SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34-58117; File No. SR-CBOE-2008-69)

July 8, 2008

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Relating to an Extension of the Linkage Fee Pilot Program

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"), ¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder, ² notice is hereby given that on June 30, 2008, Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated ('CBOE" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared substantially by CBOE. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change</u>

CBOE proposes to amend its Fees Schedule to extend through July 31, 2009 the Options Intermarket Linkage ("Linkage") fees pilot program. The text of the proposed rule change is available at www.cboe.org/legal, the Exchange, and the Commission's Public Reference Room.

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

In its filing with the Commission, CBOE included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

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. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory</u> <u>Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change</u>

1. <u>Purpose</u>

The Exchange's fees for Principal ("P") and Principal Acting as Agent ("P/A") orders³ are operating under a pilot program scheduled to expire on July 31, 2008.⁴ The Exchange proposes to amend its Fees Schedule to extend the pilot program until July 31, 2009. The Exchange is proposing no other changes to the operation of the pilot program.

The Exchange assesses its members the following Linkage order related fees: (i) \$.30 per contract transaction fee, and (ii) \$.10 per contract surcharge fee on transactions in

Under the Plan for the Purpose of Creating and Operating an Options Intermarket Linkage ("Plan") and Exchange Rule 6.80(12), which tracks the language of the Plan, a "Linkage Order" means an Immediate or Cancel Order routed through the Linkage as permitted under the Plan. There are three types of Linkage Orders: (i) "P/A Order", which is an order for the principal account of a specialist (or equivalent entity on another Participant Exchange that is authorized to represent Public Customer orders), reflecting the terms of a related unexecuted Public Customer order for which the specialist is acting as agent; (ii) "P Order", which is an order for the principal account of an Eligible Market Maker and is not a P/A Order; and (iii) "Satisfaction Order," which is an order sent through the Linkage to notify a member of another Participant Exchange of a Trade-Through and to

seek satisfaction of the liability arising from that Trade-Through.

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See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 56132 (July 25, 2007), 72 FR 42158 (August 1, 2007) (SR-CBOE-2007-71).

options on the Nasdaq-100 Index (MNX and NDX) and options on the Russell 2000 Index (RUT).⁵ Satisfaction orders are not assessed Exchange fees.

The Exchange believes that extension of the Linkage fee pilot program until July 31, 2009 will give the Commission further opportunity to evaluate the appropriateness of Linkage fees.

The Exchange also proposes to amend Section 21 of the Fees Schedule to change the Linkage fees pilot expiration date included in that section to July 31, 2009, thereby extending the term of the DPM Linkage Fees Credit program for PA orders.

2. **Statutory Basis**

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act, in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(4)⁷ of the Act in particular, in that it is designed to provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among CBOE members and other persons using its facilities. The Exchange believes that extension of the Linkage fee pilot program until July 31, 2009 will give the Commission further opportunity to evaluate the appropriateness of Linkage fees.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition CBOE does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of purposes of the Act.

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

⁵ See CBOE Fees Schedule, Footnote 14. Surcharge fees are also assessed on OEX, XEO, SPX, volatility index options, DJX and DXL options; however, Linkage fees do not apply to these products as they are not multiply listed.

¹⁵ U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

III. <u>Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action</u>

Because the foregoing proposed rule change 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, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act⁸ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.⁹

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate 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.

IV. <u>Solicitation of Comments</u>

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

9 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

^{8 15} U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number
 SR-CBOE-2008-69 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-CBOE-2008-69. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet Web site (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room on official business days between the hours of 10:00 am and 3:00 pm. 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

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that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-CBOE-2008-69 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>].

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

Florence E. Harmon Acting Secretary

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