

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-97693; File No. SR-LTSE-2023-01)

June 9, 2023

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Long-Term Stock Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing of Amendment No. 2 and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of a Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Amendment Nos. 1 and 2, to Establish Listing Standards Related to Recovery of Erroneously Awarded Incentive-Based Executive Compensation

I. Introduction

On February 27, 2023, Long-Term Stock Exchange, Inc. (“LTSE” or the “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² a proposed rule change to amend LTSE Rule 14.207(f) to establish listing standards for the recovery of erroneously awarded compensation, as required by Rule 10D-1 under the Act (“Rule 10D-1”). On March 10, 2023, the Exchange filed Amendment No. 1 to the proposed rule change, which replaced and superseded the proposed rule change as originally filed. The proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment No. 1, was published for comment in the Federal Register on March 17, 2023.³ On April 24, 2023, the Commission extended the time period within which to approve the proposed rule change, disapprove the proposed rule change, or institute proceedings to determine whether to approve or disapprove the proposed rule change.⁴ On June 8, 2023, the Exchange filed partial Amendment No. 2 to the proposed rule

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 97123 (March 13, 2023), 88 FR 16487 (“Notice”). No comments were received in response to this Notice.

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 97365, 88 FR 26349 (April 28, 2023).

change.⁵ The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment Nos. 1 and 2, from interested persons and is approving the proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment Nos. 1 and 2, on an accelerated basis.

II. Background and Description of the Proposal, as Modified by Amendment Nos. 1 and 2

On October 26, 2022, the Commission adopted final Rule 10D-1⁶ to implement Section 954 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (“Dodd-Frank Act”), which added Section 10D to the Act. Section 10D of the Act requires the Commission to adopt rules directing the national securities exchanges to prohibit the listing of any security of an issuer that is not in compliance with the requirements of Section 10D of the Act. Rule 10D-1 requires national securities exchanges that list securities to establish listing standards that require each issuer to adopt and comply with a written executive compensation recovery policy and to provide the disclosures required by Rule 10D-1 and in the applicable Commission filings.⁷

⁵ Amendment No. 2 is available on the Commission’s website at <https://www.sec.gov/comments/sr-ltse-2023-01/srltse202301-202019-404742.pdf>. In Amendment No. 2, the Exchange amends proposed LTSE Rule 14.207(f)(10) to (i) provide that the effective date of LTSE Rule 14.207(f) would be October 2, 2023; (ii) clarify, consistent with the requirements of Rule 10D-1 and the rule language as originally proposed, that each listed issuer is required to comply with its recovery policy for all incentive-based compensation received (as such term is defined in proposed LTSE Rule 14.207(f)(1)) by executive officers on or after October 2, 2023; and (iii) clarify, consistent with the language of Rule 10D-1, that notwithstanding the look-back requirements in LTSE Rule 14.207(f), a company is only required to apply the recovery policy to incentive-based executive compensation received on or after the effective date.

⁶ 17 CFR 240.10D-1.

⁷ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 96159, 87 FR 73076 (November 28, 2022) (“Adopting Release”). Rule 10D-1 requires such exchange listing rules to be effective no later than one year after November 28, 2022. Rule 10D-1 further requires that each listed issuer: (i) adopt the required recovery policy no later than 60 days following the effective date of the listing standard; (ii) comply with the recovery policy for all incentive-based compensation received by executive officers on or after the effective date of the applicable listing standard; and (iii) provide the required disclosures on or after the

Under Rule 10D-1, listed companies must recover from current and former executive officers incentive-based compensation received during the three completed fiscal years preceding the date on which the issuer is required to prepare an accounting restatement.

As required by Rule 10D-1, the Exchange proposed to amend LTSE Rule 14.207, Obligations for Companies Listed on the Exchange, paragraph (f), to establish listing standards for the recovery of erroneously awarded compensation. Proposed LTSE Rule 14.207(f), entitled “Recovery of Erroneously Awarded Compensation to Executive Officers” (the “Rule”), incorporates the requirements of Rule 10D-1. Specifically, the Rule would require companies⁸ to adopt a compensation recovery policy, comply with that policy, and provide the compensation recovery policy disclosures required by the Rule and in the applicable Commission filings.⁹

Proposed LTSE Rule 14.207(f)(2) sets forth the requirements for companies to adopt, implement and disclose a recovery policy for incentive-based execution compensation. Specifically, Proposed LTSE Rule 14.207(f)(2)(A) would require that each company that lists its securities on the Exchange must adopt and comply with a written policy providing that the company will recover reasonably promptly the amount of erroneously awarded incentive-based compensation to any executive officer in the event that the company is required to prepare an accounting restatement due to material non-compliance of the company with any financial reporting requirement under the securities laws, including any required accounting restatement to correct an error in previously issued financial statements that is material to the previously issued

effective date of the listing standard.

⁸ For purposes of this order, “companies” or “company” refers to the issuer of a security listed or an issuer who is applying to list on the Exchange. See, e.g., LTSE Rule 14.002(a)(5).

⁹ The Exchange proposes to reposition the current text of paragraph (f) of LTSE Rule 14.207 (Obligation to Pay Fees) into new paragraph (g) of Rule 14.207.

financial statements, or that would result in a material misstatement if the error were corrected in the current period or left uncorrected in the current period.

Proposed LTSE Rule 14.207(f)(2)(B) would require that each company listed on the Exchange disclose its written recovery policy related to the recovery of erroneously awarded compensation as part of its reporting obligations to the Commission, as an exhibit to its Annual Report, and to the Exchange. A company applying for initial listing must include its written recovery policy as part of its listing application.

Proposed LTSE Rule 14.207(f)(3) would provide that the company's recovery policy must apply to all incentive-based compensation received by a person: (A) after beginning service as an executive officer of the company; (B) who served as an executive officer at any time during the performance period for that incentive-based compensation; (C) while the company had a class of securities listed on a national securities exchange or a national securities association; and (D) during the three completed fiscal years immediately preceding the date that the company is required to prepare an accounting restatement as described in paragraph (f) the Rule.¹⁰ A company's obligation to recover erroneously awarded compensation is not dependent on if or when the restated financial statements are filed.

Proposed 14.207(f)(4) would provide that, for purposes of determining the relevant recovery period, the date that a company is required to prepare an accounting restatement as described in the Rule is the earlier to occur of: (A) the date the company's board of directors, a

¹⁰ In addition to the last three completed fiscal years, the recovery policy must apply to any transition period (that results from a change in the company's fiscal year) within or immediately following those three completed fiscal years. However, a transition period between the last day of the company's previous fiscal year end and the first day of its new fiscal year that comprises a period of nine to 12 months would be deemed a completed fiscal year.

committee of the board of directors, or the officer or officers of the company authorized to take such action if board action is not required, concludes, or reasonably should have concluded, that the company is required to prepare an accounting restatement as described in the Rule; or (B) the date a court, regulator, or other legally authorized body directs the company to prepare an accounting restatement as described in the Rule.

Proposed LTSE Rule 14.207(f)(5) sets forth requirements for determining the amount of incentive-based compensation subject to the company's recover policy. Subparagraph (A) states that the amount of incentive-based compensation that must be subject to the company's recovery policy ("erroneously awarded compensation") is the amount of incentive-based compensation received that exceeds the amount of incentive-based compensation that otherwise would have been received had it been determined based on the restated amounts, and must be computed without regard to any taxes paid. Subparagraph (B) states that, for incentive-based compensation based on stock price or total shareholder return, where the amount of erroneously awarded compensation is not subject to mathematical recalculation directly from the information in an accounting restatement: (i) the amount must be based on a reasonable estimate of the effect of the accounting restatement on the stock price or total shareholder return upon which the incentive-based compensation was received; and (ii) the company must maintain documentation of the determination of that reasonable estimate and provide such documentation to the Exchange.

Proposed LTSE Rule 14.207(f)(6) sets forth certain exceptions to the requirement to recover erroneously awarded compensation. Proposed LTSE Rule 14.207(f)(6) would provide that companies must recover erroneously awarded compensation in compliance with its recovery policy except to the extent that one of the conditions set forth below is met and the company's

Compensation Committee, or in the absence of such a committee, a majority of the independent directors serving on the board, has made a determination that recovery would be impracticable.

- The direct expense paid to a third party to assist in enforcing the policy would exceed the amount to be recovered. Before concluding that it would be impracticable to recover any amount of erroneously awarded compensation based on expense of enforcement, the company must make a reasonable attempt to recover such erroneously awarded compensation, document such reasonable attempt(s) to recover, and provide that documentation to the Exchange.
- Recovery would violate home country law where that law was adopted prior to November 28, 2022. Before concluding that it would be impracticable to recover any amount of erroneously awarded compensation based on violation of home country law, the company must obtain an opinion of home country counsel, acceptable to the Exchange, that recovery would result in such a violation, and must provide such opinion to the Exchange.
- Recovery would likely cause an otherwise tax-qualified retirement plan, under which benefits are broadly available to employees of the registrant, to fail to meet the requirements of 26 U.S.C. 401(a)(13) or 26 U.S.C. 411(a) and regulations thereunder.

Proposed LTSE Rule 14.207(f)(7) would provide that a company is prohibited from indemnifying any executive officer or former executive officer against the loss of erroneously awarded compensation.

Proposed LTSE Rule 14.207(f)(8) would provide that companies are required to file all disclosures with respect to their recovery policy in accordance with the requirements of the

federal securities laws, including the disclosure required by applicable Commission filings, and the rules of the Exchange.

Proposed LTSE Rule 14.207(f)(9) would provide that the requirements of the Rule do not apply to the listing of any security issued by a unit investment trust as defined in 15 U.S.C 80a-4(2) and any security issued by a management company as defined in 15 U.S.C. 80(a)-4(3) that is registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-8) if such management company has not awarded incentive-based compensation to any executive officer of the company in any of the last three fiscal years or, in the case of a company that has been listed less than three fiscal years, since the listing of the company.

Proposed LTSE Rule 14.207(f)(1) would provide that, unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions apply for purposes of the Rule (and only for purposes of LTSE Rule 14.207(f)):

- *Executive Officer*: An executive officer is the company's president, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer (or if there is no such accounting officer, the controller), any vice-president of the company in charge of a principal business unit, division, or function (such as sales, administration, or finance), any other officer who performs a policy-making function, or any other person who performs similar policy-making functions for the company. Executive officers of the company's parent(s) or subsidiaries are deemed executive officers of the company if they perform such policy making functions for the company. In addition, when the company is a limited partnership, officers or employees of the general partner(s) who perform policy-making functions for the limited partnership are deemed officers of the limited partnership.

When the company is a trust, officers, or employees of the trustee(s) who perform policy-

making functions for the trust are deemed officers of the trust. Policy-making function is not intended to include policy-making functions that are not significant. Identification of an executive officer for purposes of the Rule would include at a minimum executive officers identified pursuant to 17 CFR 229.401(b).

- *Financial reporting measures:* Financial reporting measures are those that are determined and presented in accordance with the accounting principles used in preparing the company's financial statements, and any measures that are derived wholly or in part from such measures. Stock price and total shareholder return are also financial reporting measures. A financial reporting measure need not be presented within the financial statements or included in a filing with the Commission.
- *Incentive-based compensation:* Incentive-based compensation is any compensation that is granted, earned, or vested based wholly or in part upon the attainment of a financial reporting measure.
- *Received:* Incentive-based compensation is deemed received in the company's fiscal period during which the financial reporting measure specified in the incentive-based compensation award is attained, even if the payment or grant of the incentive-based compensation occurs after the end of that period.

Proposed LTSE Rule 14.207(f)(10) would provide that the effective date of the Rule ("effective date") is October 2, 2023, and that each company is required to (i) adopt a policy governing the recovery of erroneously awarded compensation as required by the Rule no later than 60 days following October 2, 2023; (ii) comply with its recovery policy for all incentive-based compensation received (as such term is defined in Rule 14.207(f)(1)) by executive officers on or after October 2, 2023; and (iii) provide the disclosures required by the Rule and in the

applicable Commission filings on or after October 2, 2023.¹¹ Proposed LTSE Rule 14.701(f)(10) also states that notwithstanding the look-back requirement in proposed Rule 14.207(f), a company is only required to apply the recovery policy to incentive-based compensation received on or after October 2, 2023.¹²

LTSE also proposes an additional clarifying change to LTSE Rule 14.203 (Prerequisites for Applying to List on the Exchange) to make clear that any company applying to list on LTSE must comply with the requirements of proposed LTSE Rule 14.207(f).¹³

LTSE states that the new requirements described above will help foster effective oversight of executive compensation and provide increased accountability and transparency to investors by not allowing executive officers to retain compensation that they were awarded erroneously.¹⁴

As described above, Rule 10D-1 requires national securities exchanges to prohibit the initial or continued listing of any security of an issuer not in compliance with its rules adopted to

¹¹ See Amendment No. 2, supra note 5. In support of proposing an effective date of October 2, 2023, the Exchange states it believes this is consistent with Section 10D “and the goal of implementing the proposed rule promptly while also being consistent with the expectations of listed issuers that the proposed rules would take effect a year after the adoption of SEC Rule 10D-1 based on the issuers’ understanding of a statement made . . . in the Adopting Release.” See id.

¹² See Amendment No. 2, supra note 5. As described above, a LTSE listed company would have to comply with its recovery policy for all incentive-based compensation received by executive officers on or after the effective date of the applicable listing standard (i.e. LTSE Rule 14.207(f)). Incentive-based compensation that is the subject of a compensation contract or arrangement that existed prior to the effective date of Rule 10D-1 would still be subject to recovery under the Exchange’s rule if such compensation was received after the effective date of the Rule, as required by Rule 10D-1. See Adopting Release, supra note 6, and also definitions of “incentive based compensation” and “received” in proposed LTSE Rule 14.207(f)(1).

¹³ See proposed LTSE Rule 14.203(j). See also Notice, supra note 3, 88 FR at 16487.

¹⁴ See Notice, supra note 3, 88 FR at 16490.

comply with Rule 10D-1. LTSE proposes therefore to require that a company will be subject to delisting if it does not adopt a compensation recovery policy that complies with the applicable listing standard, disclose the policy in accordance with Commission rules or comply with its recovery policy. LTSE states that the process for a company that fails to comply with proposed LTSE Rule 14.207(f) will follow the established pattern used for similar corporate governance deficiencies.¹⁵ Specifically, LTSE proposes to amend LTSE Rule 14.501(d)(2)(A)(iii) to provide that a company that fails to comply with proposed LTSE Rule 14.207(f) may submit to LTSE Regulation¹⁶ a plan to regain compliance and, consistent with its process for similar corporate governance deficiencies, LTSE Staff¹⁷ may, after review of the compliance plan, provide the issuer up to 180 days to cure the deficiency.¹⁸ LTSE Rule 14.501(d)(2)(B) further provides that notifications of deficiencies that allow for submission of a compliance plan may also result, after review of the compliance plan, in issuance of a Staff Delisting Determination or a Public Reprimand Letter. However, LTSE proposes to amend LTSE Rules 14.501(a)(4), 14.501(d)(4), and 14.502(b)(1)(C) to provide that a Public Reprimand Letter may not be issued for violations of proposed LTSE Rule 14.207(f) or of a listing standard required by Rule 10D-1 or upon appeal of such violations.¹⁹ If LTSE Staff provides the issuer with a period to cure the deficiency, and if

¹⁵ See id.

¹⁶ LTSE Rule 1.160(u) defines the term “LTSE Regulation” as “the department of LTSE or designated employees of LTSE that supervise, administer, or perform the regulatory functions of LTSE, including the administration of any regulatory services agreements with another self-regulatory organization to which LTSE is a party.”

¹⁷ LTSE Rule 14.500(b)(6) defines the term “Staff” as employees of LTSE Regulation.

¹⁸ See LTSE Rule 14.501(d)(2)(B).

¹⁹ LTSE also proposes to amend the definition of “Public Reprimand Letter” in Rule 14.500(b)(5) to provide that a Public Reprimand Letter may not be issued for violations of a listing standard required by Rule 10D-1. Under the existing definition in LTSE Rule 14.500(b)(5), Public Reprimand Letters can be issued for violations of LTSE corporate

the issuer does not regain compliance within the time period provided, LTSE Staff would be required to issue a Staff Delisting Determination,²⁰ which the issuer could appeal to the Listings Review Committee, as provided in LTSE Rule 14.502. The Listings Review Committee could allow the issuer up to an additional 180 days to cure the deficiency.²¹

III. Discussion and Commission Findings

After careful review, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment Nos. 1 and 2, is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to a national securities exchange.²² In particular, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act.²³ Specifically, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,²⁴ which requires, among other things, that the rules of a national securities exchange be 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 a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest, and are not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers. In addition, the Commission finds that the proposed rule

governance or notification listing standards except for violations of a listing standard required by Rule 10A-3 of the Act.

²⁰ See LTSE Rule 14.501(d)(2)(E).

²¹ See LTSE Rule 14.502(b).

²² 15 U.S.C. 78f(b). In approving this proposed rule change, the Commission has considered the proposed rule change's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

²³ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

²⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

change is consistent with Section 6(b)(7) of the Act,²⁵ which requires, among other things, that the rules of a national securities exchange provide a fair procedure for the prohibition or limitation by the exchange of any person with respect to access to services offered by the exchange. The proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment Nos. 1 and 2, is also consistent with Section 10D of the Act²⁶ and Rule 10D-1 thereunder, as further described below.²⁷

The development and enforcement of meaningful listing standards for a national securities exchange is of substantial importance to financial markets and the investing public. Meaningful listing standards are especially important given investor expectations regarding the nature of companies that have achieved an exchange listing for their securities, and the role of an exchange in overseeing its market and assuring compliance with its listing standards.²⁸ The corporate governance standards embodied in the listing rules of national securities exchanges, in particular, play an important role in assuring that companies listed for trading on the exchanges' markets observe good governance practices, including a fair approach and greater accountability for the recovery of erroneously awarded compensation.²⁹

²⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78(b)(7).

²⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78j-4.

²⁷ 17 CFR 240.10D-1.

²⁸ See, e.g., Securities Exchange Release Nos. 65708 (November 8, 2011), 76 FR 70799 70802 (November 15, 2011) (SR-NASDAQ-2011-073); 63607 (December 23, 2010), 75 FR 82420, 82422 (December 30, 2010) (SR-NASDAQ-2010-137); 57785 (May 6, 2008), 73 FR 27597, 27599 (May 13, 2008) (SR-NYSE-2008-17); and 93256 (October 4, 2021), 86 FR 56338 (October 8, 2021) (SR-NASDAQ-2021-007).

²⁹ See, e.g., Securities Exchange Release No. 68639 (January 11, 2013), 78 FR 4570, 4579 (January 22, 2013) (SR-NYSE-2012-49) (stating, in connection with the modification of exchange rules for compensation committees of listed issuers to comply with Rule 10C-1 of the Act, that corporate governance listing standards “play an important role in assuring that companies listed for trading on the exchanges’ markets observe good governance

In enacting Section 10D of the Act,³⁰ Congress resolved to require national securities exchanges to establish listing standards to require listed issuers to develop and comply with a policy to recover incentive-based compensation erroneously awarded on the basis of financial information that requires an accounting restatement.³¹ In October 2022, as required by this legislation, the Commission adopted Rule 10D-1 under the Act, which directs the national securities exchanges to establish listing standards that require issuers to: (i) develop and comply with written policies for recovery of incentive-based compensation based on financial information required to be reported under the securities laws, applicable to the issuers' executive officers, during the three completed fiscal years immediately preceding the date that the issuer is required to prepare an accounting restatement; and (ii) disclose those compensation recovery policies in accordance with Commission rules. In response, the Exchange has filed the proposed rule change, which includes rules intended to comply with the requirements of Rule 10D-1.

practices, including a reasoned, fair, and impartial approach for determining the compensation of corporate executives” and stating that the proposal would foster “greater transparency, accountability and objectivity” in oversight of compensation practices.).

³⁰ Pub. L. No. 111-203, § 954, 124 Stat. 1376, 1904 (2010) (codified at 15 U.S.C. 78j-4).

³¹ As a part of the Dodd-Frank Act legislative process, in a 2010 report, the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs stated that it is “unfair to shareholders for corporations to allow executive officers to retain compensation that they were awarded erroneously.” See Report of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, S.3217, Report No. 111-176 at 135- 36 (Apr. 30, 2010) (“Senate Report”) at 135. See also Adopting Release, supra note 7, 87 FR at 73077 (citing to the Senate Report) (“The language and legislative history of the Dodd-Frank Act make clear that Section 10D is premised on the notion that an executive officer should not retain incentive-based compensation that, had the issuer’s accounting been correct in the first instance, would not have been received by the executive officer, regardless of any fault of the executive officer for the accounting errors. The Senate Report also indicates that shareholders should not ‘have to embark on costly legal expenses to recoup their losses’ and that ‘executives must return monies that should belong to the shareholders.’”).

The Exchange’s proposed LTSE Rule 14.207(f) incorporates the requirements of Rule 10D-1. The Commission believes that the Exchange’s proposal will foster greater fairness, accountability, and transparency to shareholders of listed issuers by advancing the recovery of incentive-based compensation that was erroneously awarded on the basis of financial information that requires an accounting restatement, consistent with Section 10D of the Act³² and Rule 10D-1 thereunder,³³ and will therefore further the protection of investors consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act.³⁴ In addition, as the Commission stated in the Adopting Release, the recovery requirements may provide executive officers with an increased incentive to take steps to reduce the likelihood of inadvertent misreporting and will reduce the financial benefits to executive officers who choose to pursue impermissible accounting methods, which can further discourage such behavior.³⁵ The Commission believes that these benefits of the Exchange’s new rules on the recovery of erroneously awarded compensation will protect investors and the public interest as required under Section 6(b)(5) of the Act.

Rule 10D-1 and proposed LTSE Rule 14.207(f) require that a listed issuer recover the amount of erroneously awarded incentive-based compensation “reasonably promptly.” The Adopting Release stated that whether an issuer is acting reasonably promptly “will depend on the particular facts and circumstances applicable to that issuer” and “the final rules do not restrict exchanges from adopting more prescriptive approaches to the timing and method of recovery

³² 15 U.S.C. 78j-4.

³³ 17 CFR 240.10D-1.

³⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

³⁵ See Adopting Release, *supra* note 7. See also Notice, *supra* note 3, 88 FR at 16490, agreeing with the Commission’s statement on the benefits of the recovery policy.

under their rules in compliance with Section 19(b) of the Exchange Act”³⁶ Rule 10D-1 also does not compel the exchanges to adopt a more prescriptive approach to the timing and method of recovery. In its Notice, LTSE stated that “the [c]ompany’s obligation to recover erroneously awarded incentive-based compensation reasonably promptly will be assessed on a holistic basis with respect to each such accounting restatement prepared by the [c]ompany” and that “[i]n evaluating whether the [c]ompany is recovering erroneously-awarded executive compensation reasonably promptly, the Exchange will consider whether the [c]ompany is pursuing the appropriate balance of cost and speed in determining the appropriate means to seek recovery, and whether the [c]ompany is securing recovery through means that are appropriate based on the particular facts and circumstances of each executive officer that owes a recoverable amount.”³⁷ The Commission believes this guidance provided by the Exchange is consistent with the Commission’s statements regarding when an issuer is acting “reasonably promptly” as expressed in the Adopting Release, with Rule 10D-1 and with the Act.³⁸

Rule 10D-1 requires issuers subject to the listing standards to adopt a recovery policy no later than 60 days following the date on which the applicable listing standards become effective and to comply with their recovery policy, and provide the required disclosures, on or after the effective date. The Exchange, in Amendment No. 2, is proposing that the effective date of Rule 14.207(f) be October 2, 2023.³⁹ The Exchange believes that setting this date as the effective date

³⁶ See Adopting Release, supra note 7, 87 FR at 73104. For example, the Commission stated that after the exchanges have observed issuer performance they can use any resulting data to assess the need for further guidelines to ensure prompt and effective recovery. See id.

³⁷ See Notice, supra note 3, 88 FR at 16489.

³⁸ See Adopting Release, supra note 7, 87 FR 73104.

³⁹ See proposed LTSE Rule 14.207(f)(10). See also Amendment No. 2, supra note 5.

will ensure that issuers have more than a year from the date Rule 10D-1 was published in the Federal Register to adopt recovery policies.⁴⁰ This is consistent with language in Rule 10D-1 and the Adopting Release, while also ensuring prompt implementation of this proposed rule.

With respect to a listed issuer that fails to comply with proposed LTSE Rule 14.207(f), the Exchange has proposed to apply its current procedures applicable to companies with similar corporate governance deficiencies in addition to prohibiting the use of a Public Reprimand Letter for violations of a listing standard required by Rule 10D-1.⁴¹ The Commission believes that these procedures for listed issuers out of compliance with proposed LTSE Rule 14.207(f), which are consistent with the procedures for similar corporate governance deficiencies, adequately meet the mandate of Rule 10D-1 and are consistent with investor protection and the public interest, since they give a listed issuer a reasonable time period to cure non-compliance with these important requirements before the listed issuer will be delisted while helping to ensure that listed issuers that are non-compliant will not remain listed for an inappropriate amount of time. Additionally, the proposed delisting process, including the cure period and the right to appeal a delisting determination to the Exchange's Listings Review Committee, is consistent with Section 6(b)(7) of the Act in that it provides a fair procedure for the review of delisting determinations based on violations of the Exchange's rules for recovering erroneous compensation.

⁴⁰ Listed issuers will need to have their recovery policy in place no later than 60 days following the effective date of October 2, 2023, which would be more than a year after publication of Rule 10D-1 in the Federal Register. Listed issuers will also have to comply with their recovery policy for all incentive-based compensation received by executive officers on or after the effective date of October 2, 2023, and provide the required disclosures in the applicable Commission filings on or after the effective date of October 2, 2023. See Adopting Release, supra note 6, and also definitions of "incentive-based compensation" and "received" in proposed Rule 14.201(f)(1). See also supra notes 11-12 and accompanying text.

⁴¹ See supra notes 15-21 and accompanying text.

IV. Solicitation of Comments on Amendment No. 2 to the Proposed Rule Change

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning whether the proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment Nos. 1 and 2, is consistent with the Exchange Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments:

- Use the Commission's internet comment form (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include file number SR-LTSE-2023-01 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-LTSE-2023-01. This file number should be included on the subject line if email 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 (<https://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 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should

submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection. All submissions should refer to file number SR-LTSE-2023-01, and should be submitted on or before [INSERT DATE 21 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

V. Accelerated Approval of Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Amendment Nos. 1 and 2

The Commission finds good cause to approve the proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment Nos. 1 and 2, prior to the thirtieth day after the date of publication of notice of the filing of Amendment No. 2 in the Federal Register. In Amendment No. 2, the Exchange amended the proposal to (i) propose that the effective date of LTSE Rule 14.207(f) be October 2, 2023; (ii) clarify, consistent with the requirements of Rule 10D-1 and the rule language as originally proposed, that each listed issuer is required to comply with its recovery policy for all incentive-based compensation received (as such term is defined in proposed 14.207(f)(1)) by executive officers on or after October 2, 2023; and (iii) clarify, consistent with the language of Rule 10D-1, that notwithstanding the look-back requirements in LTSE Rule 14.207(f), a company is only required to apply the recovery policy to incentive-based executive compensation received on or after the effective date.⁴² The changes in Amendment No. 2 provide greater clarity to the proposal. In addition, the change to the effective date of the listing standards is consistent with Rule 10D-1 and language in the Adopting Release. The additional clarifications to Rule 14.207(f)(10) will ensure that the requirements of that Rule conform to the requirements of Rule 10D-1. Accordingly, the Commission finds good cause, pursuant to

⁴² See Amendment No. 2, supra note 5.

Section 19(b)(2) of the Exchange Act,⁴³ to approve the proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment Nos. 1 and 2, on an accelerated basis.

VI. Conclusion

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,⁴⁴ that the proposed rule change (SR-LTSE-2023-01), as modified by Amendment Nos. 1 and 2, be, and hereby is, approved on an accelerated basis.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.⁴⁵

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary

⁴³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

⁴⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

⁴⁵ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).