SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34-64771; File No. SR-CHX-2011-14)

June 29, 2011

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Chicago Stock Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Concerning the CHX Connect Service

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 24, 2011, the Chicago Stock Exchange, Inc. ("CHX" or the "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the CHX. CHX has filed this proposal pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 19b-4(f)(6)³ which is 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>

CHX proposes to add Article 4, Rule 2 (CHX Connect) to include an explicit description of the Exchange's CHX Connect order routing service. The text of this proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's Web site at (www.chx.com) and in the Commission's Public Reference Room.

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 CHX included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule changes and discussed any comments it received regarding the proposal. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

¹ 15 U.S.C.78s(b)(1).

³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

below. The CHX 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. Purpose

New Article 4, Rule 2 describes the operation of the CHX Connect routing network.

CHX Connect is an electronic communications service owned and operated by the Exchange which allows Participants to transmit orders and related transaction information directly to any destination designated by the order sending Participant (such as an over-the-counter market maker or order-routing vendor) connected to the service without being submitted to the Exchange's trading facilities. The CHX Connect communications service was described in a rule filing made with the Commission in 2006, but which did not update the Exchange's rules. In order to remove any potential ambiguity about the nature of the Exchange's technology and communications offerings, we are now proposing to add language to our rules describing CHX Connect. The CHX Connect service has not changed in any material respect since the 2006 filing. Use of the CHX Connect service by any Exchange Participant is entirely optional and is not required to direct orders to our Matching System for execution or display.

The Exchange believes that certain order senders may have an interest in the CHX Connect service in order to efficiently route orders which cannot be accepted into the Matching System directly. For example, an order sender may have received a market order to buy a NMS security normally traded in the CHX Matching System.⁵ Since the Matching System does not

Exchange Act Release No. 54846 (Nov. 30, 2006), 71 FR 71003 (Dec. 7, 2006).

Similar examples would be All or None orders or orders in securities not traded by the Exchange.

accept market orders, the order sender cannot route that order to our trading facilities. An order sender can use the CHX Connect service to transmit that order to a destination which is also connected to the service and which accepts and executes market orders, such as an over-the-counter market maker. CHX Connect can be used to transmit order information to other destinations in any security approved by the Exchange for use within the system, including, but not limited to, securities approved for trading within the Matching System. The Exchange plays no role in determining where the order is sent.

Participants may also elect to use CHX Connect to transmit orders in an electronic format to the Exchange's Matching System, to Institutional Brokers registered with the Exchange pursuant to Article 17 of our rules, and to other destinations which are connected to the CHX's network. The Matching System will only accept orders in securities listed on the Exchange or eligible for Unlisted Trading Privileges. The Exchange believes that certain Participants may be interested in using CHX Connect to send orders to our facilities as an alternative to private order routing systems or vendors, which perform the same function. Participants may designate where an order is to be directed on a security-by-security or order-by-order basis. Instructions received on an order-by-order basis shall supersede previously-received instructions on a security-bysecurity basis. Use of the CHX Connect service is subject to the approval of the Exchange. The Exchange evaluates all potential users on an equal and non-discriminatory basis. The criteria by which potential users of the service are evaluated relate solely to preserving the security and integrity of the Exchange's systems, and to ensuring the proper formatting of messages sent via CHX Connect in generally accepted industry protocols, such as Financial Information eXchange (FIX) Protocol. The fees and charges for a subscription to the CHX Connect Service are set

forth in the Exchange's published Schedule of Fees and Assessments, and apply equally to all users of the system.⁶

This service is a facility of the Exchange. As a result, the Exchange would submit fee changes, and any applicable changes to its rules, to the Commission as required by Exchange Act Rule 19b-4 in connection with the CHX Connect service.

The Exchange would provide these routing services in compliance with its rules and with the provisions of the Exchange Act and the rules thereunder, including, but not limited to, the requirements of Sections 6(b)(4) and (5) of the Act that the rules of a national securities exchange provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among its members and issuers and other persons using its facilities, and not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers or dealers.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(1) of the Act in particular, in that it allows the Exchange to be organized and have the capacity to be able to carry out the purposes of the Act and to comply, and (subject to any rule or order of the Commission pursuant to section 17(d) or 19(g)(2) of the Act) to enforce compliance by its members and persons associated with such members, with the provisions of the Act, the rules and regulations thereunder, and the rules of the exchange. As discussed herein, CHX Connect is a communications service offered by the Exchange to its Participants to either send orders to the Matching System or to another destination of its choosing. The CHX Connect communications service was described in a rule

The Exchange charges only those Participants which receive (and not those which solely transmit) orders through the CHX Connect service. The current fee for receiving orders via CHX Connect is \$5,000 per month. See, CHX Schedule of Fees and Assessments, Section M.

filing made with the Commission in 2006, but which did not update the Exchange's rules. ⁷ In order to remove any potential ambiguity about the nature of the Exchange's technology and communications offerings, we are now proposing to add language to our rules describing CHX Connect. The CHX Connect service has not changed in any material respect since the 2006 filing. By adding a description of the nature of the CHX Connect service to the Exchange's rules, this proposal advances the purposes of the Exchange Act by providing added clarity about the nature and extent of certain services offered by the Exchange to its Participants, and thereby contributing to the ability of our members in complying with the requirements related to those services.

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. As noted above, the Exchange believes that its CHX Connect service will compete with the existing order routing networks operated by broker-dealers or other service providers. By providing Participants a means of effectively directing orders which cannot be accepted into the Matching System to a destination which can handle such orders, the Exchange is attempting to provide ready solutions to potential order senders, with the ultimate goal of maximizing order flow to the Exchange's trading facilities.

The CHX Connect service is entirely optional and Participants are not required to utilize it to send order to the Exchange or elsewhere. The Exchange notes that the routing and connectivity services of CHX Connect appear to be very similar manner to those offered by the Secure Financial Transaction Infrastructure® ("SFTI") system, which is provided by NYSE

5

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⁷ Exchange Act Release No. 54846 (Nov. 30, 2006), 71 FR 71003 (Dec. 7, 2006).

Technologies, an affiliated company of the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. By competing with SFTI and other service providers of secure connectivity among market participants, CHX Connect would offer additional options for participants looking for systems to deliver their orders.

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.

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not: (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act⁸ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.⁹

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.

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁷ CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6) requires a self-regulatory organization to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file 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. The Exchange has satisfied this requirement.

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); or
- Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number SR-CHX-2011-14 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-CHX-2011-14. 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

from publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority. 10

to File Number SR-CHX-2011-14 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days

Cathy H. Ahn Deputy Secretary

8

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