SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34-72890; File No. SR-NYSEMKT-2014-69)

August 21, 2014

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE MKT LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Amending Rule 86 - Equities to Extend the Hours for the Core Bond Trading Session for NYSE MKT Bonds

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1)<sup>1</sup> of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act")<sup>2</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>3</sup> notice is hereby given that on August 13, 2014, NYSE MKT LLC (the "Exchange" or "NYSE MKT") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the self-regulatory organization. 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</u> Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 86 - Equities to extend the hours for the Core Bond Trading Session for NYSE MKT Bonds. The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's website at <a href="www.nyse.com">www.nyse.com</a>, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at 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, 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

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78a.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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 parts of such statements.

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

### 1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 86 – Equities ("Rule 86") to extend the hours for the Core Bond Trading Session for NYSE MKT Bonds.<sup>4</sup>

NYSE MKT Bonds is the Exchange's electronic system for receiving, processing, executing and reporting bids, offers and executions in bonds. Rule 86 prescribes how bonds are traded through the NYSE MKT Bonds trading platform, including the receipt, execution and reporting of bond transactions. NYSE MKT Bonds has three Bond Trading Sessions, (1) the Opening Bond Trading Session, (2) the Core Bond Trading Session, and (3) the Late Bond Trading Session. The Opening Bond Trading Session currently commences at 4:00 a.m. Eastern Time ("ET") and concludes at 9:30 a.m. ET. The Core Bond Trading Session currently commences at 9:30 a.m. ET and concludes at 4:00 p.m. ET. The Late Bond Trading Session currently commences at 4:00 p.m. ET and concludes at 8:00 p.m. ET.

The Exchange proposes to extend the hours of the Core Bond Trading Session so that it would commence at 8:00 a.m. ET and end at 5:00 p.m. ET, adding a total of 2.5 hours to the Core Bond Trading Session and better aligning its hours with those of other bond trading venues. The Exchange proposes to amend the references to the various time periods throughout Rule 86 to effect this change, including, for example, that the Core

Terms not defined herein shall have the meaning prescribed under Rule 86.

Bond Auction would commence at 8:00 a.m. ET instead of the current 9:30 a.m. ET. Similarly, the Exchange proposes to amend the hours of the Opening Bond Trading Session and the Late Bond Trading Session to reflect this change. The Opening Bond Trading Session would conclude at 8:00 a.m. E.T. instead of the current 9:30 a.m. E.T., and the Late Bond Trading Session would commence at 5:00 p.m. E.T. instead of the current 4:00p.m. E.T. The Exchange notes, for example, that the proposed extended Core Bond Trading Session would also result in the ability for an "NYSE MKT Bonds Good 'Til Cancelled Order" or an "NYSE MKT Bonds Day Order" to remain in effect for a longer period of time. The Exchange would announce the date on which the expanded Core Bond Trading Session hours would take effect via Trader Update.

The proposed change is not otherwise intended to address any other issues, and the Exchange is not aware of any problems Users would have in complying with the proposed change.

### 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>5</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>6</sup> in particular, because it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to, and perfect the mechanisms of, a free and open market and a national

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

market system and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest and because it is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Exchange believes that the proposed change would foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in bond transactions by more closely aligning the hours of the Core Bond Trading Session with the hours of other marketplaces on which bonds trade (e.g., various alternative trading systems). The proposed change would also remove impediments to, and perfect the mechanisms of, a free and open market and a national market system by permitting Users to be active in the Core Bond Trading Session for 2.5 additional hours each day. Finally, the Exchange believes that it is subject to significant competitive forces, as described below in the Exchange's statement regarding the burden on competition.

For these reasons, the Exchange believes that the proposal is consistent with the Act.

# B. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

In accordance with Section 6(b)(8) of the Act,<sup>7</sup> the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change would not impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. Instead, the Exchange believes that the proposed change would contribute to competition because it could lead to additional bond transactions on NYSE MKT Bonds, a public market, which would contribute to greater transparency regarding such transactions. The Exchange also believes that the proposed change would place NYSE MKT Bonds in a more competitive

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(8).

position compared to other marketplaces for bond transactions with respect to the time period during which bonds are traded.

C. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed</u> <u>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>8</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder. Because the 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 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 and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) thereunder.

A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b-4(f)(6)<sup>10</sup> normally does not become operative prior to 30 days after the date of the filing. However, pursuant to Rule 19b4(f)(6)(iii),<sup>11</sup> the Commission may designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange has asked the Commission to waive the 30-day operative delay so that the proposal may become

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

operative immediately upon filing. The Exchange notes that waiving the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange believes that waiver will permit the Exchange to immediately change its Core Trading Hours to harmonize with effective rule changes on the NYSE bonds market, which operates on the same technology platform. The Commission hereby waives the 30-day operative delay and designates the proposal operative upon filing. <sup>12</sup>

At any time within 60 days of the filing of such proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend 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. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings under Section  $19(b)(2)(B)^{13}$  of the Act to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or 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. 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

For purposes only of waiving the 30-day operative delay, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

<sup>15</sup> U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B).

 Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number SR-NYSEMKT-2014-69 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-NYSEMKT-2014-69. 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 website (<u>http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</u>). 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 website viewing and printing 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 the 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 that you wish to make available publicly. All

submissions should refer to File Number SR-NYSEMKT-2014-69, 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.  $^{14}$ 

Kevin M. O'Neill Deputy Secretary

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).