

and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is soliciting comments on the collections of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit these existing collections of information to the Office of Management Budget for extension and approval.

Form T-6 (17 CFR 269.9) is a statement of eligibility and qualification for a foreign corporate trustee under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 (15 U.S.C. 77aaa *et seq.*). Form T-6 provides the basis for determining if a trustee is qualified. Form T-6 takes approximately 17 burden hours per response and is filed by 1 respondent. We estimate that 25% of the 17 total burden hours (4 hours) is prepared by the filer. The remaining 75% of burden hours is prepared by outside counsel.

Form 11-K (17 CFR 249.311) is the annual report designed for use by employee stock purchase, savings and similar plans. Form 11-K provides employees with financial information so that they can assess the performance of the investment vehicle in which their money is invested. Form 11-K takes approximately 30 burden hours per response and is filed by 2,000 respondents for total of 60,000 burden hours.

Form 144 (17 CFR 239.144) is used to report the sale of securities during any three-month period that exceeds 500 shares or other units or has an aggregate sales price in excess of \$10,000. Form 144 operates in conjunction with Rule 144. Form 144 takes approximately 2 burden hours per response and is filed by 60,500 respondents for a total of 121,000 total burden hours.

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

Please direct your written comments to R. Corey Booth, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, C/O Shirley Martinson, 6432 General Green Way,

Alexandria, Virginia 22312, or send an e-mail to: [PRA\\_Mailbox@sec.gov](mailto:PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov).

July 14, 2006.

**Nancy M. Morris,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. E6-11790 Filed 7-24-06; 8:45 am]

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon written request, copies available from: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

Extension: Rule 17a-11; SEC File No. 270-94; OMB Control No. 3235-0085.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

In response to an operational crisis in the securities industry between 1967 and 1970, the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") adopted Rule 17a-11 (17 CFR 240.17a-11) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*) ("Exchange Act") on July 11, 1971. The Rule requires broker-dealers that are experiencing financial or operational difficulties to provide notice to the Commission, the broker-dealer's designated examining authority ("DEA"), and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC") if the broker-dealer is registered with the CFTC as a futures commission merchant. Rule 17a-11 is an integral part of the Commission's financial responsibility program which enables the Commission, a broker-dealer's DEA, and the CFTC to increase surveillance of a broker-dealer experiencing difficulties and to obtain any additional information necessary to gauge the broker-dealer's financial or operational condition.

Rule 17a-11 also requires over-the-counter ("OTC") derivatives dealers and broker-dealers that are permitted to compute net capital pursuant to Appendix E to Exchange Act Rule 15c3-1 to notify the Commission when their tentative net capital drops below certain levels. OTC derivatives dealers must also provide notice to the Commission

of backtesting exceptions identified pursuant to Appendix F of Rule 15c3-1 (17 CFR 240.15c3-1f).

Compliance with the Rule is mandatory. The Commission will generally not publish or make available to any person notice or reports received pursuant to Rule 17a-11. The Commission believes that information obtained under Rule 17a-11 relates to a condition report prepared for the use of the Commission, other federal governmental authorities, and securities industry self-regulatory organizations responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions.

Only broker-dealers whose capital declines below certain specified levels or who are otherwise experiencing financial or operational problems have a reporting burden under Rule 17a-11. In 2005, the Commission received approximately 600 notices under this Rule. The Commission did not receive any Rule 17a-11 notices from OTC derivatives dealers or broker-dealers that are permitted to compute net capital pursuant to Appendix E to Exchange Act Rule 15c3-1.

Each broker-dealer reporting pursuant to Rule 17a-11 will spend approximately one hour preparing and transmitting the notice required by the rule. Accordingly, the total estimated annualized burden under Rule 17a-11 is 600 hours.

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 has 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 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.

Comments should be directed to: R. Corey Booth, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Shirley Martinson, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, VA 22312, or by e-mail to [PRA\\_Mailbox@sec.gov](mailto:PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov). Comments must be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget within 60 days of this notice.

Dated: July 17, 2006.

Nancy M. Morris,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. E6-11791 Filed 7-24-06; 8:45 am]

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-54161; File No. SR-Amex-2006-62]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; American Stock Exchange LLC; Notice of Filing and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of Proposed Rule Change To Extend the Linkage Fee Pilot Program

July 17, 2006.

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 June 28, 2006, the American Stock Exchange LLC ("Amex" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been substantially prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons and is approving the proposal on an accelerated basis for a pilot period through July 31, 2007.

#### I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to extend for one (1) year until July 31, 2007, the current pilot program regarding transaction fees for trades executed through the intermarket options linkage (the "Linkage") on the Exchange. The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Amex's Web site at (<http://www.amex.com>), at the Amex's Office of the Secretary, 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, Amex 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 III 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 Amex is proposing to extend for one (1) year until July 31, 2007, the current pilot program establishing Exchange fees for Principal Orders ("P Orders") and Principal Acting as Agent Orders ("P/A Orders") submitted through the Linkage and executed on the Exchange. The fees in connection with the pilot program are scheduled to expire on July 31, 2006.<sup>3</sup>

The current fees applicable to P Orders and P/A Orders executed on the Exchange are as follows: (i) \$0.10 per contract side options transaction fee for equity options (exchange traded fund share ("ETF") options, QQQQ options and trust issued receipt options); (ii) \$0.21 per contract side options transaction fee for index options (including MNX and NDX options); (iii) \$0.05 per contract side options comparison fee; (iv) \$0.05 per contract side options floor brokerage fee; and (v) an options licensing fee for certain ETF and index option products ranging from \$0.20 per contract side to \$0.05 per contract side depending on the particular ETF or index option.<sup>4</sup> These are the same fees charged to specialists and registered option traders ("ROTs") for transactions executed on the Exchange. The Exchange does not charge for the execution of Satisfaction Orders sent through the Linkage.

As was the case in the original pilot program and subsequent extensions, the Exchange believes that the existing fees currently charged to Exchange specialists and ROTs should also apply to executions resulting from Linkage Orders.

Based on the experience to date, the Exchange believes that an extension of the pilot program for one (1) year until July 31, 2007 is appropriate.

##### 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(4) of the Act<sup>5</sup> regarding the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among exchange

members and other persons using exchange facilities.

#### B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change does not impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

#### 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. 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 e-mail to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-Amex-2006-62 on the subject line.

#### Paper Comments

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

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-Amex-2006-62. 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. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All

<sup>3</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 52150 (July 28, 2005), 70 FR 44703 (August 3, 2005) (Amex File No. 2005-079).

<sup>4</sup> See the Options Licensing Fee section of the Amex Options Fee Schedule available at <http://www.amex.com>.

<sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.