

4. Investment of Cash Balances in shares of the Central Funds will be in accordance with each Participating Fund's respective investment restrictions, if any, and will be consistent with each Participating Fund's policies as set forth in the prospectus and statement of additional information.

5. Each Participating Fund, Central Fund, and any future Fund that may rely on the order shall be advised by the Adviser.

6. No Central Fund shall acquire securities of any other investment company in excess of the limits contained in section 12(d)(1)(A) of the Act.

7. Before a Fund may participate in the Securities Lending Program, a majority of the Board, including a majority of the Disinterested Trustees, will approve the Fund's participation in the Securities Lending Program. Such Trustees also will evaluate the securities lending arrangement and its results no less frequently than annually and determine that any investment of Cash Collateral in the Central Funds is in the best interest of the shareholders of the Fund.

For the Commission, by the Division of Investment Management, pursuant to delegated authority.

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-16635 Filed 7-2-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-44477; File No. SR-AMEX-2001-14]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Order Approving Proposed Rule Change and Amendment No. 1 Thereto and Notice of Filing and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of Amendment No. 2 Thereto by the American Stock Exchange LLC Relating to Members' Written Proposals To List Equity Option Classes

June 27, 2001.

I. Introduction

On March 8, 2001, the American Stock Exchange LLC ("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

adopting formal procedures for members to submit proposals to list option classes on the Exchange. The Exchange submitted an amendment to the proposed rule change on April 17, 2001.³ The **Federal Register** published the proposed rule change for comment on April 30, 2001.⁴ The Commission receive no comments on the proposal. The Exchange filed Amendment No. 2 to the proposed rule change on June 22, 2001.⁵ This order approves the proposed rule change and grants accelerated approval to Amendment No. 2. The Commission also is soliciting comment on Amendment No. 2 to the proposed rule change.

II. Description of the Proposal

The proposed rule change would adopt formal procedures for members to submit proposals to list option classes on the Exchange, and would codify the factors considered by the Exchange in listing option classes.⁶ The Exchange would be required to review and make a determination regarding a member's listing proposal within 25 days of receipt of the proposal. If the Exchange decides not to list the proposed option class or to limit or condition the listing of the option in any way, the Exchange would be required, in writing and within the 25-day period, to inform the member of the basis for denial of the

³ See letter from Claire P. McGrath, Vice President and Special Counsel, Derivative Securities, Amex, to Elizabeth King, Associate Director, Division of Market Regulation ("Division"), Commission, dated April 16, 2001 ("Amendment No. 1"). Amendment No. 1 revises proposed Commentary .08 to Amex Rule 915 to require the Amex to maintain a record of any bona fide business considerations it relies upon in denying or placing limitations or conditions upon a proposal listing.

⁴ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 44211 (April 23, 2001), 66 FR 21421.

⁵ See letter from Claire P. McGrath, Vice President and Special Counsel, Derivative Securities, Amex, to Nancy Sanow, Assistant Director, Division, Commission, dated June 21, 2001 ("Amendment No. 2"). Amendment No. 2 revised Commentary .08 to Amex Rule 915 to clarify that when the Exchange relies upon other bona fide business considerations in denying or placing conditions or limitations upon a member listing proposal, the Exchange must provide the member with a written response specifying that the Exchange has relied upon other bona fide business considerations, in addition to maintaining a record of the bona fide business considerations supporting its decision.

⁶ As part of a settlement of an enforcement action by the Commission, four of the five options exchanges, including the Amex, are required to adopt rules to codify listing procedures to be carried out when a member or member organization requests the exchange to list options not currently trading on the exchange. See Order Instituting Public Administrative Proceedings Pursuant to Section 19(h)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Making Findings and Imposing Remedial Sanctions, Securities Exchange Act Release No. 43268 (September 11, 2000).

proposal or the basis for any limitation or condition put on its acceptance.

III. Discussion

The Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to a national securities exchange.⁷ Specifically, the Commission believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the section 6(b)(5)⁸ requirements that the rules of an exchange be designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanisms of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

The Commission believes that the proposed rule change will remove impediments to and perfect the mechanisms of a free and open market by providing formal procedures for members to request the listing of options on the Exchange. The proposal would require the Exchange to respond in writing within 25 days to requests by members to list options. The Commission believes that the proposed procedures and time frames set forth in the proposed rule change are reasonable and adequately balance the Exchange's need to thoroughly examine proposed listings before making its determination with its members' need for a prompt and specific response to its listing recommendation.

In addition, the proposed rule change codifies the factors to be considered by the Exchange in determining whether to list a recommended option. The Commission believes that the proposed factors represent legitimate issues that the Exchange may consider when making a listing decision. The Commission notes that if the Exchange denies or places conditions or limitations upon a proposed listing, it must include its reasons in the letter notifying the member of its decision. The Commission believes that this requirement should help to ensure that the Exchange relies on upon the factors codified in its rules when making a listing decision.

The Commission finds good cause for accelerating approval of Amendment No. 2 to the proposed rule change prior to the thirtieth day after publication in the **Federal Register**. The Commission notes that Amendment No. 2 provides useful clarification to the proposed

⁷ In approving the proposal, the Commission has considered its impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

rules. Accordingly, the Commission finds that good cause exists, consistent with sections 6(b)(5)⁹ and 19(b) of the Act,¹⁰ to accelerate approval of Amendment No. 2 to the proposed rule change.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning Amendment No. 2, including whether the amendment is consistent with the Act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. 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 inspection and copying at the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Amex. All submissions should refer to the File No. SR-AMEX-2001-14 and should be submitted by July 24, 2001.

V. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,¹¹ that the proposed rule change (SR-AMEX-2001-14), as amended, is approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹²

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-16676 Filed 7-2-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-44466; File No. SR-BSE-2001-03]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of Proposed Rule Change and Amendment No. 1 Thereto by the Boston Stock Exchange, Inc. Relating to Its Specialist Performance Evaluation Program

June 22, 2001.

Pursuant to 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 June 7, 2001, the Boston Stock Exchange ("Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. On June 15, 2001, the Exchange submitted Amendment No. 1 to the proposed rule change.³ The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change, as amended, from interested persons and to grant accelerated approval to the proposed rule change, as amended.

I. Self-Regulatory Organizations Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to extend its SPEP Pilot until March 31, 2002. The text of the proposed rule change follows. New text is italicized.

Chapter XV

Specialists

Specialist Performance Evaluation Program

Sec. 17(a)-(e) no change

(f) This program will expire on March 31, 2002, unless further action is taken by the Exchange.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ In Amendment No. 1, the Exchange requested to have the one-year extension of its Specialist Performance Evaluation Pilot Program ("SPEP Pilot") applied retroactively to April 1, 2001. In addition, the Exchange added rule text language that sets forth the expiration date of the SPEP Pilot. See letter from John A. Boese, Assistant Vice President, Rule Development and Market Structure, Exchange, to Nancy Sanow, Assistant Director, Division of Market Regulation, Commission, dated June 14, 2001 ("Amendment No. 1").

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 III 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 seeks to have a one-year extension of its SPEP Pilot applied retroactively from April 1, 2001, until March 31, 2002.⁴ Under the SPEP Pilot program, the Exchange regularly evaluates the performance of its specialists by using objective measures, such as turnaround time, price improvement, depth, and added depth. Generally, any specialist who receives a deficient score in one or more measures may be required to attend a meeting with the Performance Improvement Action Committee, or the Market Performance Committee.

While the Exchange believes that the SPEP Pilot has been a very successful and effective tool for measuring specialist performance, it realizes that modifications are necessitated as a result of recent changes in the industry, particularly decimalization. Accordingly, the Exchange is seeking to extend the pilot period of this program so that evaluation and modification can be undertaken before permanent approval is requested.

2. Statutory Basis

The statutory basis for the proposed rule change is Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁵ in that the proposed rule change is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade; to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in securities; to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and

⁴ The SPEP Pilot expired on March 31, 2001. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 42585 (March 28, 2000), 65 FR 17687 (April 4, 2000); see also Amendment No. 1, *supra* note 3 (requesting retroactive approval).

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b).

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

¹² 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).