SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

(Release No. 34-63624; File No. SR-NYSEArca-2010-120)

December 30, 2010

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE Arca, Inc.; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change Relating to Listing and Trading Shares of the SPDR Nuveen S&P High Yield Municipal Bond ETF

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that, on December 21, 2010, NYSE Arca, Inc. ("Exchange" or "NYSE Arca") 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 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 Change</u>

The Exchange proposes to list and trade shares of the SPDR Nuveen S&P High Yield Municipal Bond ETF under NYSE Arca Equities Rule 5.2(j)(3), Commentary .02. The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Exchange, the Commission's Public Reference Room, and <a href="https://www.nyse.com">www.nyse.com</a>.

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 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

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

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

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>

The Exchange proposes to list and trade shares ("Shares") of the following series of the SPDR Series Trust ("Trust") under NYSE Arca Equities Rule 5.2(j)(3), Commentary .02, which governs the listing and trading of Investment Company Units ("Units"), based on the S&P Municipal Yield Index ("Index"): SPDR Nuveen S&P HighYield Municipal Bond ETF ("Fund" or "ETF").<sup>3</sup>

The SPDR Nuveen S&P High Yield Municipal Bond ETF<sup>4</sup> seeks to provide investment results that, before fees and expenses, correspond generally to the price and yield performance of

<sup>3</sup> The Commission has previously approved listing and trading of Units based on certain fixed income indexes. See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release No. 48662 (October 20, 2003), 68 FR 61535 (October 28, 2003) (SR-PCX-2003-41) (approving listing and trading pursuant to unlisted trading privileges ("UTP") of fixed income funds and the UTP trading of certain iShares® fixed income funds). In addition, the Commission has approved NYSE Arca generic listing rules for Units based on a fixed income index in Securities Exchange Act Release No. 55783 (May 17, 2007), 72 FR 29194 (May 24, 2007) (SR-NYSEArca-2007-36). The Commission has approved pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Exchange Act the listing on the American Stock Exchange ("Amex") of exchange traded funds based on fixed income indexes. See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release No. 48534 (September 24, 2003), 68 FR 56353 (September 30, 2003) (SR-Amex-2003-75) (order approving listing on Amex of eight series of iShares Lehman Bond Funds). In addition, the Commission has approved two actively managed funds of the PIMCO ETF Trust that hold municipal bonds. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 60981 (August 27, 2009) (SR-NYSEArca-2009-79) (order approving PIMCO Short-Term Municipal Bond Strategy Fund and PIMCO Intermediate Municipal Bond Strategy Fund, among others).

Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC is the Index Sponsor with respect to the Index. The Index Sponsor is not affiliated with a broker-dealer and has implemented procedures designed to prevent the use and dissemination of material, non-public information regarding the Index.

the Index, which tracks the U.S. municipal bond market, and to provide income that is exempt from regular federal income taxes.<sup>5</sup>

The Exchange is submitting this proposed rule change because the Index for the Fund does not meet all of the "generic" listing requirements of Commentary .02(a)(2) to NYSE Arca Equities Rule 5.2(j)(3) applicable to listing of Units based on US indexes. The Index meets all such requirements except for those set forth in Commentary .02(a)(2). Specifically, as of December 20, 2010, 26.47% of the weight of the Index components have a minimum principal amount outstanding of \$100 million or more.

According to the Registration Statement, the Index is designed to measure the performance of high yield municipal bonds issued by U.S. states and territories or local governments or agencies, such that interest on the securities is exempt from U.S. federal income tax, but may be subject to the alternative minimum tax and to state and local income taxes. High yield securities are generally rated below investment grade and are commonly referred to as "junk bonds." The Index is a sub-set of the Standard & Poor's/Investortools Municipal Bond Index and the Standard & Poor's/Investortools High Yield Bond Index and includes publicly issued U.S. dollar denominated, fixed rate, municipal bonds that have a remaining maturity of at least one year.

The Index consists of categories of bonds in the following proportions: (i) 70% of the Index constituents are components of the Standard & Poor's/Investortools High Yield Bond

See the Trust's registration statement on Form N-1A under the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77a) and the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a), dated February 22, 2010 (File No. 333-57793 and 811-08839) ("Registration Statement"). The description of the operation of the Trust and the Fund herein is based on the Registration Statement.

Commentary .02(a)(2) to NYSE Area Equities Rule 5.2(j)(3) provides that components that in the aggregate account for at least 75% of the weight of the index or portfolio each shall have a minimum principal amount outstanding of \$100 million or more.

Index, which are non-rated or are rated below investment grade; (ii) 20% of the Index constituents are components of the Standard & Poor's/Investortools Bond Index that are rated Baa3, Baa2, or Baa1 by Moody's Investors Service, or BBB-, BBB, or BBB+ by Standard and Poor's or Fitch; and (iii) 10% of the Index constituents are components of the Standard & Poor's/Investortools Bond Index that are rated A3, A2, or A1 by Moody's Investor Services, or A-, A, or A+ by Standard & Poor's or Fitch. Bonds that have been escrowed will not be included in the Index. Prerefunded bonds will not be included in the Index. Where the ratings assigned by the agencies are not consistent, the Index will use the middle rating if three ratings are available, and the lower of two ratings if only two ratings are available.<sup>7</sup>

As of December 20, 2010, there were approximately 21,141 issues included in the Index.

The Exchange represents that: (1) except for Commentary .02(a)(2) to NYSE Arca Equities Rule 5.2(j)(3), the Shares of the Fund currently satisfy all of the generic listing standards under NYSE Arca Equities Rule 5.2(j)(3); (2) the continued listing standards under NYSE Arca Equities Rules 5.2(j)(3) and 5.5(g)(2) applicable to Units shall apply to the Shares; and (3) the Trust is required to comply with Rule 10A-3<sup>8</sup> under the Exchange Act for the initial and continued listing of the Shares. In addition, the Exchange represents that the Shares will comply with all other requirements applicable to Units including, but not limited to, requirements relating to the dissemination of key information such as the value of the Index and

The Standard & Poor's/Investortools Municipal Bond Index is composed of bonds held by managed municipal bond fund customers of Standard & Poor's Securities Pricing, Inc. that are priced daily. Index calculations are provided by Investortools, Inc. Only bonds with total outstanding amounts of \$2,000,000 or more qualify for inclusion. The Standard and Poor's/Investortools Municipal Bond High Yield Index is comprised of all bonds in the Standard and Poor's/Investortools Municipal Bond Index that are non-rated or whose ratings are BB+ S&P and /or BA-1 Moody's or lower. This index does not contain bonds that are prerefunded or are escrowed to maturity.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> 17 CFR 240.10A-3.

Intraday Indicative Value, rules governing the trading of equity securities, trading hours, trading halts, surveillance, and the Information Bulletin to ETP Holders, as set forth in Exchange rules applicable to Units and prior Commission orders approving the generic listing rules applicable to the listing and trading of Units.<sup>9</sup>

As of December 20, 2010, there were approximately 21,141 issues included in the Index and 46.47% of the weight of the Index components was comprised of individual maturities that were part of an entire municipal bond offering with a minimum original principal amount outstanding of \$100 million or more for all maturities of the offering. In addition, the total dollar amount outstanding of issues in the Index was approximately \$532.82 billion and the average dollar amount outstanding of issues in the Index was approximately \$25.22 million. Further, the most heavily weighted component represents 0.86% of the weight of the Index and the five most heavily weighted components represent 2.52% of the weight of the Index. Therefore, the Exchange believes that, notwithstanding that the Index does not satisfy the criterion in NYSE Arca Equities Rule 5.2(j)(3), Commentary .02 (a)(2), the Index is sufficiently broad-based to deter potential manipulation, given that the Index is comprised of approximately 21,141 issues. In addition, the Index securities are sufficiently liquid to deter potential manipulation in that a substantial portion (46.47%) of the Index weight is comprised of maturities that are part of a

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See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 55783 (May 17, 2007), 72 FR 29194 (May 24, 2007) (SR-NYSEArca-2007-36) (order approving NYSE Arca generic listing standards for Units based on a fixed income index); 44551 (July 12, 2001), 66 FR 37716 (July 19, 2001) (SR-PCX-2001-14) (order approving generic listing standards for Units and Portfolio Depositary Receipts); 41983 (October 6, 1999), 64 FR 56008 (October 15, 1999) (SR-PCX-98-29) (order approving rules for listing and trading of Units).

Commentary .02(a)(4) to NYSE Arca Equities Rule 5.2(j)(3) provides that no component fixed-income security (excluding Treasury Securities and GSE Securities) shall represent more than 30% of the weight of the index or portfolio, and the five most heavily weighted component fixed-income securities in the index or portfolio shall not in the aggregate account for more than 65% of the weight of the index or portfolio.

minimum original principal amount outstanding of \$100 million or more; and in view of the substantial total dollar amount outstanding and the average dollar amount outstanding of Index issues, as referenced above.

Detailed descriptions of the Fund, the Index, procedures for creating and redeeming Shares, transaction fees and expenses, dividends, distributions, taxes, risks, and reports to be distributed to beneficial owners of the Shares can be found in the Registration Statement or on the Web site for the Fund (www.spdr.com), as applicable.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The basis under the Exchange Act for this proposed rule change is the requirement under Section 6(b)(5)<sup>11</sup> that an exchange have rules that are designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to, and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change will facilitate the listing and trading of an additional type of exchange-traded product that will enhance competition among market participants, to the benefit of investors and the marketplace. In addition, the listing and trading criteria set forth in NYSE Arca Equities Rule 5.2(j)(3) and Commentary .02 thereto are intended to protect investors and the public interest.

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

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.

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 solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

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<sup>15</sup> U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

- III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action
  Within 45 days of the date of publication of this notice in the Federal Register or
  within such longer period up to 90 days (i) as the Commission may designate if it finds such
  longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the
  self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:
  - (A) by order approve or disapprove the proposed rule change, or
  - (B) institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be 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:

### 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-NYSEArca-2010-120 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- NYSEArca-2010-120. 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 (<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 website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090 on official business days between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of the filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the Exchange's principal office. 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-

NYSEArca-2010-120 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.  $^{12}$ 

Florence E. Harmon Deputy Secretary

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