17, 1992).

⁷ The Amex will continue to reduce the LIFFE-calculated settlement value by a factor of one-tenth (0.10) when the Exchange settles its Index option contracts.

⁸ Currently, there are no outstanding contracts that expire after December 1998.