Week of October 27—Tentative

Wednesday, October 29

10:00 a.m. Briefing on Proposed Steam Generator Generic Letter and Regulatory Guide (Public Meeting)
11:30 a.m. Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (if needed)
1:00 p.m. Briefing on Site Decommissioning Plan (SDMP) (Public Meeting)

Note: The schedule for Commission meetings is subject to change on short notice. To verify the status of meetings call (recording)—(301) 415–1292.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Bill Hill (301) 415–1661.

The NRC Commission Meeting Schedule can be found on the Internet at: http://www.nrc.gov/SECY/smj/schedule.htm

This notice is distributed by mail to several hundred subscribers; if you no longer wish to receive it, or would like to be added to it, please contact the Office of the Secretary, Attn: Operations Branch, Washington, D.C. 20555 (301–415–1661).

In addition, distribution of this meeting notice over the Internet system is available. If you are interested in receiving this Commission meeting schedule electronically, please send an electronic message to wmh@nrc.gov or dkw@nrc.gov.

Dated: October 3, 1997.

William M. Hill, Jr.,

SECY Tracking Officer, Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97–26691 Filed 10–3–97; 2:37 pm]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–M

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

The National Partnership Council

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

Time and Date: 2:00 p.m., October 8, 1997.

Place: Carrier Ballroom, 2nd Floor, Statler Hotel, 11 East Avenue, Ithaca, New York. The Statler Hotel is located on the Cornell University campus, directly adjacent to the School of Industrial and Labor Relations.

Status: This meeting will be open to the public. Seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Individuals with special access needs wishing to attend should contact OPM at the number shown below to obtain appropriate accommodations.

Matters To Be Considered: During a half-day skills-building session, the National Partnership Council members and faculty from Cornell's renowned School of Industrial and Labor Relations will present an overview of the life cycle of partnerships. Participants will hear about and discuss lessons learned and best practices in sustaining partnerships.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Michael Cushing, Director, Center for Partnership and Labor-Management Relations, Office of Personnel Management, Theodore Roosevelt Building, 1900 E Street, NW., Room 7H28, Washington, DC 20415–0001, (202) 606–2930.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We invite interested persons and organizations to submit written comments. Mail or deliver your comments to Michael Cushing at the address shown above.

Office of Personnel Management.

Janice R. Lachance,

Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 97–26458 Filed 10–6–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–39159; File No. SR–CBOE–97–46]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of Proposed Rule Change by the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated Relating to Fractional Changes to Bids and Offers in Stocks

September 30, 1997.

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 11, 1997, the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated (''CBOE'' 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 self-regulatory organization. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments from interested persons and to grant accelerated approval to the proposed rule change.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend CBOE Rule 30.33, which governs the permissible fractional variation for bids or offers in stocks. The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Office of the Secretary, CBOE and at the Commission.

[1] 15 U.S.C. § 78s(b)(1).

[2] 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

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 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 these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item III below. The self-regulatory organization 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 rules to expand the number of CBOE securities traded in sixteenths, *i.e.*, 1⁄16 of $1.00, to include all securities trading above $.25 per share.[3] Exchange Rule 30.33, *Fractional Changes for Bids and Offers,* currently requires bids and offers in stocks (and other instruments that may be traded on the Exchange and to which Chapter 30 of the CBOE rules applies)[4] with a price of $10.00 or less to be made at a variation of at least 1⁄16 of $1.00.[5]

The change will, therefore, affect the bidding and offering in covered securities selling over $10.00 per share.

The Exchange believes that by increasing the number of stocks and other instruments eligible to be traded in sixteenths, the Exchange will be better able to compete for listings in instruments, such as warrants. In fact, the Exchange's proposal is identical to a proposal of the American Stock

[3] Bids and offers in stocks with prices of less than $.25 per share may be varied by as little as 1/32 of $1.00 per share.

[4] The Commission notes that the CBOE does not currently trade stocks. However, the Commission notes that the CBOE does trade equity derivative products that will be affected by the rule change; those products include equity (and equity index) linked notes and index warrants.

[5] In 1995, the Commission approved an expansion of sixteenths trading to permit all CBOE securities selling under $10.00 to trade in sixteenths. (Securities selling under $.25 could be traded in variations of 1⁄32 of $1.00.) *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 35538 (Mar. 27, 1995), 60 FR 16895 (April 3, 1995) (order approving SR–CBOE–95–18). Prior to the approval of that filing, sixteenths trading was permitted for securities selling under $5.00 and above $.25.

Exchange (''Amex'') and similar to a proposal of the Nasdaq Stock Market (''Nasdaq'') and the New York Stock Exchange (''NYSE'') which were recently approved by the Commission.[6] The Exchange believes that trading in sixteenths will improve the market for covered securities trading above $10 by promoting greater liquidity and providing for superior executions of retail and professional orders. Also, the proposal is responsive to the recommendations of the Division of Market Regulation in its Market 2000 study that the exchanges and Nasdaq convert to a minimum variation of one-sixteenth as soon as possible.[7]

On March 18, 1997, a representative of the CBOE discussed the proposed expansion of trading in sixteenths with the Intermarket Trading System (''ITS'') participants and with the Securities Industry Automation Corporation (''SIACS''). The ITS Operating Committee voted unanimously to instruct SIAC to make necessary enhancements to the ITS host system to accommodate the proposed expanded sixteenths trading. SIAC also agreed to coordinate with the ITS participants regarding any required testing and changes to the participants' internal systems.

2. Statutory Basis

The basis under the Act for the proposed rule change is the requirement under Section 6(b)(5)[8] that an exchange have rules that are designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation with persons engaged in facilitation and clearing transactions in securities, and to protect investors and the public interest.

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

The Exchange represents that the proposed rule change will not impose any burden on competition.

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

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

III. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. 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 at the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All submissions should refer to File No. SR–CBOE–97–46 and should be submitted by October 28, 1997 21 days from date of publication.

IV. Commission's Findings and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of Proposed Rule Change

The Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to a national securities exchange, and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6[9] and the rules and regulations thereunder. Specifically, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)[10] requirements that the rules of an exchange be designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation with persons engaged in facilitation and clearing transactions in securities and to protect investors and the public interest.[11]

Recently, there has been a movement within the industry to reduce the minimum trading and quotation increments imposed by the various self-regulatory organizations (''SROs''). The Amex Nasdaq and NYSE have recently reduced their minimum increments.[12] In addition, several third market makers have begun quoting securities in increments smaller than the primary markets. The proposed rule change will allow the CBOE the flexibility it needs to address this development and remain competitive with these markets. Nevertheless, the Commission notes that any further change in the minimum increments constitutes (1) a change in a stated policy, practice, or interpretation with respect to the meaning, administration, or enforcement of an existing rule of the CBOE, or (2) a change in an existing order-entry of trading system of an SRO, or (3) both.

Therefore, the Exchange is still obligated to file such proposed changes with the Commission.[13]

The Commission also believes the proposed rule change will likely enhance the quality of the market for the affected CBOE-listed activities. Allowing the CBOE to quote affected securities in finer increments will facilitate quote competition.[14] This should help produce more accurate pricing of such securities and can result in tighter quotations.[15] In addition, if the quoted markets are improved by reducing the minimum increment, the change could result in added benefits to the market such as reduced transaction costs.

The Commission finds good cause for approving the proposed rule change prior to the thirtieth day after the date of publication of notice thereof in the **Federal Register**.[16] The proposal

[6] Securities Exchange Act Release No. 38571 (May 5, 1997), 62 FR 25682 (May 9, 1997) (approving an Amex proposal to reduce the minimum trading increment to 1⁄16 for certain Amex–listed equity securities); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 38678 (May 27, 1997), 62 FR 30363 (June 6, 1997) (approving a Nasdaq rule change to reduce the minimum quotation increment to 1⁄16 for certain Nasdaq-listed securities) and Securities Exchange Act Release No. 38897 (Aug. 1, 1997), 62 FR 42847 (Aug. 8, 1997) (approving a NYSE rule change to reduce the minimum quotation increment to 1⁄16 for certain NYSE-listed securities).

[7] Division of Market Regulation, SEC, *Market 2000: An Examination of Current Equity Market Developments* at 18 (Jan. 1994) (''Market 2000 Study'').

[8] 15 U.S.C. § 78f(b)(5).

[9] 15 U.S.C. 78f.

[10] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

[11] In approving this rule, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. § 78c(f).

[12] *See supra* note 5.

[13] These changes, however, may become effective upon filing if they meet certain statutory requirements. *See* 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(i) and 17 CFR 240.19b–4(e).

[14] The rule change is consistent with the recommendation of the Division of Market Regulation (''Division'') in its Market 2000 Study, in which the Division noted that the 1⁄8 minimum variation can cause artificially wide spreads and hinder quote competition by preventing offers to buy or sell at prices inside the prevailing quote. *See* SEC, Division of Market Regulation, *Market 2000: An Examination of Current Equity Market Developments* 18–19 (Jan. 1994).

[15] A study that analyzed the reduction in the minimum tick size from 1⁄8 to 1⁄16 for securities listed on the Amex priced between $1.00 and $5.00 found that, in general, the spreads for those securities decreased significantly while trading activity and market depth were relatively unaffected. *See* Hee-Joon Ahn, Charles Q. Chao, and Hyuk Choe, *Tick Size, Spread, and Volume,* 5 J. Fin Intermediation 2 (1996).

[16] A prior proposal by another exchange to reduce its minimum fractional change was published for the full statutory comment period without any comments being received by the Commission. Securities Exchange Act Release No. 38571 (May 5, 1997) (approving a proposed rule change by the

provides the CBOE with the ability to quickly modify its trading increment to meet changing market conditions. This will enable the CBOE to quote competitively with other markets. Waiting the full statutory review period for the proposed rule change could place the CBOE at a significant competitive disadvantage to other markets. Therefore, the Commission believes it is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) and Section 19(b)(2) of the Act to grant accelerated approval to the proposed rule change.[17]

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,[18] that the proposed rule change (SR–CBOE–97–46) is approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.[19]

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97–26523 Filed 10–6–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010–01–M

Amex to reduce the minimum trading differential from ⅛ to 1⁄16 for equity securities priced at or above $10.00).

[17] 15 U.S.C. §§ 78f(b)(5) and 78s(b)(2).

[18] 15 U.S.C. § 78s(b)(2).

[19] 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12).

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–39162; File No. SR–CHX–97–23]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by The Chicago Stock Exchange, Inc., Relating to the Execution of Stopped Orders Under the Enhanced SuperMAX Program

September 30, 1997.

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 16, 1997, the Chicago Stock Exchange, Incorporated (''CHX'' 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 self-regulatory organization. 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 proposes to amend its Rule 37(e) of Article XX relating to the execution of stopped orders under the CHX's Enhanced SuperMAX program. The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Office of the Secretary, the CHX, and at the Commission.

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 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 these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The self-regulatory organization 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

On May 22, 1995, the Commission approved a proposed rule change that allows specialists on the Exchange, through the Exchange's MAX system, to provide order execution guarantees that are more favorable than those required under CHX Rule 37(a), Article XX.[3] That approval order contemplated that the CHX would file with the Commission specific modifications to the parameters of MAX that are required to implement various options available under the rule.[4] The CHX now proposes to amend the Enhanced SuperMAX program, a program first adopted under CHX Rule 37 of Article XX in July 1995.[5]

Currently under the Enhanced SuperMAX program, certain orders are ''stopped'' at the ITS BBO [6] and are executed with reference to the next primary market sale. The Enhanced SuperMAX program also includes a time-out feature whereby if there are no executions in the primary market after the order has been stopped for a designated time period, the order is executed at the stopped price at the end of such period. Such period, known as a time out period, is pre-selected by a specialist on a stock-by-stock basis based on the size of the order, may be changed by a specialist no more frequently than once a month and may be no less than 30 seconds.

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change will simplify the pricing algorithm used by Enhanced SuperMAX. Under the new algorithm, an agency market order eligible for Enhanced SuperMAX will continue to be ''stopped'' if executing the order at the ITS BBO would create a double up-tick (for a buy order) or a double down-tick (for a sell order) and the spread between the ITS Bid and ITS Offer is ¼ point or more. Under the proposal, once stopped, a buy order will be executed as follows:

If the next primary market sale is equal to or greater than the primary market offer, the order will be executed at the stopped price.

If there is no primary market sale within the time out period or the next primary market sale is less than the primary market offer, the order will be executed at one minimum variation better than the stopped price.

Sell orders will receive price improvement in a similar manner. Specifically, sell orders will be executed at the stopped price if the next primary market sale is equal to or less than the primary market bid. Sell orders will be executed at one minimum variation better than the stopped price if the next primary market sale is greater than the primary market bid or if there is no primary market sale before the expiration of the time-out period.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act [7] in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments and to perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose a burden on competition.

[1] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

[2] 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

[3] *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 35753 (May 22, 1995), 60 FR 28007 (May 26, 1995) (order approving File No. SR–CHX–95–08).

[4] *Id.*

[5] *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 36027 (July 27, 1995), 60 FR 39465 (August 2, 1995) (order approving File No. SR–CHX–95–15).

[6] CHX defines ''ITS BBO'' as the best offer or best bid available among the following exchanges: American, Boston, Cincinnati, Chicago, New York, Pacific, Philadelphia or the Intermarket Trading System/Computer Assisted Execution System (''ITS/CAES''). *See* CHX Rule 37(a), Article XX.

[7] 15 U.S.C. 78(b)(5).