allow a total of 20 series to be opened for trading in each class that participates in the Weeklys Program. The proposed rule would increase this to a total of 30 series per class that may be opened for trading.  

In the Notice, the Exchange stated that the principal reason for the proposed expansion is market demand for additional series in Weekly option classes in which the maximum number of series (20) has already been reached. Specifically, CBOE cited an increased demand for more series when market-moving events, such as corporate events and large price swings, have occurred during the life span of an affected Weekly option class. Currently, if the maximum number of series has been reached, the Exchange must delete or delist certain series in order to make room for more in-demand series. The Exchange deletes series with no open interest and delists series with open interest if those series are open for trading on another exchange.

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. Specifically, the Commission finds that the proposal is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act, which requires, among other things, that the rules of a national securities exchange be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and fair dealing, to foster cooperation and coordination with other national securities exchanges 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 that the proposal strikes a reasonable balance between the Exchange’s desire to offer a wider array of products and the need to avoid unnecessary proliferation of options series.

In approving this proposal, the Commission notes that the Exchange has analyzed its capacity and represents that it and the Options Price Reporting Authority (“OPRA”) have the necessary systems capacity to handle the potential additional traffic associated with trading of an expanded number of series for classes that participate in the Weeklys Program. The Commission expects the Exchange to monitor the trading volume associated with the additional options series listed as a result of this proposal and the effect of these additional series on market fragmentation and on the capacity of the Exchange’s, OPRA’s, and vendors’ automated systems.

IV. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act, that the proposed rule change (SR–CBOE–2011–086) be, and it hereby is, approved.

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

Kevin M. O’Neill, 
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2012–30916 Filed 11–22–11; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations; Options Clearing Corporation; Order Approving Proposed Rule Change Relating to Clearing Options on the CBOE Silver Volatility Index

November 18, 2011.

I. Introduction

On September 27, 2011, the Options Clearing Corporation (“OCC”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) the proposed rule change SR–OCC–2011–14 pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”) 1 and Rule 19b–4 thereunder. 2 The Commission received no comment letters on the proposed rule change. This order approves the proposed rule change as amended.

II. Description

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to remove any potential cloud on the jurisdictional status of options on the CBOE Silver ETF Volatility Index, which is an index that measures the implied volatility of options on the iShares Silver Trust, an exchange-traded fund designed to reflect the performance of the price of silver. 3 To accomplish this purpose, OCC is proposing to amend the interpretation and policy following the introduction in Article XVII of OCC’s By-Laws to clarify that OCC will clear and treat as securities options any option contracts on the CBOE Silver ETF Volatility Index. On June 14, 2010, the Commission approved rule filing SR–OCC–2010–07, which added the existing interpretation, which relates to the treatment and clearing of options on the CBOE Gold ETF Volatility Index. 4

In its capacity as a “derivatives clearing organization” registered as such with the CFTC, OCC has filed this proposed rule change for prior approval by the CFTC pursuant to provisions of the Commodity Exchange Act (the “CEA”) in order to foreclose any potential liability under the CEA based on an argument that the clearing by OCC of such options as securities options constitutes a violation of the CEA.

III. Discussion

Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Act requires, among other things, that the rules of a clearing agency be designed to promote the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions and derivative transactions. 5 The proposed rule change is similar to a proposed rule change the Commission approved previously with respect to the jurisdictional status CBOE Gold ETF Volatility Index and clarifies that OCC will clear and treat as securities any relative performance index, including in situations in which one of the reference securities of a relative performance index is an ETF designed to measure the return of gold

or silver. Any uncertainty regarding the jurisdictional status of a product could presumably interfere with OCC’s ability to provide clearance and settlement services with respect to the product. The proposed rule change, by allowing OCC confirm in its rules the treatment of a relative performance index, should facilitate the clearance and settlement of such products and, thus, should help promote the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions and of derivative transactions.

IV. Conclusion

On the basis of the foregoing, the Commission finds that the proposal is consistent with the requirements of the Act and in particular with the requirements of Section 17A of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder.

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act, that the proposed rule change (File No. SR–OCC–2011–14) be, and hereby is, approved.

For the Commission by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.9

Kevin M. O’Neill,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2011–30227 Filed 11–22–11; 8:45 a.m.]
BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

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* These fees are applicable to orders routed to ISE that are subject to Rebates and Fees for Adding and Removing Liquidity in Select Symbols. See ISE’s Schedule of Fees for the complete list of symbols that are subject to these fees.

** These fees are applicable to orders routed to PHLX that are subject to Rebates and Fees for Adding and Removing Liquidity in Select Symbols. See PHLX’s Fee Schedule for the complete list of symbols that are subject to these fees.

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7050. NASDAQ Options Market—Access Services

[Part A: The following charges are assessed by Nasdaq for connectivity to the NASDAQ Options Market for NOM 1.0.]

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