

of the Act<sup>9</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.<sup>10</sup>

The Exchange has requested the Commission to waive the 30-day operative delay so that the proposal may become operative immediately upon filing. The Commission believes that waiving the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest because such waiver will allow the Exchange immediately to provide investors with an additional venue to close their existing open positions. The Commission notes further that the Exchange would be permitted to list the restricted series solely for the purpose of closing transactions as long as the restricted series is listed on another national securities exchange. For this reason, the Commission designates the proposal operative upon filing.<sup>11</sup>

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate 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.

#### 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 e-mail to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-CBOE-2009-066 on the subject line.

##### *Paper Comments*

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-CBOE-2009-066. 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 inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of such 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-CBOE-2009-066 and should be submitted on or before October 2, 2009.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>12</sup>

**Florence E. Harmon,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-60622; File No. SR-NYSEAmex-2009-59]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE Amex LLC; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change Amending NYSE Amex Options Rule 915

September 3, 2009.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1)<sup>1</sup> of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act")<sup>2</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>3</sup> notice is hereby given that on August 19, 2009, NYSE Amex LLC ("NYSE

Amex" or the "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III 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

The Exchange proposes to revise NYSE Amex Rule 915 to amend the definition of Futures-Linked Securities for the trading of options on Index-Linked Securities. The text of the proposed rule change is attached as Exhibit 5 to the 19b-4 form. A copy of this filing is available on the Exchange's Web site at [www.nyse.com](http://www.nyse.com), at the Exchange'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 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 those 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 parts of such statements.

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

###### 1. Purpose

NYSE Amex Rule 915, Commentary .11 designates the listing and trading of options on equity index-linked securities ("Equity Index-Linked Securities"), commodity-linked securities ("Commodity-Linked Securities"), currency-linked securities ("Currency-Linked Securities"), fixed income index-linked securities ("Fixed Income Index-Linked Securities"), futures-linked securities ("Futures-Linked Securities") and multifactor index-linked securities ("Multifactor Index-Linked Securities"), collectively known as "Index-Linked Securities" (as defined in NYSE Amex Company Guide Section 107(H)) that are principally traded on a national securities exchange and an "NMS Stock" (as defined in Rule 600 of Regulation NMS under the

<sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>10</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) requires the self-regulatory organization to submit to the Commission written notice of its 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 Exchange has satisfied this requirement.

<sup>11</sup> For purposes only of waiving the 30-day operative delay, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

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

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

<sup>2</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78a.

<sup>3</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

Securities and Exchange Act of 1934). The Exchange proposes to amend the definition of Futures-Linked Securities for the trading of options on Index-Linked Securities to include products linked to CBOE Volatility Index (VIX) Futures. This proposal is substantially similar to the previously approved NYSE Arca Equities Rule 5.2(j)(6)(v).<sup>4</sup>

Specifically, the Exchange proposes to add the CBOE Volatility Index (VIX) Futures to the definition of a Futures Reference Asset in NYSE Amex Rule 915 Commentary .11(5).

Index-Linked Securities are designed for investors who desire to participate in a specific market segment by providing exposure to one or more identifiable underlying securities, commodities, currencies, derivative instruments or market indexes of the foregoing ("Underlying Index" or "Underlying Indexes"). Index-Linked Securities are the non-convertible debt of an issuer that have a term of at least one (1) year but not greater than thirty (30) years. Despite the fact that Index-Linked Securities are linked to an underlying index, each trade as a single, exchange-listed security. Accordingly, rules pertaining to the listing and trading of standard equity options apply to Index-Linked Securities.

Currently, the Exchange will consider listing and trading options on Index-Linked Securities provided the Index-Linked Securities meet the criteria for underlying securities set forth in Rule 915 Commentary .01.

Index-Linked Securities must meet the criteria and guidelines for underlying securities set forth in Rule 915 Commentary .01; or the Index-Linked Securities must be redeemable at the option of the holder at least on a weekly basis through the issuer at a price related to the applicable underlying Reference Asset.<sup>5</sup> In addition, the issuing company is obligated to issue or repurchase the securities in aggregation units for cash or cash equivalents satisfactory to the issuer of Index-Linked Securities which underlie the option as described in the Index-Linked Securities prospectus.

Options on Index-Linked Securities will continue to be subject to all Exchange rules governing the trading of

equity options. The current continuing or maintenance listing standards for options traded on NYSE Amex will continue to apply.

#### The VIX

The information in this filing relating to the VIX was taken from the Web site of the Chicago Board Options Exchange (the "CBOE").

The VIX was originally developed by the CBOE in 1993 and was calculated using S&P 100® Index options. The current methodology for the VIX was introduced by the CBOE in September 2003 and it is now an index that uses the quotes of certain S&P 500® Index ("SPX") option series to derive a measure of the volatility of the U.S. equity market. The VIX measures market expectations of near term volatility conveyed by the prices of options on the SPX. It provides investors with up-to-the-minute market estimates of expected stock market volatility over the next 30 calendar days by extracting implied volatilities from real-time index option bid/ask quotes.

#### VIX Futures

Information regarding VIX Futures can be found on the Web site of the CBOE Futures Exchange (the "CFE").

The CFE began listing and trading VIX Futures since March 26, 2004 under the ticker symbol VX. VIX Futures trade between the hours of 8:30 a.m.–3:15 p.m. Central Time (Chicago Time).

#### 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)<sup>6</sup> of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5)<sup>7</sup> in particular in that it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in facilitating transactions in securities, and 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 Exchange believes that the proposed rules applicable to trading pursuant to generic listing and trading criteria, together with the Exchange's surveillance procedures applicable to trading in the securities covered by the proposed rules, serve to foster investor protection.

#### B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

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

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

#### III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Within 35 days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the Exchange consents, the Commission will:

A. By order approve such proposed rule change, or

B. Institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be 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 e-mail to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-NYSEAmex-2009-59 on the subject line.

##### Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NYSEAmex-2009-59. 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

<sup>4</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34-58968 (November 17, 2008), 73 FR 64647 (SR-NYSEArca-2008-111).

<sup>5</sup> For the purposes of Rule 915 Commentary .11, Equity Reference Assets, Commodity Reference Assets, Currency Reference Assets, Fixed Income Reference Assets, Futures Reference Assets and Combination Reference Assets, will be collectively referred to as "Reference Assets", as defined in "Reference Asset" as defined in Sections 107D, 107E, 107F, 107G, 107H and 107I, respectively, of the NYSE Amex Options Company Guide.

<sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

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 in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 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-NYSEAmex-2009-59* and should be submitted on or before October 2, 2009.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>8</sup>

**Florence E. Harmon,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-60624; File No. SR-FINRA-2009-057]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change Relating to Section 1(c) of Schedule A to the FINRA By-Laws To Amend the Personnel Assessment and Gross Income Assessment

September 3, 2009.

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 August 20, 2009, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA") 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 FINRA. 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

FINRA is proposing to change Section 1(c) of Schedule A to the FINRA By-Laws ("Schedule A") to amend the Personnel Assessment and Gross Income Assessment paid by each FINRA member.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on FINRA's Web site at <http://www.finra.org>, at the principal office of FINRA 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, FINRA 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. FINRA 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

FINRA's primary member regulatory pricing structure consists of the following fees: the Personnel Assessment ("PA"); the Gross Income Assessment ("GIA"); the Trading Activity Fee; and the Branch Office Assessment. These fees are used to fund FINRA's regulatory activities, including rulemaking and FINRA's examination and enforcement programs.

The proposed rule change would amend the PA and GIA to achieve a more consistent and predictable funding stream to carry out FINRA's regulatory mandate. The economic and industry downturns experienced in 2008 and 2009 have strained FINRA's resources, yet its regulatory responsibilities remain constant and its programs robust. FINRA believes the proposed rule change is needed to stabilize its revenues and provide protection against future industry downturns.

To those ends, the proposed rule change first would increase the PA for all members. The PA is currently assessed on a three-tiered rate structure: members with one to five registered representatives and principals are

assessed \$75 for each such registered person; 6-25 registered persons, \$70 each; and 26 or more registered persons, \$65 each. The proposed rule change would increase those rates to \$150, \$140 and \$130, respectively, based on the same tiered structure. This proposal would represent the first PA rate increase in over five years. Moreover, given the correlation between the cost of FINRA's regulatory programs and the number of registered persons within a firm, FINRA notes that the population of registered persons has remained fairly stable, even throughout the recent economic downturn.<sup>3</sup> Accordingly, FINRA believes an increase of the PA is both a fair and appropriate means to achieve a more consistent and reliable foundation to fund its regulatory operations.

Even with the proposed increase of the PA, the GIA remains the most important component of FINRA's regulatory funding. The GIA is currently assessed through a seven-tier rate structure with a minimum GIA of \$1,200.00. Under the existing GIA rate structure, members are required to pay an annual GIA as follows:

- (1) \$1,200.00 on annual gross revenue up to \$1 million;
- (2) 0.1215% of annual gross revenue greater than \$1 million up to \$25 million;
- (3) 0.2599% of annual gross revenue greater than \$25 million up to \$50 million;
- (4) 0.0518% of annual gross revenue greater than \$50 million up to \$100 million;
- (5) 0.0365% of annual gross revenue greater than \$100 million up to \$5 billion;
- (6) 0.0397% of annual gross revenue greater than \$5 billion up to \$25 billion; and
- (7) 0.0855% of annual gross revenue greater than \$25 billion.

For 2010, the current year GIA would be subject to the cap set forth in *Regulatory Notice 08-07* (February 2008), which describes the new funding structure that resulted from the consolidation of NASD's and the New York Stock Exchange's member regulation operations. FINRA states in the *Notice* that it will apply a ten-percent cap on any increase or decrease to a firm's 2010 current year GIA resulting from the new pricing structure implemented in January 2008.

<sup>3</sup> For example, FINRA records show that since 2000, the average number of registered persons per year has been approximately 667,680 and that for each of the past three years the population has been 669,626 (2009), 676,927 (2008) and 662,742 (2007) (based on numbers at the end of the preceding calendar year).

<sup>8</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

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

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