

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-49828; File No. SR-PCX-2004-51)

June 8, 2004

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change by the Pacific Exchange, Inc. Amending the Designated Options Examination Authority Fee on a Retroactive Basis

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 June 1, 2004, the Pacific Exchange, Inc. (“PCX” or “Exchange”) 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 the Exchange. 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 is proposing to amend its Schedule of Fees and Charges by changing the Designated Options Examination Authority (“DOEA”) fee charged to its members, effective retroactively as of January 2004.³ The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Commission and the PCX.

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

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ On April 15, 2004, the Exchange filed an identical amendment to its Schedule of Fees and Charges, as immediately effective. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 49671 (May 7, 2004), 69 FR 27665 (May 17, 2004) (File No. SR-PCX 2004-32). Because the Exchange also seeks to apply the amendment to the DOEA fee on a retroactive basis, the Exchange is submitting this proposal for notice and comment.

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 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 Exchange proposes to amend its Schedule of Fees and Charges to retroactively establish the DOEA fee that recently became effective pursuant to a previous PCX proposed rule change.⁴ Previously, the Exchange assessed a \$2000/month DOEA fee in order to recover the Exchange's costs of DOEA examinations for which it would be responsible.⁵ At the time the Exchange set the original DOEA fee, it contemplated it would conduct some examinations itself and would contract with the NASD to conduct other examinations. For that reason, the Exchange adopted a flat fee of \$2000/month based upon the preexisting \$2000/month Designated Examination Authority ("DEA") fee. The Exchange anticipated that the costs of the examinations, whether conducted by the NASD or by the Exchange, would be about the same as the costs of the DEA examinations.

The Exchange has relied exclusively on the NASD to conduct its DOEA examinations and as a result, amended its Schedule of Fees and Charges to change its DOEA fee from \$2000/month to a fee that would be a pass through of the costs that the Exchange pays the NASD for conducting DOEA examinations, plus a 17% administrative

⁴ Id.

⁵ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 47577 (March 26, 2003), 68 FR 16109 (April 2, 2003)(File No. SR-PCX 2003-03).

charge.⁶ In the previous proposed rule change, the Exchange represented that the 17% percent administration fee that it proposed to charge relates directly to costs actually incurred by the Exchange in the administration of this program. The Exchange now proposes to extend this relief retroactively back to all applicable fees due since January 2004.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,⁷ in general, and Section 6(b)(4) of the Act,⁸ in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable fees among its members.

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

Written comments were neither solicited nor 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 other period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 days of such date if

⁶ See note 3 *supra*.

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the Exchange consents, the Commission will:

- (A) by order approve the 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. 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>);
- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-PCX-2004-51 on the subject line.

Paper comments:

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Jonathan G. Katz, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549-0609.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-PCX-2004-51. 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, 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549-0609. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the PCX. 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-PCX-2004-51 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.⁹

Margaret H. McFarland
Deputy Secretary

⁹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).