SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34-72497; File No. SR-OC-2014-03)

June 30, 2014

Self-Regulatory Organizations; OneChicago, LLC; Notice of Filing of a Proposed Rule Change to Update OCX's Rulebook for a Filing Previously Made with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(7) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"), <sup>1</sup> notice is hereby given that on June 17, 2014, OneChicago, LLC ("OneChicago," "OCX," or the "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") the proposed rule change described in Items I and II 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. OneChicago has previously filed the rule change with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC"). OneChicago filed a written certification with the CFTC under Section 5c(c) of the Commodity Exchange Act ("CEA")<sup>2</sup> on September 12, 2012.

## I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Description of the Proposed Rule Change

OneChicago is proposing to file with the SEC a Notice to Members ("NTM") that the Exchange has previously filed with the CFTC, but did not file with the SEC. OneChicago is filing the NTM with the SEC because it relates to sales practices.

On September 12, 2012, OCX filed NTM 2012-26 with the CFTC (originally filed as NTM 2012-24 on August 31, 2012, but refiled as NTM 2012-26 to make a technical amendment). NTM 2012-26 updates NTM 2010-13 by separating the issues in NTM 2012-26 (Pre-Execution Discussions and Cross Trades) from the general block trade issues discussed in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(7).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 7 U.S.C. 7a-2(c).

NTM 2010-13. NTM 2012-26 provides guidance on two issues related to trading and sales practices. First, NTM 2012-26 interprets and provides guidance on OCX Rule 614 with regard to pre-execution discussions. Second, NTM 2012-26 interprets and provides guidance on OCX Rules 409 and 610 with regard to cross trades.

### **Pre-Execution Discussions**

OCX Rule 614 prohibits market participants from entering any Order into the

OneChicago System which has been pre-arranged, except as expressly permitted by Rules 416

and 417 or in accordance with any policies or procedures for pre-execution discussions from

time to time adopted by the Exchange. NTM 2012-26 establishes such a pre-execution

discussion policy. Specifically, NTM 2012-26 permits market participants to engage in preexecution discussions pursuant to which one party may agree in advance to take the opposite side

of the other party's Order for a transaction to be executed on the Exchange.

NTM 2012-26 then lays out three conditions which, if applicable, must be met in order for a pre-execution discussion to comply with the NTM. First, customers of each party engaging in a pre-execution discussion must consent to allow pre-execution discussions with other market participants. Second, any market participant who is solicited to participate in an OCX transaction through pre-execution discussions shall not (i) disclose to any other party the details of such discussions, or (ii) enter an order or quote through the Exchange to take advantage of information conveyed during such discussions. Finally, for any non-bilateral trade conducted on the Exchange pursuant to a pre-execution discussion, a period of four seconds must elapse between entering the first order or quote and entering the second order for the opposite side.

#### **Cross Trades**

OCX Rule 409 states that the Exchange may from time to time adopt procedures to

facilitate the crossing of Orders through the OneChicago System. OCX Rule 610 lays out the requirements for market participants executing customers' orders, and more specifically, explains that customers' orders are treated with higher priority than proprietary orders.

NTM 2012-26 expands upon OCX Rules 409 and 610 and permits the crossing of Orders so long as one side of the trade is entered into the OneChicago System at least four seconds before the opposite side. In addition, if the market participant crossing the Orders is taking the opposite side of a customer Order, that market participant must enter the customer's side of the trade into the OneChicago System first.

The NTM then goes on to add that market participants shall not be in violation of either OCX Rule 409 or OCX Rule 610 if no Person on whose behalf the orders are being crossed has knowledge of the other side's Order and there is no coordination or prearrangement of the cross trade. In such a circumstance, both sides of the trade are responsible for demonstrating to OCX staff that neither side had knowledge of the other's Order.

The NTM is attached as <u>Exhibit 4</u> to the filing submitted by the Exchange, but is not attached to the published notice of the filing.

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, OneChicago 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. <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 OneChicago's filing is to update the OCX Rulebook to account for a filing OneChicago has previously made with the CFTC, but has not made concurrently with the SEC. Specifically, the purpose of the NTM is to clarify the obligations of market participants regarding pre-execution discussions and cross trades, and to require that certain conditions are met in order to engage in pre-execution discussions or cross trades.

The purpose of the pre-execution discussion section in NTM 2012-26 is to explain to market participants how a pre-execution discussion may be effected within the bounds of OCX Rule 614. The NTM lays out three conditions that must be met in order to engage in a pre-execution discussion. These three conditions have been imposed for two purposes: (1) to protect customers, and (2) to preserve the integrity of OCX's markets. Regarding customer protection, market participants engaging in pre-execution discussions on behalf of customers must receive consent from their customers to engage in such discussions. This requirement ensures that customers are aware of the method by which their Orders are being executed. With regard to preserving the integrity of OCX's markets, market participants are prohibited from entering any Order on the basis of information gained through a pre-execution discussion. This prohibition preserves market integrity by ensuring that market participants are not trading on the basis of non-public information that is not freely available.

The purpose of the cross trade section in NTM 2012-26 is to explain to market participants how a cross trade may be effected within the bounds of OCX Rule 409 and 610. The NTM preserves market integrity be requiring cross trades to be exposed to market risk for a period of at least four seconds. This delay ensures that the trade to be crossed has the chance to execute competitively with other market participants. Additionally, the four second delay rule

requires market participants to enter the customer side of the trade (if the market participant is taking the opposite side of a customer order) first, allowing the customer to be executed against a third party market participant. This requirement ensures that customers receive fair and reasonable prices for their trades.

# 2. <u>Statutory Basis</u>

OneChicago believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>3</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>4</sup> in particular in that it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in facilitating transactions in securities, and to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

NTM 2012-26 promotes just and equitable principles of trade and fosters cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in facilitating transactions in securities by explaining the method by which these market participants may engage in two distinct trading practices that are permitted by the Exchange. The NTM sets forth requirements for market participants effecting pre-execution discussions and cross trades. The Exchange also believes that the rule change benefits investors and market participants because it enhances customer protection and helps preserve the integrity of OCX's market.

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

OneChicago does not believe that the rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange believes

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78(f)(b)(5).

that the proposed rule change is equitable and promotes the principles of trade because it is designed to prevent manipulative acts and protect investors. Additionally, all of the conditions to engage in pre-execution discussions and cross trades apply equally to all market participants and are not enforced in a discriminatory manner.

C. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others</u>

Comments on the OneChicago proposed rule change have not been solicited and none have been received.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action
 OneChicago filed the proposed rule change with the CFTC on September 12, 2012.
 OneChicago did not file the proposed rule change concurrently with the SEC. Instead,
 OneChicago filed the proposed rule change on June 17, 2014.<sup>5</sup>

At any time within 60 days of the date of effectiveness<sup>6</sup> of the proposed rule change, the Commission, after consultation with the CFTC, may summarily abrogate the proposed rule change and require that the proposed rule change be refiled in accordance with the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) of the Act.<sup>7</sup>

# IV. Solicitation of Comments

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Section 19(b)(7)(B) of the Act provides that a proposed rule change filed with the SEC pursuant to section 19(b)(7)(A) of the Act shall be filed concurrently with the CFTC.

Section 19(b)(7)(C) of the Act provides, <u>inter alia</u>, that "[a]ny proposed rule change of a self-regulatory organization that has taken effect pursuant to [Section 19(b)(7)(B) of the Act] may be enforced by such self-regulatory organization to the extent such rule is not inconsistent with the provisions of this title, the rules and regulations thereunder, and applicable Federal law."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

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 (<a href="http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml">http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</a>); or
- Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number SR-OC-2014-03 on the subject line.

# Paper comments:

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

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-OC-2014-03. 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, 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 offices 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-OC-2014-03, 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.  $^8$ 

Jill M. Peterson Assistant Secretary

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<sup>8 17</sup> CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).