

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, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>12</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.<sup>13</sup>

A proposed rule change filed pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f)(6) under the Act<sup>14</sup> normally does not become operative for 30 days after the date of its filing. However, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii)<sup>15</sup> permits the Commission to designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange has asked the Commission to waive the 30-day operative delay. The Exchange believes that waiver of the operative delay is appropriate because, as the Exchange discussed above, excluding Stop-Limit orders from the fat finger check, which would currently cancel/reject a Stop-Limit order if its buy (sell) limit price was above (below) the NBO (NBB) upon activation of its stop limit price, will benefit market participants by ensuring that they are able to use Stop-Limit orders to achieve their intended purpose. Thus, the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is designed to protect investors by allowing their Stop-Limit orders to execute as intended without being canceled or rejected due to the application of the fat finger check provision.

The Commission believes that waiver of the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest because the proposal will permit Stop-Limit orders to execute as intended and not be inadvertently cancelled in certain situations, as discussed above, by the fat finger check provision. Therefore, the Commission hereby waives the operative delay and designates the proposal as operative upon filing.<sup>16</sup>

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the 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 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:

##### *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-C2-2019-024 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-C2-2019-024. 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 website (<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 website 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 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. Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish

to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-C2-2019-024 and should be submitted on or before December 13, 2019.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>17</sup>

**Jill M. Peterson,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2019-25319 Filed 11-21-19; 8:45 am]

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-87560; File No. SR-CboeBZX-2019-097]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing of a Proposed Rule Change To Adopt BZX Rule 14.11(l) To Permit the Listing and Trading of Exchange-Traded Fund Shares That Are Permitted To Operate in Reliance on Rule 6c-11 Under the Investment Company Act of 1940

November 18, 2019.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on November 15, 2019 Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc. (the "Exchange" or "BZX") 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 Exchange. 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 a rule change to adopt BZX Rule 14.11(l) to permit the listing and trading of Exchange-Traded Fund Shares that are permitted to operate in reliance on Rule 6c-11 under the Investment Company Act of 1940. The Exchange is also proposing to discontinue the quarterly reports required with respect to Managed Fund Shares listed on the Exchange pursuant to the generic listing standards under Rule 14.11(i).

The text of the proposed rule change is also available on the Exchange's website ([http://markets.cboe.com/us/equities/regulation/rule\\_filings/bzx/](http://markets.cboe.com/us/equities/regulation/rule_filings/bzx/)), at the Exchange's Office of the Secretary,

<sup>17</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.

<sup>12</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>13</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) requires a self-regulatory organization to give 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>14</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>15</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

<sup>16</sup> For purposes only of waiving the 30-day operative delay, the Commission also has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

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 Exchange 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. The Exchange 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

The Exchange proposes to add new Rule 14.11(l)<sup>3</sup> for the purpose of permitting the generic listing and trading, or trading pursuant to unlisted trading privileges, of Exchange-Traded Fund Shares<sup>4</sup> that are permitted to operate in reliance on Rule 6c-11 ("Rule 6c-11") under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "1940 Act").<sup>5</sup> The Exchange is also proposing to discontinue the quarterly reports required with respect to Managed Fund Shares listed on the Exchange pursuant to the generic listing standards under Rule 14.11(i).

The Commission recently adopted Rule 6c-11 to permit exchange-traded funds ("ETFs") that satisfy certain conditions to operate without obtaining an exemptive order from the Commission under the 1940 Act.<sup>6</sup> Since the first ETF was approved by the Commission in 1992, the Commission has routinely granted exemptive orders

permitting ETFs to operate under the 1940 Act because there was no ETF specific rule in place and they have characteristics that distinguish them from the types of structures contemplated and included in the 1940 Act. After such an extended period operating without a specific rule set and only under exemptive relief, Rule 6c-11 is designed to provide a consistent, transparent, and efficient regulatory framework for ETFs.<sup>7</sup> Exchange listing standards applicable to ETFs have been similarly adopted and tweaked over the years and the Exchange believes that, just as the Commission has undertaken a review of the 1940 Act as it is applicable to ETFs, it is appropriate to perform a similar holistic review and overhaul of Exchange listing rules. With this in mind, the Exchange submits this proposal to add new Rule 14.11(l) and certain corresponding rule changes because it believes that this proposal similarly promotes consistency, transparency, and efficiency surrounding the exchange listing process for ETF Shares in a manner that is consistent with the Act, as further described below.

Consistent with Index Fund Shares and Managed Fund Shares listed under the generic listing standards in Rules 14.11(c) and 14.11(i), respectively, series of Exchange-Traded Fund Shares that are permitted to operate in reliance on Rule 6c-11 would be permitted to be listed and traded on the Exchange without a prior Commission approval order or notice of effectiveness pursuant to Section 19(b) of the Act.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>7</sup> In approving the rule, the Commission stated that the "rule will modernize the regulatory framework for ETFs to reflect our more than two decades of experience with these investment products. The rule is designed to further important Commission objectives, including establishing a consistent, transparent, and efficient regulatory framework for ETFs and facilitating greater competition and innovation among ETFs." Rule 6c-11 Release, at 57163. The Commission also stated the following regarding the rule's impact: "We believe rule 6c-11 will establish a regulatory framework that: (1) Reduces the expense and delay currently associated with forming and operating certain ETFs unable to rely on existing orders; and (2) creates a level playing field for ETFs that can rely on the rule. As such, the rule will enable increased product competition among certain ETF providers, which can lead to lower fees for investors, encourage financial innovation, and increase investor choice in the ETF market." Rule 6c-11 Release, at 57204.

<sup>8</sup> Rule 19b-4(e)(1) provides that the listing and trading of a new derivative securities product by a self-regulatory organization ("SRO") is not deemed a proposed rule change, pursuant to paragraph (c)(1) of Rule 19b-4, if the Commission has approved, pursuant to Section 19(b) of the Act, the SRO's trading rules, procedures and listing standards for the product class that would include the new derivative securities product and the SRO has a surveillance program for the product class. As contemplated by this Rule, the Exchange proposes

#### Proposed Listing Rules

Proposed Rule 14.11(l)(1) provides that the Exchange will consider for trading, whether by listing or pursuant to unlisted trading privileges, the shares of Exchange-Traded Funds ("ETF Shares") that meet the criteria of this Rule.

Proposed Rule 14.11(l)(2) provides that the proposed rule would be applicable only to ETF Shares. Except to the extent inconsistent with this Rule, or unless the context otherwise requires, the rules and procedures of the Board of Directors shall be applicable to the trading on the Exchange of such securities. ETF Shares are included within the definition of "security" or "securities" as such terms are used in the Rules of the Exchange.

Proposed Rule 14.11(l)(2) further provides that: (A) Transactions in ETF Shares will occur throughout the Exchange's trading hours; (B) the minimum price variation for quoting and entry of orders in ETF Shares is \$0.01; and (C) the Exchange will implement and maintain written surveillance procedures for ETF Shares.

Proposed Rule 14.11(l)(3)(A) provides that the term "ETF Shares" shall mean the shares issued by a registered open-end management investment company that: (i) Is eligible to operate in reliance on Rule 6c-11 under the Investment Company Act of 1940;<sup>9</sup> (ii) issues (and redeems) creation units to (and from) authorized participants in exchange for a basket and a cash balancing amount (if any); and (iii) issues shares that it intends to list or are listed on a national securities exchange and traded at market-determined prices.<sup>10</sup>

Proposed Rule 14.11(l)(3)(B) provides that the term "Reporting Authority" in respect of a particular series of ETF Shares means the Exchange, an institution, or a reporting service designated by the Exchange or by the exchange that lists a particular series of ETF Shares (if the Exchange is trading such series pursuant to unlisted trading privileges) as the official source for

new Rule 14.11(l) to establish generic listing standards for ETFs that are permitted to operate in reliance on Rule 6c-11. An ETF listed under proposed Rule 14.11(l) would therefore not need a separate proposed rule change pursuant to Rule 19b-4 before it can be listed and traded on the Exchange.

<sup>9</sup> The Exchange notes that certain types of ETFs, such as leveraged ETFs, are not eligible to operate in reliance on Rule 6c-11 and therefore would not be eligible to list under this proposed Rule 14.11(l). Such ETFs could, however, be listed pursuant to Rule 14.11(c) or 14.11(i).

<sup>10</sup> The Exchange notes that this definition is substantially similar to the definition under Rule 6c-11 except that the proposed definition includes in the definition of ETF Shares those shares that it intends to list on a national securities exchange.

<sup>3</sup> The Exchange notes that it is proposing new Rule 14.11(l) because it has also proposed a new Rule 14.11(k) as part of another proposal. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 87062 (September 23, 2019), 84 FR 51193 (September 27, 2019) (SR-CboeBZX-2019-047).

<sup>4</sup> As provided below, proposed Rule 14.11(l)(3)(A) provides that the term "ETF Shares" shall mean the shares issued by a registered open-end management investment company that: (i) Is eligible to operate in reliance on Rule 6c-11 under the Investment Company Act of 1940; (ii) issues (and redeems) creation units to (and from) authorized participants in exchange for a basket and a cash balancing amount (if any); and (iii) issues shares that it intends to list or are listed on a national securities exchange and traded at market-determined prices.

<sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 80a-1.

<sup>6</sup> See Release Nos. 33-10695; IC-33646; File No. S7-15-18 (Exchange-Traded Funds) (September 25, 2019), 84 FR 57162 (October 24, 2019) (the "Rule 6c-11 Release").

calculating and reporting information relating to such series, including, but not limited to, the amount of any cash distribution to holders of ETF Shares, net asset value, or other information relating to the issuance, redemption or trading of ETF Shares. A series of ETF Shares may have more than one Reporting Authority, each having different functions.

Proposed Rule 14.11(l)(4) provides that the Exchange may approve ETF Shares for listing and/or trading (including pursuant to unlisted trading privileges) on the Exchange pursuant to Rule 19b-4(e) under the Act so long as such series of ETF Shares is eligible to operate in reliance on Rule 6c-11 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 and meets all applicable requirements under such Rule 6c-11 upon initial listing and on a continuing basis. ETF Shares will be listed and traded on the Exchange subject to application of the following criteria.

Proposed Rule 14.11(l)(4)(A) provides that each series of ETF Shares will be listed and traded on the Exchange subject to application of the following initial listing criteria: (i) For each series, the Exchange will establish a minimum number of ETF Shares required to be outstanding at the time of commencement of trading on the Exchange; and (ii) the Exchange will obtain a representation from the issuer of each series of ETF Shares stating that the disclosures required under Rule 6c-11 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 will be made available on a daily basis in compliance with Rule 6c-11 and that the issuer will notify the Exchange of any failure to do so.

Proposed Rule 14.11(l)(4)(B) provides that each series of ETF Shares will be listed and traded on the Exchange subject to application of the following continued listing criteria.

Proposed Rule 14.11(l)(4)(B)(i) provides that the Exchange will consider the suspension of trading in, and will commence delisting proceedings under Rule 14.12 for, a series of ETF Shares under any of the following circumstances: (a) If the issuer of the ETF Shares has failed to file any filings required by the Commission or if the Exchange is aware that the issuer is not in compliance with the requirements of Rule 6c-11 of the Investment Company Act of 1940; (b) if any of the other listing requirements set forth in this Rule 14.11(l) are not continuously maintained; or (c) if such event shall occur or condition exists which, in the opinion of the Exchange, makes further dealings on the Exchange inadvisable.

Proposed Rule 14.11(l)(4)(B)(ii) provides that the Exchange may consider all relevant factors in exercising its discretion to halt or suspend trading in a series of ETF Shares. Trading may be halted because of market conditions or for reasons that, in the view of the Exchange, make trading in the Shares inadvisable. These may include: (1) The extent to which certain information about the ETF Shares that is required to be disclosed under Rule 6c-11 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 is not being made available; or (2) whether other unusual conditions or circumstances detrimental to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market are present.

Proposed Rule 14.11(l)(4)(B)(iii) provides that upon termination of an investment company, the Exchange requires that ETF Shares issued in connection with such entity be removed from Exchange listing.

Proposed Rule 14.11(l)(5) provides that neither the Exchange, the Reporting Authority, nor any agent of the Exchange shall have any liability for damages, claims, losses or expenses caused by any errors, omissions, or delays in calculating or disseminating any current index or portfolio value; the current value of the portfolio of securities required to be deposited to the open-end management investment company in connection with issuance of ETF Shares; the amount of any dividend equivalent payment or cash distribution to holders of ETF Shares; net asset value; or other information relating to the purchase, redemption, or trading of ETF Shares, resulting from any negligent act or omission by the Exchange, the Reporting Authority, or any agent of the Exchange, or any act, condition, or cause beyond the reasonable control of the Exchange, its agent, or the Reporting Authority, including, but not limited to, an act of God; fire; flood; extraordinary weather conditions; war; insurrection; riot; strike; accident; action of government; communications or power failure; equipment or software malfunction; or any error, omission, or delay in the reports of transactions in one or more underlying securities.

Proposed Rule 14.11(l)(6) provides that the provisions of this subparagraph apply only to series of ETF Shares that are the subject of an order by the Securities and Exchange Commission exempting such series from certain prospectus delivery requirements under Section 24(d) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 and are not otherwise subject to prospectus delivery requirements under the Securities Act of 1933. The Exchange will inform its

Members regarding application of this subparagraph to a particular series of ETF Shares by means of an information circular prior to commencement of trading in such series. The Exchange requires that members provide to all purchasers of a series of ETF Shares a written description of the terms and characteristics of those securities, in a form prepared by the open-end management investment company issuing such securities, not later than the time a confirmation of the first transaction in such series is delivered to such purchaser. In addition, members shall include such a written description with any sales material relating to a series of ETF Shares that is provided to customers or the public. Any other written materials provided by a member to customers or the public making specific reference to a series of ETF Shares as an investment vehicle must include a statement in substantially the following form: "A circular describing the terms and characteristics of (the series of ETF Shares) has been prepared by the (open-end management investment company name) and is available from your broker. It is recommended that you obtain and review such circular before purchasing (the series of ETF Shares)." A member carrying an omnibus account for a non-member broker-dealer is required to inform such non-member that execution of an order to purchase a series of ETF Shares for such omnibus account will be deemed to constitute agreement by the non-member to make such written description available to its customers on the same terms as are directly applicable to members under this rule. Upon request of a customer, a member shall also provide a prospectus for the particular series of ETF Shares.

The Exchange is also proposing to make two non-substantive amendments to include ETF Shares in other Exchange rules. Specifically, the Exchange is also proposing: (i) To amend Rule 14.10(e)(1)(E) in order to add ETF Shares to a list of product types listed on the Exchange, including Index Fund Shares and Managed Fund Shares, that are exempted from the Audit Committee requirements set forth in Rule 14.10(c)(3), except for the applicable requirements of SEC Rule 10A-3; and (ii) to amend Rule 14.11(c)(3)(A)(i)(a) in order to include ETF Shares in the definition of Derivative Securities Products.

#### Discussion

Proposed Rule 14.11(l) is based in large part on Rules 14.11(c) and (i) related to the listing and trading of Index Fund Shares and Managed Fund

Shares on the Exchange, respectively, both of which are issued under the 1940 Act and would qualify as ETF Shares after Rule 6c–11 is effective. Rule 14.11(c) and 14.11(i) are very similar, their primary difference being that Index Fund Shares are designed to track an underlying index and Managed Fund Shares are based on an actively managed portfolio that is not designed to track an index. As such, the Exchange believes that using Rules 14.11(c) and (i) (collectively, the “Current ETF Standards”) as the basis for proposed Rule 14.11(l) is appropriate because they are generally designed to address the issues associated with ETF Shares. The only substantial differences between proposed Rule 14.11(l) and the Current ETF Standards that are not otherwise required under Rule 6c–11 are as follows: (i) Proposed Rule 14.11(l) does not include the quantitative standards applicable to a fund or an index that are included in the Current ETF Standards; (ii) proposed Rule 14.11(l) does not include any requirements related to the dissemination of a fund’s Intraday Indicative Value;<sup>11</sup> (iii) and proposed Rule 14.11(l) does not include any specific requirements related to “firewalls” that need to be in place between certain parties associated with a fund and their affiliates. These differences are discussed below.

#### Quantitative Standards

The Exchange believes that the proposal is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices because the Exchange will perform ongoing surveillance of ETF Shares listed on the Exchange in order to ensure compliance with Rule 6c–11 and the 1940 Act on an ongoing basis. While proposed Rule 14.11(l) does not include the quantitative requirements applicable to an ETF or an ETF’s holdings or underlying index that are included in Rules 14.(c) and 14.11(i),<sup>12</sup> the Exchange believes that the manipulation concerns that such standards are intended to address are otherwise mitigated by a combination of

<sup>11</sup> For purposes of this filing, the term “Intraday Indicative Value” or “IIV” shall mean an intraday estimate of the value of a share of each series of either Index Fund Shares or Managed Fund Shares.

<sup>12</sup> The Exchange notes that Rules 14.11(c) and (i) include certain quantitative standards related to the size, trading volume, concentration, and diversity of the holdings of a series of Index Fund Shares or Managed Fund Shares (the “Holdings Standards”) as well as related to the minimum number of beneficial holders of a fund (the “Distribution Standards”). The Exchange believes that to the extent that manipulation concerns are mitigated based on the factors described herein, such concerns are mitigated both as it relates to the Holdings Standards and the Distribution Standards.

the Exchange’s surveillance procedures, the Exchange’s ability to halt trading under the proposed Rule 14.11(l)(4)(B)(ii), and the Exchange’s ability to suspend trading and commence delisting proceedings under proposed Rule 14.11(l)(4)(B)(i). The Exchange also believes that such concerns are further mitigated by enhancements to the arbitrage mechanism that will come from Rule 6c–11, specifically the additional flexibility provided to issuers of ETF Shares through the use of custom baskets for creations and redemptions and the additional information made available to the public through the additional Disclosure Obligations.<sup>13</sup> The Exchange believes that the combination of these factors will act to keep ETF Shares trading near the value of their underlying holdings and further mitigate concerns around manipulation of ETF Shares on the Exchange without the inclusion of quantitative standards.<sup>14</sup> The Exchange will monitor for compliance with the 1940 Act generally as well as Rule 6c–11 specifically in order to ensure that the continued listing standards are being met. Specifically, the Exchange plans to review the website of series of ETF Shares in order to ensure that the disclosure requirements of Rule 6c–11 are being met and to review the portfolio underlying series of ETF Shares listed on the Exchange in order to ensure that certain investment requirements and limitations under the 1940 Act are being met. The Exchange will also employ numerous intraday alerts that will notify Exchange personnel of trading activity throughout the day that is potentially indicative of certain disclosures not being made accurately or the presence of other unusual conditions or circumstances that could be detrimental to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market. As a backstop to the surveillances described above, the Exchange also notes that Rule 14.11(a) and proposed Rule 14.11(l)(4)(A)(ii) would require an issuer of ETF Shares to notify the Exchange of any failure to comply with Rule 6c–11 or the 1940 Act.

To the extent that any of the requirements under Rule 6c–11 or the 1940 Act are not being met, the Exchange may halt trading in a series of

<sup>13</sup> The Exchange notes that the Commission came to a similar conclusion in several places in the Rule 6c–11 Release. See Rule 6c–11 Release at 15–18; 60–61; 69–70; 78–79; 82–84; and 95–96.

<sup>14</sup> The Exchange believes that this applies to all quantitative standards, whether applicable to the portfolio holdings of a series of ETF Shares or the distribution of the ETF Shares.

ETF Shares as provided in proposed Rule 14.11(l)(4)(B)(ii).<sup>15</sup> Further, the Exchange may also suspend trading in and commence delisting proceedings for a series of ETF Shares where such series is not in compliance with the applicable listing standards or where the Exchange believes that further dealings on the Exchange are inadvisable.<sup>16</sup>

Further, the Exchange also represents that its surveillance procedures are adequate to properly monitor the trading of the ETF Shares in all trading sessions and to deter and detect violations of Exchange rules and applicable federal securities laws. Specifically, the Exchange intends to utilize its existing surveillance procedures applicable to derivative products, which are currently applicable to Index Fund Shares and Managed Fund Shares, among other product types, to monitor trading in ETF Shares. The Exchange or the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (“FINRA”), on behalf of the Exchange, will communicate as needed regarding trading in ETF Shares and certain of their applicable underlying components with other markets that are members of the Intermarket Surveillance Group (“ISG”) or with which the Exchange has in place a comprehensive surveillance sharing agreement. In addition, the Exchange may obtain information regarding trading in ETF Shares and certain of their applicable underlying components from markets and other entities that are members of ISG or with which the Exchange has in place a comprehensive surveillance sharing agreement. Additionally, FINRA, on behalf of the Exchange, is able to access, as needed, trade information for certain

<sup>15</sup> Specifically, proposed Rule 14.11(l)(4)(B)(ii) states that the Exchange may consider all relevant factors in exercising its discretion to halt or suspend trading in a series of ETF Shares. Trading may be halted because of market conditions or for reasons that, in the view of the Exchange, make trading in the Shares inadvisable. These may include: (1) The extent to which certain information about the ETF Shares that is required to be disclosed under Rule 6c–11 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 is not being made available; or (2) whether other unusual conditions or circumstances detrimental to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market are present.

<sup>16</sup> Specifically, proposed Rule 14.11(l)(4)(B)(i), provides that if a series of ETF Shares is not in compliance with the applicable listing requirements, including: (a) If the issuer of the ETF Shares has failed to file any filings required by the Commission or if the Exchange is aware that the issuer is not in compliance with the requirements of Rule 6c–11 of the Investment Company Act of 1940; (b) if any of the other listing requirements set forth in this Rule 14.11(l) are not continuously maintained; or (c) if such other event shall occur or condition exists which, in the opinion of the Exchange, makes further dealings on the Exchange inadvisable, the Exchange will commence delisting procedures under Rule 14.12.

fixed income securities that may be held by a series of ETF Shares reported to FINRA's Trade Reporting and Compliance Engine ("TRACE"). FINRA also can access data obtained from the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board's ("MSRB") Electronic Municipal Market Access ("EMMA") system relating to municipal bond trading activity for surveillance purposes in connection with trading in a series of ETF Shares, to the extent that a series of ETF Shares holds municipal securities. Finally, as noted above, the issuer of a series of ETF Shares will be required to comply with Rule 10A-3 under the Act for the initial and continued listing of Exchange-Traded Fund Shares, as provided under Rule 14.10(e)(1)(E).

#### Intraday Indicative Value

As described above, proposed Rule 14.11(l) does not include any requirements related to the dissemination of an Intraday Indicative Value. Both Rule 14.11(c) and Rule 14.11(i) include the requirement that a series of Index Fund Shares and Managed Fund Shares, respectively, disseminate and update an Intraday Indicative Value at least every 15 seconds.<sup>17</sup> Historically (and theoretically), the IIV could provide valuable information about an ETF that would not otherwise be available or easily calculable. However, as consistently highlighted in the Rule 6c-11 Release, that is not reflective of the current marketplace and the Commission has expressed concerns regarding the accuracy of IIV estimates for certain ETFs. Specifically, the Commission noted that an IIV may not accurately reflect the value of an ETF that holds securities that trade less frequently as such IIV can be stale or inaccurate.<sup>18</sup> Additionally, the Commission indicated that even in circumstances when an IIV may be reliable, retail investors do not have easy access to free, publicly available IIV information.<sup>19</sup> Further, in instances when IIV may be free and publicly available, it can be delayed by up to 45 minutes.<sup>20</sup>

Aside from the fact that the disseminated IIV may provide investors with stale or misleading data, the Commission also stated that market makers and authorized participants

typically calculate their own intraday value of an ETF's portfolio with proprietary algorithms that use an ETF's daily portfolio disclosure and available pricing information.<sup>21</sup> Such information allows those market participants to support the arbitrage mechanism for ETFs. Therefore, as market participants who engage in arbitrage typically calculate their own intraday value of an ETF's portfolio based on the ETF's daily portfolio disclosure and pricing information and use an IIV only as a secondary check to their own calculation,<sup>22</sup> the Commission noted that IIV was not necessary to support the arbitrage mechanism.<sup>23</sup> Given this, combined with potential shortcomings of the IIV noted above, the Commission concluded that ETFs will not be required to disseminate an IIV under Rule 6c-11.<sup>24</sup>

The Exchange generally agrees with the limitations and shortcomings of IIV described in the Rule 6c-11 Release. The Exchange further agrees with the conclusion of the Adopting Release that the "IIV is not necessary to support the arbitrage mechanism for ETFs that provide daily portfolio holdings disclosure." The transparency that comes from daily portfolio holdings disclosure as required under Rule 6c-11 provides market participants with sufficient information to facilitate the intraday valuation of ETF Shares. The Exchange notes that it is not proposing to prohibit the dissemination of an IIV for a series of ETF Shares and believes that there are certain instances in which the dissemination of an IIV could provide valuable information to the investing public. The Exchange is simply not proposing to require the dissemination of such information.

As such, the Exchange believes that it is appropriate and consistent with the Act to not include a requirement for the dissemination of an IIV for a series of ETF Shares to be listed on the Exchange.

#### Firewalls

Both Rule 14.11(c) and Rule 14.11(i) require under certain circumstances the implementation of firewalls between certain affiliates and related employees as well as policies and procedures designed to prevent the dissemination of material non-public information.<sup>25</sup> The Exchange fully supports the rationale underlying these rules, but generally agrees with the sentiment

expressed by the Commission in the Rule 6c-11 Release that existing federal securities laws adequately address concerns about dissemination and misuse of material non-public information.<sup>26</sup> The Exchange also further agrees that issuers of ETF Shares are likely to be in a position to best understand the circumstances and relationships that could give rise to misuse of material non-public information and can develop appropriate measures to address them.<sup>27</sup> As such, the Exchange is not proposing to include firewall or material non-public information policies and procedures requirements in the generic listing standards for ETF Shares because it believes that such issues are sufficiently addressed by existing federal securities laws.

#### Discontinuing Quarterly Reporting for Managed Fund Shares

Finally, the Exchange is proposing to eliminate certain quarterly reporting obligations related to the listing and trading of Managed Fund Shares on the Exchange. In the order approving the Exchange's proposal to adopt generic listing standards for Managed Fund Shares,<sup>28</sup> the Commission noted that the Exchange had represented that "on a quarterly basis, the Exchange will provide a report to the Commission staff that contains, for each ETF whose shares are generically listed and traded under BATS Rule 14.11(i): (a) Symbol and date of listing; (b) the number of active authorized participants ("APs") and a description of any failure by either a fund or an AP to deliver promised baskets of shares, cash, or

<sup>26</sup> See 17 CFR 270.38a-1 (Rule 38a-1 under the 1940 Act) (requiring funds to adopt policies and procedures reasonably designed to prevent violation of federal securities laws); 17 CFR 270.17j-1(c)(1) (Rule 17j-1(c)(1) under the 1940 Act) (requiring funds to adopt a code of ethics containing provisions designed to prevent certain fund personnel ("access persons") from misusing information regarding fund transactions); Section 204A of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 ("Advisers Act") (15 U.S.C. 80b-204A) (requiring an adviser to adopt policies and procedures that are reasonably designed, taking into account the nature of its business, to prevent the misuse of material, non-public information by the adviser or any associated person, in violation of the Advisers Act or the Act, or the rules or regulations thereunder); Section 15(g) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o(f)) (requiring a registered broker or dealer to adopt policies and procedures reasonably designed, taking into account the nature of the broker's or dealer's business, to prevent the misuse of material, nonpublic information by the broker or dealer or any person associated with the broker or dealer, in violation of the Exchange Act or the rules or regulations thereunder).

<sup>27</sup> See Rule 6c-11 Release at 25.

<sup>28</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 78396 (July 22, 2016), 81 FR 49698 (July 28, 2016) (SR-BATS-2015-100) (the "MFS Approval Order").

<sup>17</sup> See Rules 14.11(c)(3)(C), 14.11(c)(6)(A), and 14.11(c)(9)(B)(e) related to Index Fund Shares and Rules 14.11(i)(3)(C), 14.11(i)(4)(B)(i), 14.11(i)(4)(B)(iii)(b), and 14.11(i)(4)(B)(iv) related to Managed Fund Shares.

<sup>18</sup> See Rule 6c-11 Release at 62.

<sup>19</sup> See Id., at 66.

<sup>20</sup> See Id.

<sup>21</sup> See Id., at 63.

<sup>22</sup> See Id., at 63.

<sup>23</sup> See Id., at 65.

<sup>24</sup> See Id., at 61.

<sup>25</sup> See Rules 14.11(c)(3)(B)(i) and (iii), Rules 14.11(c)(4)(C)(i) and (iii), Rules 14.11(c)(5)(A)(i) and (iii), and Rule 14.11(7).

cash and instruments in connection with creation or redemption orders; and (c) a description of any failure by an ETF to comply with BATS Rule 14.11(i).<sup>29</sup> This reporting requirement is not specifically enumerated in Rule 14.11(i).

The Exchange has provided such information to the Commission on a quarterly basis since the MFS Approval Order was issued in 2016. The type of information provided in the reports was created to provide a window into the creation and redemption process for Managed Fund Shares in order to ensure that the arbitrage mechanism would work as expected for products that were listed pursuant to the newly approved generic listing standards. In the Rule 6c-11 Release, the Commission concluded that “the arbitrage mechanism for existing actively managed ETFs has worked effectively with small deviations between market price and NAV per share.”<sup>30</sup> The Exchange generally agrees with this conclusion and, while such quarterly reports were useful when Managed Fund Shares were first able to be listed pursuant to generic listing standards, the Exchange believes that such a window into the creation and redemption process for Managed Fund Shares no longer provides useful information related to the prevention of manipulation or protection of investors which it was originally designed to provide. Further, because the same general types of information provided in those reports will be made available under Rule 6c-11 directly from the issuers of such securities the Exchange also believes that it is consistent with the Act to remove this reporting obligation because it will be duplicative and no longer necessary.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act<sup>31</sup> in general and Section 6(b)(5) of the Act<sup>32</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 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 Exchange believes that proposed Rule 14.11(l) is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices in that the proposed rules

relating to listing and trading ETF Shares on the Exchange provide specific initial and continued listing criteria required to be met by such securities. Proposed Rule 14.11(l)(4) sets forth initial and continued listing criteria applicable to ETF Shares, specifically providing that the Exchange may approve ETF Shares for listing and/or trading (including pursuant to unlisted trading privileges) on the Exchange pursuant to Rule 19b-4(e) under the Act so long as such series of ETF Shares is eligible to operate in reliance on Rule 6c-11 and meets all applicable requirements under such Rule 6c-11 upon initial listing and on a continuing basis. Proposed Rule 14.11(l)(4)(A)(i) provides that the Exchange will establish for each series of ETF Shares a minimum number of shares required to be outstanding at the time of commencement of trading on the Exchange. Proposed Rule 14.11(l)(4)(A)(i) provides that the Exchange will obtain a representation from the issuer of each series of ETF Shares stating that the disclosures required under Rule 6c-11 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 will be made available on a daily basis in compliance with Rule 6c-11 and that the issuer will notify the Exchange of any failure to do so.

Proposed Rule 14.11(l)(4)(B)(i) provides that the Exchange will consider the suspension of trading in, and will commence delisting proceedings under Rule 14.12 for, a series of ETF Shares under any of the following circumstances: (a) If the issuer of the ETF Shares has failed to file any filings required by the Commission or if the Exchange is aware that the issuer is not in compliance with the requirements of Rule 6c-11 of the Investment Company Act of 1940; (b) if any of the other listing requirements set forth in this Rule 14.11(l) are not continuously maintained; or (c) if such other event shall occur or condition exists which, in the opinion of the Exchange, makes further dealings on the Exchange inadvisable. Proposed Rule 14.11(l)(4)(B)(ii) provides that the Exchange may consider all relevant factors in exercising its discretion to halt or suspend trading in a series of ETF Shares. Trading may be halted because of market conditions or for reasons that, in the view of the Exchange, make trading in the Shares inadvisable. These may include: (1) The extent to which certain information about the ETF Shares that is required to be disclosed under Rule 6c-11 is not being made available; or (2) whether other unusual conditions or

circumstances detrimental to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market are present. Finally, proposed Rule 14.11(l)(4)(B)(iii) provides that, upon termination of an investment company, the Exchange requires that ETF Shares issued in connection with such entity be removed from Exchange listing.

The Exchange further believes that proposed Rule 14.11(l) is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices because of the robust surveillances in place on the Exchange as required under proposed Rule 14.11(l)(2)(C) along with the similarities of proposed Rule 14.11(l) to the rules related to other securities that are already listed and traded on the Exchange and which would qualify as ETF Shares. Proposed Rule 14.11(l) is based in large part on Rules 14.11(c) and (i) related to the listing and trading of Index Fund Shares and Managed Fund Shares on the Exchange, respectively, both of which are issued under the 1940 Act and would qualify as ETF Shares after Rule 6c-11 is effective. Rule 14.11(c) and 14.11(i) are very similar, their primary difference being that Index Fund Shares are designed to track an underlying index and Managed Fund Shares are based on an actively managed portfolio that is not designed to track an index. As such, the Exchange believes that using the Current ETF Standards as the basis for proposed Rule 14.11(l) is appropriate because they are generally designed to address the issues associated with ETF Shares. The only substantial differences between proposed Rule 14.11(l) and the Current ETF Standards that are not otherwise required under Rule 6c-11 are as follows: (i) proposed Rule 14.11(l) does not include the quantitative standards applicable to a fund or an index that are included in the Current ETF Standards; (ii) proposed Rule 14.11(l) does not include any requirements related to the dissemination of a fund’s Intraday Indicative Value;<sup>33</sup> (iii) and proposed Rule 14.11(l) does not include any specific requirements related to “firewalls” that need to be in place between certain parties associated with a fund and their affiliates.

## Quantitative Standards

The Exchange believes that the proposal is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices because the Exchange will perform ongoing surveillance of ETF

<sup>29</sup> See MFS Approval Order at footnote 14.

<sup>30</sup> See Rule 6c-11 Release at 23.

<sup>31</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f.

<sup>32</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>33</sup> For purposes of this filing, the term “Intraday Indicative Value” or “IIV” shall mean an intraday estimate of the value of a share of each series of either Index Fund Shares or Managed Fund Shares.

Shares listed on the Exchange in order to ensure compliance with Rule 6c–11 and the 1940 Act on an ongoing basis. While proposed Rule 14.11(l) does not include the quantitative requirements applicable to a fund and a fund's holdings or underlying index that are included in Rules 14.(c) and 14.11(i),<sup>34</sup> the Exchange believes that the manipulation concerns that such standards are intended to address are otherwise mitigated by a combination of the Exchange's surveillance procedures, the Exchange's ability to halt trading under the proposed Rule 14.11(l)(4)(B)(ii), and the Exchange's ability to suspend trading and commence delisting proceedings under proposed Rule 14.11(l)(4)(B)(i). The Exchange also believes that such concerns are further mitigated by enhancements to the arbitrage mechanism that will come from Rule 6c–11, specifically the additional flexibility provided to issuers of ETF Shares through the use of custom baskets for creations and redemptions and the additional information made available to the public through the additional Disclosure Obligations.<sup>35</sup> The Exchange believes that the combination of these factors will act to keep ETF Shares trading near the value of their underlying holdings and further mitigate concerns around manipulation of ETF Shares on the Exchange without the inclusion of quantitative standards.<sup>36</sup> The Exchange will monitor for compliance with the 1940 Act generally as well as Rule 6c–11 specifically in order to ensure that the continued listing standards are being met. Specifically, the Exchange plans to review the website of series of ETF Shares in order to ensure that the disclosure requirements of Rule 6c–11 are being met and to review the portfolio underlying series of ETF Shares listed on the Exchange in order to ensure that certain investment requirements and limitations under the

<sup>34</sup> The Exchange notes that Rules 14.11(c) and (i) include certain quantitative standards related to the size, trading volume, concentration, and diversity of the holdings of a series of Index Fund Shares or Managed Fund Shares (the "Holdings Standards") as well as related to the minimum number of beneficial holders of a fund (the "Distribution Standards"). The Exchange believes that to the extent that manipulation concerns are mitigated based on the factors described herein, such concerns are mitigated both as it relates to the Holdings Standards and the Distribution Standards.

<sup>35</sup> The Exchange notes that the Commission came to a similar conclusion in several places in the Rule 6c–11 Release. See Rule 6c–11 Release at 15–18; 60–61; 69–70; 78–79; 82–84; and 95–96.

<sup>36</sup> The Exchange believes that this applies to all quantitative standards, whether applicable to the portfolio holdings of a series of ETF Shares or the distribution of the ETF Shares.

1940 Act are being met. The Exchange will also employ numerous intraday alerts that will notify Exchange personnel of trading activity throughout the day that is potentially indicative of certain disclosures not being made accurately or the presence of other unusual conditions or circumstances that could be detrimental to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market. As a backstop to the surveillances described above, the Exchange also notes that Rule 14.11(a) and proposed Rule 14.11(l)(4)(A)(ii) would require an issuer of ETF Shares to notify the Exchange of any failure to comply with Rule 6c–11 or the 1940 Act.

To the extent that any of the requirements under Rule 6c–11 or the 1940 Act are not being met, the Exchange may halt trading in a series of ETF Shares as provided in proposed Rule 14.11(l)(4)(B)(ii).<sup>37</sup> Further, the Exchange may also suspend trading in and commence delisting proceedings for a series of ETF Shares where such series is not in compliance with the applicable listing standards or where the Exchange believes that further dealings on the Exchange are inadvisable.<sup>38</sup>

Further, the Exchange also represents that its surveillance procedures are adequate to properly monitor the trading of the ETF Shares in all trading sessions and to deter and detect violations of Exchange rules. Specifically, the Exchange intends to utilize its existing surveillance procedures applicable to derivative products, which are currently applicable to Index Fund Shares and Managed Fund Shares, among other product types, to monitor trading in ETF

<sup>37</sup> Specifically, proposed Rule 14.11(l)(4)(B)(ii) states that the Exchange may consider all relevant factors in exercising its discretion to halt or suspend trading in a series of ETF Shares. Trading may be halted because of market conditions or for reasons that, in the view of the Exchange, make trading in the Shares inadvisable. These may include: (1) The extent to which certain information about the ETF Shares that is required to be disclosed under Rule 6c–11 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 is not being made available; or (2) whether other unusual conditions or circumstances detrimental to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market are present.

<sup>38</sup> Specifically, proposed Rule 14.11(l)(4)(B)(i), provides that if a series of ETF Shares is not in compliance with the applicable listing requirements, including: (a) If the issuer of the ETF Shares has failed to file any filings required by the Commission or if the Exchange is aware that the issuer is not in compliance with the requirements of Rule 6c–11 of the Investment Company Act of 1940; (b) if any of the other listing requirements set forth in this Rule 14.11(l) are not continuously maintained; or (c) if such other event shall occur or condition exists which, in the opinion of the Exchange, makes further dealings on the Exchange inadvisable, the Exchange will commence delisting procedures under Rule 14.12.

Shares. The Exchange or FINRA, on behalf of the Exchange, will communicate as needed regarding trading in ETF Shares and certain of their applicable underlying components with other markets that are members of the ISG or with which the Exchange has in place a comprehensive surveillance sharing agreement. In addition, the Exchange may obtain information regarding trading in ETF Shares and certain of their applicable underlying components from markets and other entities that are members of ISG or with which the Exchange has in place a comprehensive surveillance sharing agreement. Additionally, FINRA, on behalf of the Exchange, is able to access, as needed, trade information for certain fixed income securities that may be held by a series of ETF Shares reported to FINRA's TRACE. FINRA also can access data obtained from the MSRB's EMMA system relating to municipal bond trading activity for surveillance purposes in connection with trading in a series of ETF Shares, to the extent that a series of ETF Shares holds municipal securities. Finally, as noted above, the issuer of a series of ETF Shares will be required to comply with Rule 10A–3 under the Act for the initial and continued listing of Exchange-Traded Fund Shares, as provided under Rule 14.10(e)(1)(E).

#### Intraday Indicative Value

As described above, proposed Rule 14.11(l) does not include any requirements related to the dissemination of an Intraday Indicative Value. Both Rule 14.11(c) and Rule 14.11(i) include the requirement that a series of Index Fund Shares and Managed Fund Shares, respectively, disseminate and update an Intraday Indicative Value at least every 15 seconds.<sup>39</sup> Historically (and theoretically), the IIV could provide valuable information about an ETF that would not otherwise be available or easily calculable. However, as consistently highlighted in the Rule 6c–11 Release, that is not reflective of the current marketplace and the Commission has expressed concerns regarding the accuracy of IIV estimates for certain ETFs. Specifically, the Commission noted that an IIV may not accurately reflect the value of an ETF that holds securities that trade less frequently as such IIV can be stale or

<sup>39</sup> See Rules 14.11(c)(3)(C), 14.11(c)(6)(A), and 14.11(c)(9)(B)(e) related to Index Fund Shares and Rules 14.11(i)(3)(C), 14.11(i)(4)(B)(i), 14.11(i)(4)(B)(iii)(b), and 14.11(i)(4)(B)(iv) related to Managed Fund Shares.

inaccurate.<sup>40</sup> Additionally, the Commission indicated that even in circumstances when an IIV may be reliable, retail investors do not have easy access to free, publicly available IIV information.<sup>41</sup> Further, in instances when IIV may be free and publicly available, it can be delayed by up to 45 minutes.<sup>42</sup>

Aside from the fact that the disseminated IIV may provide investors with stale or misleading data, the Commission also stated that market makers and authorized participants typically calculate their own intraday value of an ETF's portfolio with proprietary algorithms that use an ETF's daily portfolio disclosure and available pricing information.<sup>43</sup> Such information allows those market participants to support the arbitrage mechanism for ETFs. Therefore, as market participants who engage in arbitrage typically calculate their own intraday value of an ETF's portfolio based on the ETF's daily portfolio disclosure and pricing information and use an IIV only as a secondary check to their own calculation,<sup>44</sup> the Commission noted that IIV was not necessary to support the arbitrage mechanism.<sup>45</sup> Given this, combined with potential shortcomings of the IIV noted above, the Commission concluded that ETFs will not be required to disseminate an IIV under Rule 6c-11.<sup>46</sup>

The Exchange generally agrees with the limitations and shortcomings of IIV described in the Rule 6c-11 Release. The Exchange further agrees with the conclusion of the Adopting Release that the "IIV is not necessary to support the arbitrage mechanism for ETFs that provide daily portfolio holdings disclosure." The transparency that comes from daily portfolio holdings disclosure as required under Rule 6c-11 provides market participants with sufficient information to facilitate the intraday valuation of ETF Shares. The Exchange notes that it is not proposing to prohibit the dissemination of an IIV for a series of ETF Shares and believes that there are certain instances in which the dissemination of an IIV could provide valuable information to the investing public. The Exchange is simply not proposing to require the dissemination of such information.

As such, the Exchange believes that it is appropriate and consistent with the

Act to not include a requirement for the dissemination of an IIV for a series of ETF Shares to be listed on the Exchange.

#### Firewalls

Both Rule 14.11(c) and Rule 14.11(i) require under certain circumstances the implementation of firewalls between certain affiliates and related employees as well as policies and procedures designed to prevent the dissemination of material non-public information.<sup>47</sup> The Exchange fully supports the rationale underlying these rules, but generally agrees with the sentiment expressed by the Commission in the Rule 6c-11 Release that existing federal securities laws adequately address concerns about dissemination and misuse of material non-public information.<sup>48</sup> The Exchange also further agrees that issuers of ETF Shares are likely to be in a position to best understand the circumstances and relationships that could give rise to misuse of material non-public information and can develop appropriate measures to address them.<sup>49</sup> As such, the Exchange is not proposing to include firewall or material non-public information policies and procedures requirements in the generic listing standards for ETF Shares because it believes that such issues are sufficiently addressed by existing federal securities laws. With this in mind, the Exchange further believes that proposed Rule 14.11(l) is consistent with the Act and is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices.

The Exchange also believes that the proposed rule change is designed to

<sup>47</sup> See Rules 14.11(c)(3)(B)(i) and (iii), Rules 14.11(c)(4)(C)(i) and (iii), Rules 14.11(c)(5)(A)(i) and (iii), and Rule 14.11(7).

<sup>48</sup> See 17 CFR 270.38a-1 (Rule 38a-1 under the 1940 Act) (requiring funds to adopt policies and procedures reasonably designed to prevent violation of federal securities laws); 17 CFR 270.17j-1(c)(1) (Rule 17j-1(c)(1) under the 1940 Act) (requiring funds to adopt a code of ethics containing provisions designed to prevent certain fund personnel ("access persons") from misusing information regarding fund transactions); Section 204A of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 ("Advisers Act") (15 U.S.C. 80b-204A) (requiring an adviser to adopt policies and procedures that are reasonably designed, taking into account the nature of its business, to prevent the misuse of material, non-public information by the adviser or any associated person, in violation of the Advisers Act or the Act, or the rules or regulations thereunder); Section 15(g) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o(f)) (requiring a registered broker or dealer to adopt policies and procedures reasonably designed, taking into account the nature of the broker's or dealer's business, to prevent the misuse of material, nonpublic information by the broker or dealer or any person associated with the broker or dealer, in violation of the Exchange Act or the rules or regulations thereunder).

<sup>49</sup> See Rule 6c-11 Release at 25.

promote just and equitable principles of trade and to protect investors and the public interest in that the Exchange will obtain a representation from the issuer of each series of ETF Shares stating that the Disclosure Requirements under Rule 6c-11 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 will be made available on a daily basis in compliance with Rule 6c-11 and that the issuer will notify the Exchange of any failure to do so. In addition, a large amount of information will be publicly available regarding the Funds and the Shares, thereby promoting market transparency. Quotation and last sale information for ETF Shares will be available via the CTA high-speed line. The website for each series of ETF Shares will include a form of the prospectus for the Fund that may be downloaded, and additional data relating to NAV and other applicable quantitative information, updated on a daily basis. Moreover, prior to the commencement of trading, the Exchange will inform its members in a circular of the special characteristics and risks associated with trading in the series of ETF Shares. As noted above, series of ETF Shares will not be required to publicly disseminate an IIV. The Exchange continues to believe that this proposal is consistent with the Act and is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade and to protect investors and the public interest because the transparency that comes from daily portfolio holdings disclosure as required under Rule 6c-11 provides market participants with sufficient information to facilitate the intraday valuation of ETF Shares, rendering the dissemination of the IIV unnecessary.

The Exchange notes that it is not proposing to prohibit the dissemination of an IIV for a series of ETF Shares and believes that there could be certain instances in which the dissemination of an IIV could provide valuable information to the investing public. The Exchange proposes to leave that decision to an issuer of ETF Shares and is simply not proposing to require the dissemination of an IIV.

Based on the foregoing discussion regarding proposed Rule 14.11(l) and its similarities to and differences between the Current ETF Standards, the Exchange believes that the proposal is consistent with the Act and is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative transactions and that the manipulation concerns that the quantitative standards, the IIV, and the firewall requirements are designed to address are otherwise mitigated by the proposal and the new Disclosure Obligations and flexibility under Rule 6c-11.

<sup>40</sup> See Rule 6c-11 Release at 62.

<sup>41</sup> See *Id.*, at 66.

<sup>42</sup> See *Id.*

<sup>43</sup> See *Id.*, at 63.

<sup>44</sup> See *Id.*, at 63.

<sup>45</sup> See *Id.*, at 65.

<sup>46</sup> See *Id.*, at 61.

The proposed rule change is designed to perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest in that it will facilitate the listing and trading of ETF Shares in a manner that will enhance competition among market participants, to the benefit of investors and the marketplace. The Exchange believes that approval of this proposal will streamline current procedures, reduce the costs and timeline associated with bringing ETFs to market, and provide significantly greater regulatory certainty to potential issuers considering bringing ETF Shares to market, thereby enhancing competition among ETF issuers and reducing costs for investors.<sup>50</sup>

The Exchange also believes that the non-substantive change to amend Rule 14.10(e)(1)(E) in order to add ETF Shares to a list of product types listed on the Exchange, including Index Fund Shares and Managed Fund Shares, that are exempted from the Audit Committee requirements set forth in Rule 14.10(c)(3), except for the applicable requirements of SEC Rule 10A-3 because it is a non-substantive change meant only to subject ETF Shares to the same corporate governance requirements currently applicable to Index Fund Shares and Managed Fund Shares. The Exchange also believes that the non-substantive change to amend Rule 14.11(c)(3)(A)(i)(a) in order to include ETF Shares in the definition of Derivative Securities Products is also a non-substantive change because it is just intended to add ETF Shares to a definition that includes Index Fund Shares and Managed Fund Shares in order to make sure that ETF Shares are treated consistently with Index Fund Shares and Managed Fund Shares throughout the Exchange's rules.

Finally, the Exchange believes that eliminating the quarterly reporting requirement for Managed Fund Shares

is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest because the report no longer serves the purpose for which it was originally intended. The type of information provided in the reports was created to provide a window into the creation and redemption process for Managed Fund Shares in order to ensure that the arbitrage mechanism would work as expected for products that were listed pursuant to the newly approved generic listing standards. In the Rule 6c-11 Release, the Commission concluded that "the arbitrage mechanism for existing actively managed ETFs has worked effectively with small deviations between market price and NAV per share."<sup>51</sup> The Exchange generally agrees with this conclusion and, while such quarterly reports were useful when Managed Fund Shares were first able to be listed pursuant to generic listing standards, the Exchange believes that such a window into the creation and redemption process for Managed Fund Shares no longer provides useful information related to the prevention of manipulation or protection of investors which it was originally designed to provide. Further, because the same general types of information provided in those reports will be made available under Rule 6c-11 directly from the issuers of such securities the Exchange also believes that it is consistent with the Act to remove this reporting obligation because it will be duplicative and no longer necessary.

For the above reasons, the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act.

#### *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 purpose of the Act. To the contrary, the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change would enhance competition by streamlining current procedures, reducing the costs and timeline associated with bringing ETFs to market, and providing significantly greater regulatory certainty to potential issuers considering bringing ETF Shares to market, all of which the Exchange believes would enhance competition among ETF issuers and reduce costs for investors. The Exchange also believes that the proposed change would make enhance competition among ETF Shares

by ensuring the application of uniform listing standards.

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

The Exchange has neither solicited nor received written comments on the proposed rule change.

#### **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 Exchange consents, the Commission will:

- A. By order approve or disapprove 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 email to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-CboeBZX-2019-097 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-CboeBZX-2019-097. 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 website (<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

<sup>50</sup> In approving the rule, the Commission stated that the "rule will modernize the regulatory framework for ETFs to reflect our more than two decades of experience with these investment products. The rule is designed to further important Commission objectives, including establishing a consistent, transparent, and efficient regulatory framework for ETFs and facilitating greater competition and innovation among ETFs." Rule 6c-11 Release, at 57163. The Commission also stated the following regarding the rule's impact: "We believe rule 6c-11 will establish a regulatory framework that: (1) Reduces the expense and delay currently associated with forming and operating certain ETFs unable to rely on existing orders; and (2) creates a level playing field for ETFs that can rely on the rule. As such, the rule will enable increased product competition among certain ETF providers, which can lead to lower fees for investors, encourage financial innovation, and increase investor choice in the ETF market." Rule 6c-11 Release, at 57204.

<sup>51</sup> See Rule 6c-11 Release at 23.

those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website 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 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. Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-CboeBZX-2019-097, and should be submitted on or before December 13, 2019.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>52</sup>

**Jill M. Peterson,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2019-25317 Filed 11-21-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8011-01-P**

## **SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

[Docket No. FD 36346]

### **Wisconsin Central Ltd.—Operation Exemption—Hallett Dock No. 5 in Duluth, Minn.**

Wisconsin Central Ltd. (WCL), a rail carrier,<sup>1</sup> filed a petition seeking an exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10901 to operate a rail/water dock facility in Duluth, Minn., known as Hallett Dock No. 5 (the Dock), after WCL acquires the Dock from its current noncarrier owner, Hallett Dock Company. The Dock is an approximately 100-acre, ground-level rail/water bulk commodity transfer and storage dock facility that includes a 2,400-foot vessel berth, two ship loaders, a railcar unloader, dry storage building, approximately 9,000 feet of rail trackage on the dock, and approximately 6,300 feet of adjacent railcar holding tracks along the shore line.

In an accompanying petition to set a procedural schedule, WCL requests that replies to the petition for exemption be due by December 13, 2019, and WCL's response by January 2, 2020.

<sup>52</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

<sup>1</sup> WCL is an indirect subsidiary of Canadian National Railway Company.

The Board will institute an exemption proceeding pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A procedural schedule will be set as noted below, consistent with the reply and response deadlines WCL requested.

All pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 36346, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board either via e-filing or in writing addressed to 395 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on WCL's representative: Thomas J. Litwiler, Fletcher & Sippel LLC, 29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60606-3208.

Board decisions and notices are available at [www.stb.gov](http://www.stb.gov).

*It is ordered:*

1. An exemption proceeding is instituted under 49 U.S.C. 10502(b).
2. Replies to WCL's petition are due by December 13, 2019.
3. WCL's response to any replies is due by January 2, 2020.
4. Notice of this decision will be published in the **Federal Register**.
5. This decision is effective on its date of service.

Decided: November 18, 2019.

By the Board, Scott M. Zimmerman, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.

**Kenyatta Clay,**

*Clearance Clerk.*

[FR Doc. 2019-25334 Filed 11-21-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915-01-P**

## **SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

[Docket No. FD 36365]

### **3i RR Holdings GP LLC, 3i Holdings Partnership L.P., 3i RR LLC, Regional Rail Holdings, LLC, and Regional Rail, LLC—Control Exemption—Florida Central Railroad Company, Inc., Florida Midland Railroad Company, Inc., and Florida Northern Railroad Company, Inc.**

3i RR Holdings GP LLC, 3i Holdings Partnership L.P., 3i RR LLC, and Regional Rail Holdings, LLC (collectively, 3i RR), and Regional Rail, LLC (Regional Rail), all noncarriers, have filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2) to acquire from Pinsky Railroad Company control of Florida Central Railroad Company, Inc. (Central), Florida Midland Railroad Company, Inc. (Midland), and Florida Northern Railroad Company, Inc. (Northern) (collectively, the Florida Railroads), all Class III rail carriers operating in Florida.<sup>1</sup> According to the

<sup>1</sup> The verified notice states that Central operates between Umatilla and Orlando, with branch lines

verified notice, the proposed transaction will allow Regional Rail to acquire direct control, and 3i RR to acquire indirect control, of the Florida Railroads.

The earliest this transaction may be consummated is December 6, 2019, the effective date of the exemption (30 days after the verified notice was filed). The verified notice states that the parties intend to consummate the transaction on or after January 3, 2020.<sup>2</sup>

According to the verified notice, 3i RR Holdings GP LLC controls 3i Holdings Partnership L.P., which controls 3i RR LLC, which controls Regional Rail Holdings, LLC, which controls Regional Rail. Regional Rail Holdings, LLC, is a holding company that directly controls the following three Class III rail carriers: (1) East Penn Railroad, LLC, which operates in Delaware and Pennsylvania; (2) Middletown & New Jersey Railroad, LLC, which operates in New York; and (3) Tyburn Railroad LLC, which operates in Pennsylvania (collectively, the Subsidiary Railroads).<sup>3</sup>

The verified notice states that: (1) The Florida Railroads do not connect with each other or with the Subsidiary Railroads; (2) the acquisition of control of the Florida Railroads is not intended to connect them to any other railroads in 3i RR's corporate family; and (3) the proposed transaction does not involve a Class I rail carrier. The proposed transaction is therefore exempt from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 11323. See 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(2).

Under 49 U.S.C. 10502(g), the Board may not use its exemption authority to relieve a rail carrier of its statutory obligation to protect the interests of its employees. However, 49 U.S.C. 11326(c) does not provide for labor protection for transactions under 49 U.S.C. 11324 and 11325 that involve only Class III rail carriers. Because this transaction involves Class III rail carriers only, the Board, under the statute, may not impose labor protective conditions for this transaction.

between Toronto and Winter Garden and between Tavares and Sorrento; Midland operates between Frostproof and West Lake Wales and between Gordonville and Winter Haven; and Northern operates between Red Level Jct. and north of Newberry and between Candler and Lowell.

<sup>2</sup> On November 6, 2019, 3i RR and Regional Rail filed a motion for protective order under 49 CFR 1104.14(b), which will be addressed in a separate decision.

<sup>3</sup> In *Regional Rail Holdings, LLC—Acquisition of Control Exemption—Regional Rail, LLC*, FD 35945 (STB served Aug. 7, 2015), Regional Rail Holdings, LLC, acquired control of the Subsidiary Railroads. In *3i RR Holdings GP LLC—Control Exemption—Regional Rail Holdings, LLC*, FD 36289 (STB served Apr. 19, 2019), 3i RR Holdings GP LLC, 3i Holdings Partnership L.P., and 3i RR LLC, acquired direct control of Regional Rail Holdings, LLC, and indirect control of the Subsidiary Railroads.