SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34-60953; File No. SR-NYSEAmex-2009-75)

November 6, 2009

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by NYSE Amex LLC to Clarify Specialist Obligations

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on October 22, 2009, NYSE Amex LLC ("NYSE Amex" or the "Exchange") 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. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of the Substance of the Proposed</u>
Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 927NY - Specialists by making technical changes designed to offer clarity to the rule. The text of the proposed rule change is attached as Exhibit 5 to the 19b-4 form. A copy of this filing is available on the Exchange's Web site at <a href="https://www.nyse.com">www.nyse.com</a>, at the Exchange's principal office and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

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

In its filing with the Commission, the self-regulatory organization 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 those statements may be examined at the

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

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

places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant parts of such statements.

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

# 1. Purpose

The purpose of this filing by NYSE Amex is to revise the language in Rule 927NY – Specialists, in order to clarify certain provisions within the rule.

Specifically, the Exchange proposes to amend Rule 927NY(c)(3) by adding a reference Rule 925.1NY(b), in order to clarify Specialist obligations, as they pertain to continuous quoting. In its current form, Rule 927NY states that Specialists must provide continuous quotations in all appointed series. However, Rule 925.1NY(b) provides that Specialists must provide continuous quotations for 90% of the time the Exchange is open. To ensure that Specialist obligations contained in Rule 927NY are consistent with Rule 925.1NY, the Exchange proposes to add language to Rule 927NY(c)(3) in order to clarify that a Specialist needs to provide quotations in accordance with Rule 925.1NY(b).

The Exchange also proposes to delete Rule 927NY(c)(6). Under the structure of the Exchange's electronic trading systems, the automated execution system referenced in Rule 927NY(c)(6) is part of the overall NYSE Amex electronic trading system. Whenever a Specialist provides electronic quotations to NYSE Amex, the Specialist automatically participates in the automatic execution system. It is not possible for a Specialist to submit quotes to the Exchange without being subject to the automatic execution system, nor is it possible to participate in the automatic execution system without submitting electronic quotes. Because participation in the auto-execution system is not optional, it is not appropriate to designate

participation in it as an obligation. The Exchange proposes to reserve Rule 927NY(c)(6) for future use.

By clarifying its rules and abolishing out-dated language, the Exchange is not changing or altering any obligation, rights, policies or practices enumerated within its rules.

# 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"),<sup>3</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>4</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.

### 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 purposes of the Act.

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

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>

The Exchange has filed the proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act<sup>5</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder. Because the proposed rule change does not: (i)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become operative prior to 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest, the proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>7</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) thereunder.<sup>8</sup>

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. 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 (<a href="http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml">http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</a>); or
- Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number
   SR-NYSEAmex-2009-75 on the subject line.

### Paper Comments:

• Send paper comments in triplicate to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, Securities and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>17</sup> CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) requires the Exchange to give the Commission written notice of the Exchange's 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 satisfied the pre-filing requirement.

Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NYSEAmex-2009-75. 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 (<a href="http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml">http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</a>). 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, 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 such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of NYSE Amex. 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-NYSEAmex-2009-75 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.9

> Florence E. Harmon **Deputy Secretary**

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