“Antarctica” and inserts “the Polar Regions”) furnishes information to the NSF regarding the physical, dental, and mental status for all individuals (except uniformed service personnel) who anticipate deploying to Antarctica under the auspices of the United States Antarctic Program or to certain regions of the Arctic sponsored by the NSF/GEO/Division of Polar Programs. The information is used to determine whether an individual is physically and mentally suited to endure the extreme hardships imposed by the Arctic and Antarctic continents, while also performing specific duties as specified by their employers.

Respondents: All non-uniformed personnel planning to deploy to U.S. stations in the Antarctic or to specified regions of the Arctic that are sponsored by the National Science Foundation’s Division of Polar Programs.

The number of annual respondents: 3,200 to the Antarctic and 100 to the Arctic.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 33,000 hours.

Frequency of Responses: This form is submitted upon an individual’s first deployment to Antarctica (below 60° South) or to specified regions of the Arctic and annually thereafter for the duration of the individual’s deployments.

Dated: November 8, 2013.
Suzanne H. Plimpton,
Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.
[FR Doc. 2013–27257 Filed 11–13–13; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 7555–01–P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

National Science Board

The National Science Board’s ad hoc Committee on Honorary Awards, pursuant to NSF regulations (45 CFR part 614), the National Science Foundation Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1862n–5), and the Government in the Sunshine Act (5 U.S.C. 552b), hereby gives notice in regard to the scheduling of a teleconference for the transaction of National Science Board business and other matters specified, as follows:

DATE & TIME: Wednesday, December 11, 2013, 6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. e.s.t.

SUBJECT MATTER: A discussion of the results of the Task Force’s Request for Information, comment from agencies and organizations, and the content and timeline of the final report and recommendations.

STATUS: Open

This meeting will be held by teleconference. A public listening line will be available. Members of the public must contact the Board Office [call 703–292–7000 or send an email message to nationalsciencebrd@nsf.gov] at least 24 hours prior to the teleconference for the public listening number. Please refer to the National Science Board Web site www.nsf.gov/nsb for additional information and schedule updates (time, place, subject matter or status of meeting) which may be found at http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/notices. Point of contact for this meeting is Lisa Nichols or John Veysey.

Ann Bushmiller,
Senior Counsel to the National Science Board.
[FR Doc. 2013–27384 Filed 11–13–13; 4:15 pm]
BILLING CODE 7555–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations; ICE Clear Credit LLC; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change to Add Rules Related to the Clearing of MCDX Index CDS Contracts and Make Conforming Changes to Existing Rules

November 7, 2013.

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 October 25, 2013, ICE Clear Credit LLC (“ICC”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared primarily by ICC. 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 purpose of the proposed rule change is to adopt new rules that will provide the basis for ICC to clear additional credit default swap contracts. Specifically, ICC is proposing to amend Chapter 26 of its rules to add Section 26H to provide for the clearance of the MCDX Untranched Contracts (“MCDX Contracts”). MCDX Contracts are credit default swap (“CDS”) contracts that reference an index of municipal issuers.

As discussed in more detail in Item II.A below, Section 26H (MCDX Untranched Contracts) provides for the definitions and certain specific contract terms for cleared MCDX Contracts. Conforming changes are also made to the definition of “CDS Restructuring Rules” in Chapter 20 (Credit Default Swaps) and to Rule 2101–02(a)(iii) (Role of the Regional CDS Committees) to clarify cross-references to the CDS Restructuring Rules set forth in Section 26E of the Rules. Section 26E (CDS Restructuring Rules) is modified to provide that it will not apply to MCDX Contracts (as such contracts are automatically triggered in the event of a restructuring credit event, as discussed below).

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

In its filing with the Commission, ICC 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. ICC has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of these statements.

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

ICC has identified MCDX Contracts as a product that has become increasingly important for market participants to manage risk and express views with respect to municipal issuer credit. ICC’s clearance of MCDX Contracts will facilitate the prompt and accurate settlement of swaps and contribute to the safeguarding of securities and funds associated with swap transactions.

MCDX Contracts have similar terms to the CDX North American Index CDS contracts (“CDX.NA Contracts”) currently cleared by ICC and governed by Section 26A of the ICC rules. Accordingly, the proposed rules found in Section 26H largely mirror the ICC rules for CDX.NA Contracts in Section 26A, with certain modifications that reflect the underlying reference entities (municipal issuer reference entities instead of corporate reference entities) and differences in terms and market conventions between MCDX Contracts and CDX.NA Contracts.

The MCDX Contracts reference the CDX Index, the current series of which consists of 50 municipal issuers. MCDX Contracts, consistent with market conventions and widely used standard terms documentation, can be triggered by credit events for failure to pay or restructuring (by contrast to the credit events of failure to pay and bankruptcy applicable to the CDX.NA Contracts). In the event of a restructuring, all outstanding positions are automatically triggered. Thus, from a clearing perspective, restructuring credit events would be handled in the same way as a failure to pay credit event (and would not require the additional restructuring triggering procedures that are used for certain corporate and sovereign CDS contracts). MCDX Contracts will only be denominated in U.S. dollars.

Rule 26H–102 (Definitions) sets forth the definitions used for the MCDX Contract Rules. An “Eligible MCDX Untranched Index” is defined as “each particular series and version of a MCDX index or sub-index, as published by the MCDX Untranched Publisher, determined by ICE Clear Credit to be eligible and included in the List of Eligible MCDX Untranched Indexes.” “MCDX Untranched Terms Supplement” refers to the market standard form of documentation used for credit default swaps on the MCDX index, which is incorporated by reference into the contract specifications in Section 26H. The remaining definitions are substantially the same as the definitions found in ICC Section 26A, other than certain conforming changes.

Rules 26H–309 (Acceptance of MCDX Untranched Contracts by ICE Clear Credit), 26H–315 (Terms of the Cleared MCDX Untranched Contract), and 26H–316 (Updating Index Version of Fungible Contracts After a Credit Event or a Succession Event; Updating Relevant Untranched Standard Terms Supplement) reflect or incorporate the basic contract specifications for MCDX Contracts and are substantially the same as under ICC Section 26A for CDX.NA Contracts. In addition to various non-substantive conforming changes, proposed Rule 26H–317 (Terms of MCDX Untranched Contracts) differs from the corresponding Rule 26A–317 to reflect the fact that restructuring is a credit event for the MCDX Contract. (CDX.NA Contracts currently cleared by ICC do not use the restructuring credit event. However, unlike the case with other corporate and sovereign CDS, in the event of a restructuring for an MCDX reference entity, all outstanding positions are automatically triggered. Thus, from a clearing perspective MCDX restructuring events would be handled in the same way as a failure to pay.)

Because of the automatic triggering following a restructuring credit event, the provisions of Section 26E of the Rules are not necessary for MCDX Contracts, and Section 26E is amended to provide that it does not apply to MCDX Contracts. A conforming change is made to the definition of “CDX Restructuring Rules” in Chapter 20 (Credit Default Swaps) to make reference to the rules set forth in Section 26E (CDX Restructuring Rules) of the Rules. In addition, Rule 2101–02(a)(iii) (Role of the Regional CDS Committee) is modified to make reference to the CDS Restructuring Rules set forth in Section 26E of the Rules.

Section 17(A)(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, to the extent applicable, derivative agreements, contracts, and transactions. ICC believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to ICC, in particular, to Section 17A(b)(3)(F), because ICC believes that the clearance of MCDX Contracts will facilitate the prompt and accurate settlement of securities and contribute to the safeguarding of securities and funds associated with swap transactions in ICC’s custody or control, or for which ICC is responsible.

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

MCDX Contracts will be available to all ICC Participants for clearing. The clearing of MCDX Contracts by ICC does not preclude the offering of MCDX Contracts for clearing by other market participants. In addition, ICC does not anticipate that accepting MCDX Contracts for clearing will have any adverse effect on the trading market for the contract. Therefore, ICC does not believe the proposed rule change would have any impact, or impose any burden, on competition.

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

ICC has consulted with its Participants and non-member market participants concerning the proposed rule change. Written comments relating to the proposed rule change have not been solicited or received. ICC will notify the Commission of any written comments received by ICC.

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

Within 45 days of the date of publication of this notice in the Federal Register or within such longer period up to 90 days (i) as the Commission may designate if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

(A) by order approve or disapprove the proposed rule change or

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);
- Send an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR–ICC–2013–08 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–ICC–2013–08. This file number should be included on the subject line if email 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 Web site viewing and printing in the Commission’s Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Copies of such filings also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of ICE Clear Credit and on ICE Clear Credit’s Web site at https://www.theice.com/notices/Notices.shtml?regulatoryFiling.

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–ICC–2013–08 and should be submitted on or before December 5, 2013.

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

Kevin M. O’Neill, Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2013–27201 Filed 11–13–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations; The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC; Order Granting Approval of Proposed Rule Change To List and Trade Shares of the First Trust High Income Fund of First Trust Exchange-Traded Fund VI

November 7, 2013.

I. Introduction

On September 12, 2013, The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC (“Nasdaq” or the “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act” or “Exchange Act”) 1 and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,2 a proposed rule change to list and trade shares (“Shares”) of the First Trust High Income ETF (“Fund”) under Nasdaq Rule 5735. The proposed rule change was published for comment in the Federal Register on September 26, 2013.3 The Commission received 93 comments on the proposed rule change. This order grants approval of the proposed rule change.

II. Description of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to list and trade Shares of the Fund pursuant to Nasdaq Rule 5735, which governs the listing and trading of Managed Fund Shares on the Exchange. The Shares will be offered by First Trust Exchange-Traded Fund VI (“Trust”). The Trust is registered as an investment company.4 The Fund is a series of the Trust.

Footnotes:

5 The Trust has filed a registration statement on Form N–1A (“Registration Statement”) with the Commission. See Post-Effective Amendment No. 3 to Registration Statement on Form N–1A for the Trust, dated Jan. 16, 2013 (File Nos. 333–182308 and 811–22717). In addition, the Commission has issued an order granting certain exemptive relief to First Trust Advisors L.P. that will be the investment adviser (“Adviser”) to the Fund. First Trust Portfolios L.P. (“Distributor”) will be the principal underwriter and distributor of the Fund’s Shares. Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. will act as the administrator, accounting agent, custodian and transfer agent to the Fund.

The Exchange represents that the Adviser is not a broker-dealer, but is affiliated with the Distributor, a broker-dealer, and has implemented a fire wall with respect to its broker-dealer affiliate regarding access to information concerning the composition and/or changes to the portfolio.5 The Exchange represents that the Shares will be subject to Nasdaq Rule 5735, which sets forth the initial and continued listing criteria applicable to Managed Fund Shares.6 The Exchange represents that for initial and/or continued listing, the Fund must be in compliance with Rule 10A–3 under the Act.7

Principal Investments

The Fund’s primary investment objective is to provide current income and its secondary investment objective is to provide capital appreciation. The Fund will pursue its objectives by investing in large-cap U.S. exchange-traded equity securities and by utilizing an options strategy consisting of writing (selling) U.S. exchange-traded covered call options on the Standard & Poor’s 500 Index (“Index”).


5 See Notice supra note 3, 78 FR at 59403. The Exchange states that in the event (a) the Adviser becomes newly affiliated with a broker-dealer, or (b) any new adviser or sub-adviser is a registered broker-dealer or becomes affiliated with a broker-dealer, it will implement a fire wall with respect to its relevant personnel and/or such broker-dealer affiliate, as applicable, regarding access to information concerning the composition and/or changes to the portfolio and will be subject to procedures designed to prevent the use and dissemination of material non-public information regarding such portfolio. See id.
6 See id. at 59407.
7 See 17 CFR 240.10a–3. See also Notice, supra note 3, 78 FR at 59407.

The term “under normal market conditions” includes, but is not limited to, the absence of adverse market, economic, political or other conditions, including extreme volatility or trading halts in the securities markets or the financial markets generally; operational issues causing dissemination of inaccurate market information; or force majeure type events such as systems failure, natural or man-made disaster, act of God, armed conflict, act of terrorism, riot or labor disruption or any similar intervening circumstance. In periods of extreme market disruption, the Fund may take temporary defensive positions, by overweighting its