SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34-56094; File No. SR-CBOE-2007-80)

July 18, 2007

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Extend Two Pilot Programs Related to the Exchange's Automated Improvement Mechanism Until July 18, 2008

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"), and Rule 19b-4 thereunder, notice is hereby given that on July 13, 2007, the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated ("Exchange" or "CBOE") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been substantially prepared by the Exchange. The Exchange filed the proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder, which renders the proposed rule change effective upon filing with the Commission. 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 Proposed Rule Change</u>

CBOE proposes to extend two pilot programs related to the Exchange's Automated Improvement Mechanism ("AIM") for one year, until July 18, 2008. The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's Web site (<a href="http://www.cboe.com">http://www.cboe.com</a>), at the Exchange's Office of the Secretary, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

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

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

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

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

# 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 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 those 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 Statutory Basis</u> for, the Proposed Rule Change

## 1. <u>Purpose</u>

In February 2006, CBOE obtained approval of a filing adopting the AIM auction process.<sup>5</sup> AIM exposes certain orders electronically to an auction process to provide such orders with the opportunity to receive an execution at an improved price. The AIM auction is available only for orders that an Exchange member represents as agent and for which a second order of the same size as the "Agency Order" (and on the opposite side of the market) is also submitted (effectively stopping the Agency Order at a given price).

Two components of AIM were approved on a pilot basis: (1) that there is no minimum size requirement for orders to be eligible for the auction; and (2) that the auction will conclude prematurely anytime there is a quote lock on the Exchange pursuant to Exchange Rule 6.45A(d).<sup>6</sup> In connection with the pilot programs, the Exchange has submitted to the Commission reports providing detailed AIM auction and order execution data. In July 2006, the

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 53222 (February 3, 2006), 71 FR 7089 (February 10, 2006) (approving SR-CBOE-2005-60).

That rule relates to situations where a Market-Maker's quote interacts with the quote of another CBOE Market-Maker (i.e. when internal quotes lock).

Exchange extended the pilot program until July 18, 2007.<sup>7</sup> The proposed rule change merely extends the duration of the pilot programs until July 18, 2008. Extending the pilots for an additional year will allow the Commission more time to consider the impact of the pilot programs on AIM order executions.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>8</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>9</sup> in particular, in that by allowing the Commission additional time to evaluate the AIM pilot programs, it should serve to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and protect investors and the public interest.

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

  CBOE does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition 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>

The Exchange neither solicited nor received comments on the proposal.

III. <u>Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action</u>
The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>10</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)<sup>11</sup> thereunder because the proposal does not: (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 54147 (July 14, 2006), 71 FR 41487 (July 21, 2006) (SR-CBOE-2006-64).

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78(f)(b)(5).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

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

competition; and (iii) by its terms, become operative for 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.<sup>12</sup>

A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b-4(f)(6) normally may not become operative prior to 30 days after the date of filing. However, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii)<sup>13</sup> permits the Commission to designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange has requested that the Commission waive the 30-day operative delay period. The Commission believes that waiver of the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest, because the proposal would allow the pilots to continue without interruption until July 18, 2008.<sup>14</sup> For this reason, the Commission designates the proposal to be operative upon filing with the Commission.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate such proposed 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.<sup>15</sup>

Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) under the Act requires the Exchange to provide the Commission 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. See 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii). The Commission deems this requirement to have been satisfied by the notice of intent filed by the Exchange on July 10, 2007.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

For purposes only of waiving the operative delay for this proposal, 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)(3)(C).

### 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-CBOE-2007-80 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-CBOE-2007-80. 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 am and 3:00 pm. Copies of such 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-CBOE-2007-80 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.  $^{16}$ 

Florence E. Harmon Deputy Secretary

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12).