

events giving rise to the dispute. However, the Director would honor an associated person's request for a different hearing location in the associated person's state of employment.⁵ FINRA believes the proposal would benefit associated persons by providing them with a choice of hearing locations.

2. Statutory Basis

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act,⁶ which requires, among other things, that FINRA rules must be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. The proposed rule change is consistent with FINRA's statutory obligations under the Act to protect investors and the public interest because the proposal would assist in the efficient administration of the arbitration process by giving customers and associated persons more control over where the arbitration would be held.

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

FINRA does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended.

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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received by FINRA.

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 self-regulatory

⁵ If the associated person requests a different hearing location other than the location closest to where the associated person was employed at the time of the events giving rise to dispute and makes the request before the arbitrator or arbitrators are selected, the Director will grant the request. If the associated person requests a different hearing location other than the location closest to where the associated person was employed at the time of the events giving rise to dispute and makes the request after the arbitrator or arbitrators are selected, the associated person must submit the request to the arbitrator or panel.

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(b)(6).

organization 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. The Commission in particular requests comment on the effect of allowing customers or associated persons to request a different hearing location after the arbitrator or arbitrators have been selected. 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. Please include File Number SR-FINRA-2009-073 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-FINRA-2009-073. 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 20549-1090. 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 the File Number SR-FINRA-2009-073 and should be submitted on or before January 20, 2010.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.⁷

Florence E. Harmon,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. E9-30913 Filed 12-29-09; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-61207; File No. SR-Phlx-2009-84]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NASDAQ OMX PHLX, Inc.; Order Approving Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Amendment No. 1 Thereto, To Amend Rules Relating to Conduct of Business on the Exchange

December 18, 2009.

On October 29, 2009, NASDAQ OMX PHLX, Inc. ("Phlx" 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 that would: (i) Create an expedited hearing process for members posing an immediate threat to the safety of persons or property, seriously disrupting Exchange operations, or who are in possession of a firearm on the Exchange trading floor; (ii) increase the time period a member may be physically excluded from the trading floor; (iii) increase the maximum amount a member may be fined pursuant to Rule 60; (iv) amend language applicable to contesting citations and create a forum fee of \$100 for contesting citations; (v) add language to explicitly prohibit alcohol and illegal controlled substances on the trading floor; (vi) increase fines for various regulations; (vii) require non-member visitors who are performing contract work at the Exchange on behalf of members to provide a certificate of insurance and add fines for failure to provide proof of insurance; (viii) add a rule to limit exchange liability and require reimbursement of certain expenses; (ix) amend the disciplinary rules to allow Enforcement Staff to request a hearing; and (x) increase the

⁷ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

limit on fines from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and add clarifying language to Rule 970.

On November 6, 2009, Phlx filed Amendment No. 1. The proposed rule change, as amended, was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on November 17, 2009.³ The Commission received no comments on the proposal. This order approves the proposed rule change.

After careful consideration, 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.⁴ In particular, the Commission believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act⁵ in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general to protect investors and the public interest. The Commission believes the proposed rule change may facilitate prompt, appropriate, and effective discipline for violations of Rule 60 and the regulations thereunder designed to maintain order on the Exchange.

With regard to the proposed rule change's amendments to the Phlx's Minor Rule Plan ("MRP"), the Commission also believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Sections 6(b)(1) and 6(b)(6) of the Act,⁶ which require that the rules of an exchange enable the exchange to enforce compliance with, and provide appropriate discipline for, violations of Commission and Exchange rules. Furthermore, the Commission believes that the proposed changes to the MRP should strengthen the Exchange's ability to carry out its oversight and enforcement responsibilities as a self-regulatory organization in cases where full disciplinary proceedings are unsuitable in view of the minor nature of the particular violation. Therefore, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change amending the MRP is consistent with the public interest, the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as required by Rule 19d-1(c)(2) under the Act,⁷ which governs minor rule violation plans.

³ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 60961 (November 6, 2009), 74 FR 59279.

⁴ In approving this proposed rule change, the Commission notes that it has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5) and 78f(b)(6).

⁷ 17 CFR 240.19d-1(c)(2).

In approving this proposed rule change, the Commission in no way minimizes the importance of compliance with Phlx rules and all other rules subject to the imposition of fines under the MRP. The Commission believes that the violation of any self-regulatory organization's rules, as well as Commission rules, is a serious matter. However, the MRP provides a reasonable means of addressing rule violations that do not rise to the level of requiring formal disciplinary proceedings, while providing greater flexibility in handling certain violations. The Commission expects that Phlx will continue to conduct surveillance with due diligence and make a determination based on its findings, on a case-by-case basis, whether a fine of more or less than the recommended amount is appropriate for a violation under the MRP or whether a violation requires formal disciplinary action.

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act⁸ and Rule 19d-1(c)(2) under the Act,⁹ that the proposed rule change (SR-Phlx-2009-84), as amended, be, and hereby is, approved and the minor rule plan amendment is declared effective.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁰

Florence E. Harmon,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. E9-30912 Filed 12-29-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 6858]

In the Matter of the Review of the Designation of al-Jihad AKA Egyptian Islamic Jihad AKA Egyptian al-Jihad AKA Jihad Group AKA New Jihad as a Foreign Terrorist Organization Pursuant to Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as Amended

Based upon a review of the Administrative Record assembled in this matter pursuant to Section 219(a)(4)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended (8 U.S.C. 1189(a)(4)(C)) ("INA"), and in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury, I conclude that there is a sufficient factual basis to find that al-Jihad, also known as Egyptian Islamic Jihad, also

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)

⁹ 17 CFR 240.19d-1(c)(2).

¹⁰ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12); 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(44).

known as Egyptian al-Jihad, also known as Jihad Group, also known as New Jihad, has merged with al-Qa'ida, and that the relevant circumstances described in Section 219(a)(1) of the INA still exist with respect to that organization.

Therefore, I hereby determine that the amendment of the designation of al-Jihad, and its aliases, as a foreign terrorist organization, pursuant to Section 219 of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1189), shall be maintained as a designated alias of al-Qa'ida, as provided for in 74 FR 4069 (January 22, 2009).

This determination shall be published in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: December 18, 2009.

James B. Steinberg,

Deputy Secretary of State.

[FR Doc. E9-30835 Filed 12-29-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-10-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Environmental Impact Statement for the California High-Speed Train Project from Merced to Sacramento, CA

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: This notice is to advise the public that FRA and the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) will jointly prepare a project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a project Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Merced to Sacramento Section of the Authority's proposed California High-Speed Train (HST) System in compliance with relevant State and Federal laws, in particular the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRC) is interested in providing intercity and commuter regional rail passenger services within this section of the HST System connecting to the Altamont Corridor Rail Project. FRA is issuing this Notice to alert interested parties and solicit public and agency input into the development of the scope of the EIS and to advise the public that outreach activities conducted by the Authority and their representatives will be considered in the preparation of the combined EIR/EIS. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may serve as a cooperating agency for the preparation of the EIR/EIS.