

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
(Release No. 34-56250; File No. SR-NSCC-2007-11)

August 14, 2007

Self-Regulatory Organizations; National Securities Clearing Corporation; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change to Allow As-of Fixed Income Trades to be Processed in the Continuous Net Settlement System

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”),<sup>1</sup> notice is hereby given that on July 12, 2007, the National Securities Clearing Corporation (“NSCC”) 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 by NSCC. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested parties.

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

NSCC is seeking to modify its procedures to allow as-of fixed income trades to be processed in NSCC’s Continuous Net Settlement (“CNS”) system.

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

In its filing with the Commission, NSCC 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. NSCC has prepared summaries, set forth in sections (A), (B), and (C) below, of the most significant aspects of these statements.<sup>2</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup> The Commission has modified the text of the summaries prepared by NSCC.

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

When NSCC revised and updated CNS in 2004 (referred to as the “CNS Rewrite”), it provided the capability on any settlement day to take in and process transactions due for settlement that day provided the trades are recorded or compared prior to an established cut-off time in the morning.<sup>3</sup> This capability is currently provided for as-of equity transactions but has not yet been expanded to as-of fixed income transactions.<sup>4</sup> Rather, settlement of as-of fixed income corporate debt, municipal, and unit investment trust (“UIT”) trades (corporate debt, municipal, and UIT trades are collectively referred to as “CMU” trades) matched on or after their designated settlement date currently occurs on the business day following the day they are compared. Given that settlement risks associated with CMU trades would be reduced if they settled on an accelerated basis in the same manner that as-of equity trades are settled, NSCC is proposing to enhance its fixed income processing to permit same day settlement of as-of fixed income transactions.<sup>5</sup> To accomplish this, NSCC proposes to amend Procedure II (Trade Comparison and Recording Service) so that CNS-eligible as-of CMU trades matched on or after their originally designated settlement date would be processed in CNS on the day they are submitted for comparison so long as they compare prior to the cut-off time established for same

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<sup>3</sup> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 50026 (July 15, 2004), 69 FR 43650 [File No. SR-NSCC-2004-01].

<sup>4</sup> NSCC's systems did not have the capacity for same day settling trades for fixed income transactions in 2004.

<sup>5</sup> The settlement of cash and next day CMU trades which are compared by NSCC will continue to be the responsibility of the parties to the trades.

day settlement, which currently is 11:30 am.<sup>6</sup> As-of trades not eligible for CNS processing will settle on a trade-for-trade basis. Trades that match after the designated cut-off time will continue to be assigned a settlement date on the next business day.

In addition, because these trades are effectively guaranteed upon comparison, risk associated with the trades will be mitigated through the existing component of the Clearing Fund formula, as set forth in Procedure XV (Clearing Fund Formula and Other Matters), that is designed to mitigate the risk to NSCC associated with trades that are processed on a settlement cycle shorter than three days. Under this component, activity specified for a shortened settlement cycle is isolated and a charge is calculated.<sup>7</sup>

NSCC believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of Section 17A of the Act<sup>8</sup> and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to NSCC because it should facilitate the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities by increasing automated trade processing and by expanding the types of trades eligible for CNS netting.

(B) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

NSCC does not believe that the proposed rule change would impose any burden on competition.

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<sup>6</sup> In addition, references in Procedure VII (CNS Accounting Operation) that currently note that debt securities are not eligible for such accelerated settlement would be removed.

<sup>7</sup> The component calculates a charge based on the average of a member's charges for the specified activity on the three days with the highest charges calculated for the specified activity over the most recent twenty day period. Securities Exchange Act Release No. 54816 (November 27, 2006), 71 FR 69604 [File No. SR-NSCC-2006-09].

<sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78q-1.

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

Written comments were not and are not intended to be solicited with respect to the proposed rule change, and none have been received. NSCC will notify the Commission of any written comments it receives.

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

Within thirty-five 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 ninety 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 self-regulatory organization 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, as amended, 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-NSCC-2007-11 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-NSCC-2007-11. 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 Section, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549, 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 NSCC and on NSCC's Web site at [www.nsc.com/legal](http://www.nsc.com/legal). All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All

submissions should refer to File Number SR-NSCC-2007-11 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>9</sup>

Florence E. Harmon  
Deputy Secretary

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<sup>9</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

