

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

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

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

Within 35 days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding, or (ii) as to which the NASD consents, the Commission will:

(A) By order approve 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. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. 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 such filings will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the NASD.

All submissions should refer to File No. SR-NASD-2002-134 and should be submitted by January 21, 2003.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁷

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-32921 Filed 12-27-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-47076; File No. SR-NYSE-2002-65]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. Regarding the Extension of the Pilot Programs for Mediation and Administrative Conferences

December 20, 2002.

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 December 19, 2002, the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. ("NYSE" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the NYSE. 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 to extend its pilot programs for mediation and administrative conferences (NYSE Rules 638 and 639) that expire on December 31, 2002. The Exchange has separately requested that the rules for Mediation and Administrative Conferences, as amended, ("the amended pilots") be adopted by way of its filing SR-NYSE-2002-59. An extension of the present pilots is needed pending the Commission's action on the amended rules.

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 NYSE 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 NYSE has prepared summaries, set forth in Sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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

1. Purpose

On November 19, 1998, the Commission approved a two-year pilot program for mediation and administrative conferences in the Exchange's arbitration facility.³ On December 20, 2000, the Commission approved amendments to the two pilot rules and granted a 2-year extension.⁴ The pilot mediation program is intended to allow parties to settle cases earlier with lower costs. The administrative conference allows arbitrators to intervene early in the case to set deadlines and resolve preliminary procedural issues. On November 4, 2002, the Exchange filed a proposal with the Commission to adopt as amended the rules for mediation and administrative conferences.⁵ The Exchange proposes to extend through January 31, 2003, its pilot program for mediation and administrative conferences (Rules 638 and 639) currently scheduled to expire on December 31, 2002. The Exchange has separately proposed in SR-NYSE-2002-59 to amend and revise Rules 638 (Mediation) and 639 (Administrative Conferences). An extension of the present pilot is needed pending the Commission's actions on its request.

While the Exchange believes it is appropriate to replace the pilot programs with the Rules proposed in SR-NYSE-2002-59, to maintain continuity pending the Commission's action an extension of the pilots to January 31, 2003 is warranted. By this filing, the Exchange is not seeking to modify the present pilot programs.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that proposed changes are consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act in that they promote just and equitable principles of trade by insuring that members and member organizations and the public have a fair and impartial forum for the resolution of their disputes.

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34-40695 (November 19, 1998); 63 FR 65834 (November 30, 2000), (SR-NYSE-98-27).

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34-43785 (December 29, 2000); 66 FR 1710 (January 9, 2001), (SR-NYSE-00-39).

⁵ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34-47025 (December 18, 2002) (File No. SR-NYSE-2002-59).

¹⁷ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

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.

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

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

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

Because the foregoing proposed rule: (1) does not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (2) does not impose any significant burden on competition; and (3) does not become operative for 30 days or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, the proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act⁶ and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.⁷

The Commission notes that under Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii), the proposal does not become operative for 30 days after date of its filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange requested a waiver of this 30-day period to extend the pilot programs before they are due to expire on December 31, 2002. The Commission believes that the waiver of the 30-day period is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest.⁸

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, as amended, 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. 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. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange

Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. 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 such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the NYSE. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-NYSE-2002-65 and should be submitted by January 21, 2003.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁹

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-32918 Filed 12-27-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-47084; File No. SR-NYSE-2002-67]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. Extending the Pilot Regarding Shareholder Approval of Stock Option Plans through February 28, 2003, or Such Earlier Date as the NYSE's Pending Rule Proposal Requiring Shareholder Approval of Equity-Compensation Plans Is Approved by the Commission

December 23, 2002.

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 December 20, 2002, the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. ("NYSE" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II 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.

⁹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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

The Exchange proposes to extend until February 28, 2003, or such earlier date as the NYSE's pending rule proposal requiring shareholder approval of equity-compensation plans³ is approved by the Commission, the effectiveness of the amendments to Sections 312.01, 312.03 and 312.04 of the Exchange's Listed Company Manual with respect to the definition of a "broadly-based" stock option plan, which were approved by the Commission on a pilot basis (the "Pilot") on June 4, 1999.⁴ The Pilot was subsequently amended and extended on March 30, 2001 until September 30, 2001.⁵ The Pilot has since been extended until January 11, 2002,⁶ March 11, 2002,⁷ May 13, 2002,⁸ June 30, 2002,⁹ August 31, 2002,¹⁰ October 30, 2002,¹¹ and December 30, 2002.¹²

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

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 46620 (October 8, 2002), 67 FR 63486 (October 11, 2002) (File No. SR-NYSE-2002-46).

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 41479, 64 FR 31667 (June 11, 1999) (notice of filing and order granting accelerated approval, on a pilot basis, to File No. SR-NYSE-98-32) ("Original Pilot Approval Order").

⁵ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 44141, 66 FR 18334 (April 6, 2001) (order granting approval, on a pilot basis, to the File No. SR-NYSE-00-32).

⁶ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 44886 (September 28, 2001), 66 FR 51083 (October 5, 2001) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of File No. SR-NYSE-2001-37) ("2001 Extension Request").

⁷ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 45275 (January 14, 2002), 67 FR 2718 (January 18, 2002) (File No. SR-NYSE-2002-03).

⁸ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 45546 (March 12, 2002), 67 FR 10272 (March 18, 2002) (File No. SR-NYSE-2002-14).

⁹ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 45918 (May 13, 2002), 67 FR 35174 (May 17, 2002) (File No. SR-NYSE-2002-18).

¹⁰ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 46143 (June 28, 2002), 67 FR 35174 (July 5, 2002) (File No. SR-NYSE-2002-22).

¹¹ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 46437 (August 29, 2002), 67 FR 57262 (September 9, 2002) (File No. SR-NYSE-2002-42).

¹² See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 46747 (October 30, 2002), 67 FR 67680 (November 6, 2002) (File No. SR-NYSE-2002-57).

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁷ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

⁸ For purposes only of accelerating the operative date of this proposal, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).