

arrangements, average price accounts, and depository institutions, in a standardized format when requested by the Commission staff. In addition, Paragraph (a)(3)(c) of Rule 17a-25 requires broker-dealers to submit, and keep current, contact person information for electronic blue sheets ("EBS") requests. The Commission uses the information for enforcement inquiries or investigations and trading reconstructions, as well as for inspections and examinations.

The Commission estimates that it sends approximately 7,697 electronic blue sheet requests per year to clearing broker-dealers that in turn submit an average 124,912 responses.<sup>1</sup> It is estimated that each broker-dealer that responds electronically will take 8 minutes, and each broker-dealer that responds manually will take 1½ hours to prepare and submit the securities trading data requested by the Commission. The annual aggregate hour burden for electronic and manual response firms is estimated to be 8,114 (59,958 × 8 ÷ 60 = 7,994 hours) + (80 × 1.5 = 120 hours), respectively.<sup>2</sup> In addition, the Commission estimates that it will request 8 broker-dealers to supply the contact information identified in Rule 17a-25(c) and estimates the total aggregate burden hours to be 2. Thus, the annual aggregate burden for all respondents to the collection of information requirements of Rule 17a-25 is estimated at 8,116 hours (7,994 + 120 + 2).

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on

<sup>1</sup> A single EBS request has a unique number assigned to each request (e.g. "0900001"). However, the number of broker-dealer responses generated from one EBS request can range from one to several thousand. EBS requests are sent directly to clearing firms, as the clearing firm is the repository for trading data for securities transactions information provided by itself and correspondent firms. Clearing brokers respond for themselves and other firms they clear for. There were 124,912 responses during the 25 month period for an average of 4,996.5 responses per month or an average of 59,958 annual responses.

<sup>2</sup> Few of respondents submit manual EBS responses. The small percentage of respondents that submit manual responses do so by hand, via email, spreadsheet, disk, or other electronic media. Thus, the number of manual submissions (80) has minimal effect on the total annual burden hours.

respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information under the PRA unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Please direct your written comments to: Pamela Dyson, Director/Chief Information Office, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Remi Pavlik-Simon, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549 or send an email to: [PRA\\_Mailbox@sec.gov](mailto:PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov).

Dated: December 16, 2015.

**Robert W. Errett,**  
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015-32053 Filed 12-21-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-76668; File No. SR-NYSEMKT-2015-104]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE MKT LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Extending Its Program That Allows Transactions To Take Place at a Price That Is Below \$1 Per Option Contract Until January 5, 2017

December 16, 2015.

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 December 9, 2015, NYSE MKT LLC (the "Exchange" or "NYSE MKT") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II 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 the Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to extend its program that allows transactions to take place at a price that is below \$1 per option contract until January 5, 2017. The proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's Web site at

[www.nyse.com](http://www.nyse.com), at the principal office of the Exchange, 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

The purpose of this filing is to extend the Pilot Program<sup>4</sup> under Rule 968NY to allow accommodation transactions ("Cabinet Trades") to take place at a price that is below \$1 per option contract for one additional year. The Exchange proposes to extend the program, which is due to expire on January 5, 2016, until January 5, 2017.

An "accommodation" or "cabinet" trade refers to trades in listed options on the Exchange that are worthless and typically not actively traded. Cabinet trading is generally conducted in accordance with the Exchange Rules, except as provided in Exchange Rule 968NY Accommodation Transactions (Cabinet Trades), which sets forth specific procedures for engaging in cabinet trades. Rule 968NY currently provides for cabinet transactions to occur via open outcry at a cabinet price of a \$1 per option contract in any options series open for trading in the Exchange, except that the Rule is not applicable to trading in option classes participating in the Penny Pilot Program. Under the procedures, bids and offers (whether opening or closing a position) at a price of \$1 per option contract may be represented in the trading crowd by a Floor Broker or by a Market Maker or provided in response to a request by a Trading Official, a Floor Broker or a Market Maker, but must yield priority to all resting orders in the Cabinet (those orders held by the Trading Official, and which resting cabinet orders may be closing only).

<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.

<sup>4</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 63475 (December 8, 2010), 75 FR 77932 (December 14, 2010)(SR-NYSE Amex-2010-114).

Provided that the buyer and the seller yield to orders resting in the cabinet book, opening cabinet bids can trade with opening cabinet offers at \$1 per option contract.

The Exchange has temporarily amended the procedures through January 5, 2016 to allow transactions to take place in open outcry at a price of at least \$0 but less than \$1 per option contract. These lower-priced transactions are permitted to be traded pursuant to the same procedures applicable to \$1 cabinet trades, except that (i) bids and offers for opening transactions are only permitted to accommodate closing transactions in order to limit use of the procedure to liquidations of existing positions, and (ii) the procedures are also made available for trading in option classes participating in the Penny Pilot Program.<sup>5</sup> The Exchange believes that allowing a price of at least \$0 but less than \$1 better accommodates the closing of options positions in series that are worthless or not actively traded, particularly in the event where there has been a significant move in the price of the underlying security that results in a large number of series being out-of-the-money. For example, a market participant might have a long position in a put series with a strike price of \$30 and the underlying stock might be trading at \$100. In such an instance, there might not otherwise be a market for that person to close-out the position even at the \$1 cabinet price (e.g., the series might be quoted no bid).

As with other accommodation liquidations under Rule 968NY, transactions that occur for less than \$1 will not be disseminated to the public on the consolidated tape. In addition, as with other accommodation liquidations under Rule 968NY the transactions will be exempt from the Consolidated Options Audit Trail (“COATS”) requirements of Exchange Rule 955NY Order Format and System Entry Requirements. However, the Exchange will maintain quotation, order and transaction information for the transactions in the same format as the COATS data is maintained. In this regard, all transactions for less than \$1

<sup>5</sup> Currently, the \$1 cabinet trading procedures are limited to options classes traded in \$0.05 or \$0.10 standard increment. The \$1 cabinet trading procedures are not available in Penny Pilot Program classes because in those classes an option series can trade in a standard increment as low as \$0.01 per share (or \$1.00 per option contract with a 100 share multiplier). Because the temporary procedures allow trading below \$0.01 per share (or \$1.00 per option contract with a 100 share multiplier), the procedures are available for all classes, including those classes participating in the Penny Pilot Program.

must be reported to the Exchange following the close of each business day.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”), in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) in particular in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts, to remove impediments to and to perfect the mechanism for a free and open market and a national market system and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. The Exchange believes that allowing for liquidations at a price less than \$1 per option contract will better facilitate the closing of options positions that are worthless or not actively trading, especially in Penny Pilot issues where Cabinet Trades are not otherwise permitted.

### 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. The proposed rule change is to extend an established pilot program for one additional year and continue to facilitate ATP Holders ability to close positions in worthless or not actively traded series.

### 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

Because the foregoing proposed rule does not (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest, provided that the self-regulatory organization has given the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change at least five

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

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

business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change or such shorter time as designated by the Commission,<sup>8</sup> the proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>9</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.<sup>10</sup>

Under Rule 19b-4(f)(6) of the Act,<sup>11</sup> the proposal does not become operative for 30 days after the date of its filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange has requested that the Commission waive the 30-day operative delay period after which a proposed rule change under Rule 19b-4(f)(6) becomes operative so that the pilot may continue without interruption. The Commission believes that waiver of the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest because it will allow the pilot to continue uninterrupted, thereby avoiding any potential investor confusion that could result from a temporary interruption in the pilot and allowing members to continue to benefit from the program. Based on the foregoing, the Commission hereby waives the 30-day operative delay and designates the proposal operative upon filing.<sup>12</sup>

At any time within 60 days of the filing of such proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend 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. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings under Section 19(b)(2)(B)<sup>13</sup> of the Act to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or 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:

<sup>8</sup> The Exchange has fulfilled this requirement.

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

<sup>10</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> For purposes only of waiving the 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>13</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B).

*Electronic Comments*

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an email to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-NYSEMKT-2015-104 on the subject line.

*Paper Comments*

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

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NYSEMKT-2015-104. 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 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-NYSEMKT-2015-104, and should be submitted on or before January 12, 2016.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>14</sup>

**Robert W. Errett,**  
*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2015-32049 Filed 12-21-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8011-01-P**

**SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION****Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements Under OMB Review**

**AGENCY:** Small Business Administration.

**ACTION:** 30-Day Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Small Business Administration (SBA) is publishing this notice to comply with requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), which requires agencies to submit proposed reporting and recordkeeping requirements to OMB for review and approval, and to publish a notice in the **Federal Register** notifying the public that the agency has made such a submission. This notice also allows an additional 30 days for public comments.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before January 21, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should refer to the information collection by name and/or OMB Control Number and should be sent to: *Agency Clearance Officer*, Curtis Rich, Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street SW., 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20416; and *SBA Desk Officer*, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Curtis Rich, Agency Clearance Officer, (202) 205-7030 [curtis.rich@sba.gov](mailto:curtis.rich@sba.gov).

*Copies:* A copy of the Form OMB 83-1, supporting statement, and other documents submitted to OMB for review may be obtained from the Agency Clearance Officer.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Small Business Act, as amended by the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer Program (STTR) Reauthorization Act of 2011, requires SBA to collect regarding the SBIR and STTR awards made by the federal agencies that participate in those programs. SBA is required to maintain this information in searchable electronic databases and also to report the information to Congress annually.

*Title:* SBA to collect regarding the SBIR and STTR awards and Small Business Transfer (STTR) Tech-Net Database.

*Description of Respondents:* SBA to collect regarding the SBIR and STTR awards.

*Form Number:* N/A.

*Estimated Annual Responses:* 13,500.

*Estimated Annual Hour Burden:* 62,370.

**Curtis B. Rich,**  
*Management Analyst.*

[FR Doc. 2015-32032 Filed 12-21-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8025-01-P**

**SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION****Data Collection Available for Public Comments**

**ACTION:** 60 Day Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Small Business Administration (SBA) intends to request approval, from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the collection of information described below. The Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35 requires federal agencies to publish a notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information before submission to OMB, and to allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice complies with that requirement.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before February 22, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** Send all comments to, Jodie Fenner, Administrative Support Assistant, Office of the Ombudsman, Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street SW., Washington, DC 20416.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jodie Fenner, Administrative Support Assistant, [jodie.fenner@sba.gov](mailto:jodie.fenner@sba.gov) 202-205-9632, or Curtis B. Rich, Management Analyst, 202-205-7030 [curtis.rich@sba.gov](mailto:curtis.rich@sba.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, 15 U.S.C. Sec. 657(b)(2)(B), requires the SBA National Ombudsman to establish a means for SBA to receive comments on regulatory and compliance actions from small entities regarding their disagreements with a Federal Agency action. The Ombudsman uses it to obtain the agency's response, encourage a fresh look by the agency at a high level, and build a more small business-friendly regulatory environment.

*Title:* "Federal Agency Comment Form".

*Description of Respondents:* Small business entities.

*Form Number:* SBA Form 1993.

*Annual Responses:* 350.

*Annual Burden:* 263.

**Curtis Rich,**  
*Management Analyst.*

[FR Doc. 2015-32066 Filed 12-21-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE P**

<sup>14</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).