SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34-67402; File No. SR-NASDAQ-2012-080)

July 11, 2012

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Relating to BX Options Routing

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹, and Rule 19b-4² thereunder, notice is hereby given that on June 28, 2012. The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC ("NASDAQ" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the NASDAQ. 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</u> <u>Rule Change</u>

The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC proposes to modify Chapter XV, Section 2, governing pricing for NASDAQ members using the NASDAQ Options Market ("NOM"), NASDAQ's facility for executing and routing standardized equity and index options.

While the changes proposed herein are effective upon filing, the Exchange has designated these changes to be operative on July 2, 2012.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's Website at http://www.nasdaq.cchwallstreet.com, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

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

1. <u>Purpose</u>

The purpose of this filing is to recoup costs that the Exchange incurs for routing and executing certain orders in equity options to BX Options.

The Exchange's Pricing Schedule at Chapter XV, Section 2(4) currently includes the following fees for routing Customer, Professional, Firm, Broker-Dealer and Market Maker orders to away markets.

Exchange	Customer	Firm	MM	Professional
BATS Penny	\$0.55	\$0.55	\$0.55	\$0.55
BOX	\$0.11	\$0.55	\$0.55	\$0.11
BATS non-Penny	\$0.86	\$0.91	\$0.91	\$0.91
CBOE	\$0.11	\$0.55	\$0.55	\$0.31
CBOE orders greater than 99 contracts in NDX, MNX ETFs, ETNs & HOLDRs	\$0.29	\$0.55	\$0.55	\$0.31
C2	\$0.55	\$0.55	\$0.55	\$0.55
ISE	\$0.11	\$0.55	\$0.55	\$0.29
ISE Select Symbols*	\$0.31	\$0.55	\$0.55	\$0.39
NYSE Arca Penny Pilot	\$0.55	\$0.55	\$0.55	\$0.55
NYSE Arca Non Penny Pilot	\$0.11	\$0.55	\$0.55	\$0.11
NYSE AMEX	\$0.11	\$0.55	\$0.55	\$0.31
PHLX (for all options other than PHLX Select Symbols)	\$0.11	\$0.55	\$0.55	\$0.31
PHLX Select Symbols ***	\$0.50	\$0.55	\$0.55	\$0.51

The Exchange is proposing to adopt the following fees when routing to BX Options:

Exchange	Customer	Firm	$\mathbf{M}\mathbf{M}$	Professional
BX Options	\$0.11	\$0.54	\$0.54	\$0.54

BX Options received approval to operate a new options market³ and filed to adopt various fees and rebates which would become operative on July 2, 2012. Specifically, BX Options will assess a Fee to Remove Liquidity of \$0.43 per contract to BX Options Market Makers and Non-Customers which includes Professionals, Firms, Broker-Dealers and Non-BX Options Marker Makers.⁴ Customers would not be assessed a Fee to Remove Liquidity on BX Options. The Exchange is seeking to adopt new Routing Fees to account for these new fees and other routing costs incurred by the Exchange when routing to BX Options as of July 2, 2012.

Nasdaq Options Services LLC ("NOS"), a member of the Exchange, is the Exchange's exclusive order router.⁵ NOS is the Routing Facility for BX Options. Each time NOS routes to away markets NOS is charged a \$0.06 clearing fee and, in the case of certain exchanges, a transaction fee is also charged in certain symbols, which fees are passed through to the

^{*}These fees are applicable to orders routed to ISE that are subject to Rebates and Fees for Adding and Removing Liquidity in Select Symbols. See ISE's Schedule of Fees for the complete list of symbols that are subject to these fees.

^{**} These fees are applicable to orders routed to PHLX that are subject to Rebates and Fees for Adding and Removing Liquidity in Select Symbols. See PHLX's Pricing Schedule for the complete list of symbols that are subject to these fees.

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 67256 (June 26, 2012) (SR-BX-2012-030).

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34-67339 (July 3, 2012) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by NASDAQ OMX BX, Inc. to Adopt Transaction and Routing Fees). This filing became operative on July 2, 2012.

⁵ <u>See BX Rules at Chapter VI, Section 11(e) (Order Routing).</u>

Exchange. The Exchange currently recoups clearing and transaction charges incurred by the Exchange as well as certain other costs incurred by the Exchange when routing to away markets, such as administrative and technical costs associated with operating NOS, membership fees at away markets, and technical costs associated with routing.⁶ The Exchange would therefore assess Customers \$0.11 per contract, Firms would be assessed \$0.54 per contract, Market Makers would be assessed \$0.54 per contract and Professionals would be assessed \$0.54 per contract.⁷ The Exchange proposes to title the new fees "BX Options."

The Exchange also proposes other minor amendments to remove the following sentence from Chapter XV, Section 2(4) "The current fees and a historical record of applicable fees shall be posted on the NasdaqTrader.com website." This sentence is not necessary as all rules are posted on the Exchange's website. Also, the Exchange is alphabetically relocating the BOX Routing Fees.

As with all fees, the Exchange may adjust these Routing Fees in response to competitive conditions by filing a new proposed rule change.

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In addition to membership fees and transaction fees, the Exchange also incurs an Options Regulatory Fee when routing to an away market that assesses that fee.

The Exchange's proposed Routing Fees for BX would include the Fees for Removing Liquidity of \$0.43 per contract, a \$0.06 clearing cost and another \$0.05 per contract associated with administrative and technical costs associated with operating NOS, a total of \$0.54 per contract. The Exchange would only assess a Customer the \$0.06 clearing cost and another \$0.05 per contract associated with administrative and technical costs associated with operating NOS (a total of \$0.11 per contract) because a Customer is not assessed a Fee for Removing Liquidity on BX.

2. <u>Statutory Basis</u>

NASDAQ believes that its proposal to amend its rules is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act⁸ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(4) of the Act⁹ in particular, in that it is an equitable allocation of reasonable fees and other charges among Exchange members.

The Exchange believes that the proposed BX Options Routing Fees are reasonable because they seek to recoup costs that are incurred by the Exchange when routing Customer, Professional, Firm, Broker-Dealer, Specialist and Market Maker orders to BX Options on behalf of members, respectively. Each destination market's transaction charge varies and there is a standard clearing charge for each transaction incurred by the Exchange along with other administrative and technical costs that are incurred by the Exchange. The Exchange believes that the proposed Routing Fees would enable the Exchange to recover the remove fees assessed to market participants by BX Options, plus clearing and other administrative and technical fees for the execution of Customer, Professional, Firm, Broker-Dealer, Specialist and Market Maker orders when routed to BX Options. The Exchange also believes that the proposed BX Options Routing Fees are equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because they would be uniformly applied to all Customer, Professional, Firm, Broker-Dealer, Specialist and Market Maker orders that are routed to BX Options.

The Exchange believes that the proposed minor amendments to remove the sentence referring to the Exchange's website information and the relocation of BOX Routing Fees are reasonable, equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because these amendments update Chapter

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

XV, Section 2 of the Rules to remove an unnecessary sentence and conform the manner in which the Routing Fees are displayed.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

NASDAQ 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. In addition, a NOM Participant may designate an order as not available for routing to avoid routing fees. ¹⁰

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 either solicited or received.

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

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the

Act. 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. If the Commission takes such action, the

Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule 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:

See NOM Rules at Chapter VI, Section 11.

¹⁵ U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

Electronic Comments:

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml); or
- Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number SR-NASDAQ-2012-080 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-NASDAQ-2012-080. 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 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-NASDAQ-2012-080 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority. 12

Kevin M. O'Neill Deputy Secretary

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¹² 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).