SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34-65454; File No. SR-CBOE-2011-090)

September 30, 2011

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Amend the Inactivity Fee on the CBOE Stock Exchange Fees Schedule

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 September 28, 2011, 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, 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 Substance of the Proposed Rule</u> <u>Change</u>

The Exchange proposes to amend the Inactivity Fee on the CBOE Stock Exchange

("CBSX") Fees Schedule. The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's website (http://www.cboe.org/legal), at the Exchange's Office of the Secretary, and at the

Commission.

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

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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</u> <u>Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change</u>

1. <u>Purpose</u>

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CBSX imposes an inactivity fee of \$5,000 per month on any CBSX Trading Permit Holder that trades less than an average of 100,000 shares per day over a calendar month period. CBSX imposes this fee because CBSX may only issue a finite number of Trading Permits, and when permits are occupied by users that do not engage in meaningful trading on CBSX, this could occur at the expense of a potential permit holder that might be willing to add meaningful liquidity to the CBSX marketplace.

CBSX proposes to delay the imposition of the Inactivity Fee on a CBSX Trading Permit Holder until the calendar month following the first full calendar month after the effective date of the Trading Permit. For example, if the effective date of a Trading Permit is August 15, then the Exchange may not impose the Inactivity Fee on the holder of that permit until October, since September is the first full calendar month after the Trading Permit's effective date. Under this proposal, all new CBSX Trading Permit Holders will have at least one calendar month to connect to CBSX before they may be assessed the Inactivity Fee.³ CBSX believes this grace period is appropriate because it takes approximately one month for new CBSX Trading Permit Holders to establish connectivity to CBSX before they may begin effecting transactions on CBSX. This proposal will accommodate new CBSX Trading Permit Holders during this connectivity phase in which they may be unable to trade at sufficient levels to avoid incurring the Inactivity Fee.

<u>See</u> e-mail from Jeff Dritz, Attorney, CBOE, to Steve Kuan, Special Counsel, Division of Trading and Markets, Commission, on September 30, 2011.

CBSX also proposes to provide a CBSX Trading Permit Holder that incurs the Inactivity Fee with an opportunity to have the fee withdrawn. If a CBSX Trading Permit Holder incurs the Inactivity Fee for a calendar month period but trades at least an average of 200,000 shares per day (equal to the minimum trading level for the month plus the minimum trading level for the previous month for which the fee was incurred) over the following calendar month period, then CBSX will rescind the fee for the previous calendar month period. For example, if a CBSX Trading Permit Holder trades an average of 75,000 shares per day in August and the Exchange imposes the \$5,000 Inactivity Fee on the holder, but the holder then trades an average of 250,000 shares per day in September, CBSX will rescind the Inactivity Fee for August. CBSX believes this provision is appropriate because it allows CBSX Trading Permit Holders to not be penalized for a single lower-volume month if they are able to "make up" for the volume during the following month.

The proposed rule change will take effect on October 1, 2011.

2. <u>Statutory Basis</u>

The proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act⁴ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section $6(b)(4)^5$ of the Act in particular, in that it is designed to provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among CBSX Trading Permit Holders and other persons using CBSX facilities.

The proposal to delay the imposition of the Inactivity Fee is reasonable because it provides new CBSX Trading Permit Holders with sufficient time to connect to CBSX without incurring the Inactivity Fee, during which time they are not yet able to engage in meaningful trading on CBSX. Additionally, this proposal is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

because it applies to all new CBSX Trading Permit Holders and provides each of them with at least one calendar month to connect to CBSX before being subject to the Inactivity Fee.⁶

The proposal to provide a CBSX Trading Permit Holder that incurs the Inactivity Fee with an opportunity to have the fee withdrawn is certainly reasonable because it creates a circumstance in which a CBSX Trading Permit Holder can avoid paying a fee. Further, this proposal is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because it provides this opportunity to all CBSX Trading Permit Holders that incur the Inactivity Fee.

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</u> <u>Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others</u>

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

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

The proposed rule change is designated by the Exchange as establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge, thereby qualifying for effectiveness on filing pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act⁷ and subparagraph (f)(2) of Rule 19b-4⁸ thereunder. At any time within 60 days of the filing of the 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.

⁶ <u>See Note 3, supra.</u>

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁸ 17 C.F.R. 240.19b-4(f)(2).

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 (<u>http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</u>); or
- Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number SR-CBOE-2011-090 on the subject line.

Paper comments:

 Send paper comments in triplicate to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-CBOE-2011-090. 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 (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 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 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-2011-090 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

Elizabeth M. Murphy Secretary

⁹ 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12).