

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-98733; File No. SR-PEARL-2023-52)

October 12, 2023

Self-Regulatory Organizations; MIAX PEARL, LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Amend the MIAX Pearl Options Fee Schedule for Purge Ports

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 29, 2023, MIAX PEARL, LLC (“MIAX Pearl” or “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III 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. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend the MIAX Pearl Options Exchange Fee Schedule (the “Fee Schedule”) to amend fees for MIAX Express Network (“MEO”)³ Purge Ports (“Purge Ports”).⁴

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s website at <https://www.miaxglobal.com/markets/us-options/pearl-options/rule-filings> at MIAX Pearl’s principal office, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ “MEO Interface” or “MEO” means a binary order interface for certain order types as set forth in Rule 516 into the MIAX Pearl System. See the Definitions Section of the Fee Schedule and Exchange Rule 100.

⁴ The proposed fee change is based on a recent proposal by Nasdaq Phlx LLC (“Phlx”) to adopt fees for purge ports. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 97825 (June 30, 2023), 88 FR 43405 (July 7, 2023) (SR-Phlx-2023-28).

I. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange 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 Exchange 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 is proposing to amend the fees for Purge Ports, which is a function enabling the Exchange’s two types of Members⁵, Market Makers⁶ and Electronic Exchange Members⁷ (“EEMs”), to cancel all open orders or a subset of open orders through a single cancel message. The Exchange currently provides Members the option to purchase Purge Ports to assist in their quoting activity. Purge Ports provide Members with the ability to send purge messages to the Exchange System.⁸ Purge Ports are not capable of sending or receiving any other type of messages or information. The use of Purge Ports is completely optional and no rule or regulation

⁵ The term “Member” means an individual or organization that is registered with the Exchange pursuant to Chapter II of Exchange Rules for purposes of trading on the Exchange as an “Electronic Exchange Member” or “Market Maker.” Members are deemed “members” under the Exchange Act. See the Definitions Section of the Fee Schedule and Exchange Rule 100.

⁶ The term “Market Maker” or “MM” means a Member registered with the Exchange for the purpose of making markets in options contracts traded on the Exchange and that is vested with the rights and responsibilities specified in Chapter VI of the Exchange Rules. See the Definitions Section of the Fee Schedule and Exchange Rule 100.

⁷ The term “Electronic Exchange Member” or “EEM” means the holder of a Trading Permit who is a Member representing as agent Public Customer Orders or Non-Customer Orders on the Exchange and those non-Market Maker Members conducting proprietary trading. Electronic Exchange Members are deemed “members” under the Exchange Act. See the Definitions Section of the Fee Schedule and Exchange Rule 100.

⁸ The term “System” means the automated trading system used by the Exchange for the trading of securities. See Exchange Rule 100.

requires that a Market Maker utilize them.

Unlike other options exchanges that charge fees for Purge Ports on a per port basis,⁹ the Exchange assesses a flat fee of \$750 per month, regardless of the number of Purge Ports. Today, a Market Maker may request and be allocated two (2) Purge Ports per Matching Engine to which it connects and not all Members connect to all Matching Engines. The Exchange now proposes to amend the fee for Purge Ports to align more with other exchanges who charge on a per port basis by providing two (2) Purge Ports per Matching Engine for a monthly flat fee of \$600 per month per Matching Engine. The only difference with a per port structure being is that Members receive two (2) Purge Ports per Matching Engine for the same proposed monthly fee, rather than be charged separate fee for each Purge Port. The Exchange proposes to charge the proposed fee for Purge Ports per Matching Engine, instead on a per Purge Port basis, due to its system architecture which provides two (2) Purge Ports per Matching Engine for redundancy purposes. In addition, the proposed fee would be lower than what other exchanges charge on a per port basis, notwithstanding that the Exchange is providing up to two (2) Purge Ports for that same low fee.¹⁰

Similar to a per port charge, Members would be also able to elect the number of Matching Engines they connect to and pay the applicable fee. The Exchange believes the proposed fee provides Members with flexibility to control their Purge Ports costs based on the

⁹ See Cboe BXZ Exchange, Inc. (“BXZ”) Options Fee Schedule, Options Logical Port Fees, Purge Ports (\$750 per purge port per month); Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc. (“EDGX”) Options Fee Schedule, Options Logical Port Fees, Purge Ports (\$750 per purge port per month); Cboe Exchange, Inc. (“Cboe”) Fee Schedule (\$850 per purge port per month). See also Nasdaq GEMX, Options 7, Pricing Schedule, Section 6.C.(3). Nasdaq GEMX, LLC (“Nasdaq GEMX”) assesses its members \$1,250 per SQF Purge Port per month, subject to a monthly cap of \$17,500 for SQF Purge Ports and SQF Ports, applicable to market makers. See also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 97825 (June 30, 2023), 88 FR 43405 (July 7, 2023) (SR-Phlx-2023-28).

¹⁰ Id.

number of Matching Engines it elects to connect to.

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A logical port represents a port established by the Exchange within the Exchange's system for trading and billing purposes. Each logical port grants a Member the ability to accomplish a specific function, such as order entry, order cancellation, access to execution reports, and other administrative information.

Purge Ports are designed to assist Members¹¹ in the management of, and risk control over, their orders, particularly if the firm is dealing with a large number of securities. For example, if a Market Maker detects market indications that may influence the execution potential of their orders, the Market Maker may use Purge Ports to reduce uncertainty and to manage risk by purging all orders in a number of securities. This allows Members to seamlessly avoid unintended executions, while continuing to evaluate the market, their positions, and their risk levels. Purge Ports are used by Members that conduct business activity that exposes them to a large amount of risk across a number of securities. Purge Ports enable Members to cancel all open orders, or a subset of open orders through a single cancel message. The Exchange notes that Purge Ports increase efficiency of already existing functionality enabling the cancellation of orders.

The Exchange operates highly performant systems with significant throughput and determinism which allows participants to enter, update and cancel orders at high rates. Members may currently cancel individual orders through the existing functionality, such as through the use of a mass cancel message by which a Market Maker may request that the Exchange remove all or

¹¹ Members seeking to become registered as a Market Maker must comply with the applicable requirements of Chapter VI of the Exchange's Rules.

a subset of its quotations and block all or a subset of its new inbound quotations.¹² As a result, Members can currently cancel orders in rapid succession across their existing logical ports¹³ or through a single cancel message, all open orders or a subset of open orders.

Similarly, Members may also use cancel-on-disconnect control when they experience a disruption in connection to the Exchange to automatically cancel all orders, as configured or instructed by the Member or Market Maker.¹⁴ In addition, the Exchange already provides similar ability to mass cancel orders through the Exchange's risk controls, which are offered at no charge that enables Members to establish pre-determined levels of risk exposure, and can be used to cancel all open orders.¹⁵ Accordingly, the Exchange believes that the Purge Ports provide an efficient option as an alternative to already available services and enhance the Participant's ability to manage their risk.

The Exchange believes that market participants benefit from a dedicated purge mechanism for specific Members and to the market as a whole. Members will have the benefit of efficient risk management and purge tools. The market will benefit from potential increased quoting and liquidity as Members may use Purge Ports to manage their risk more robustly. Only Members that request Purge Ports would be subject to the proposed fees, and other Members can continue to operate in exactly the same manner as they do today without dedicated Purge Ports, but with the additional purging capabilities described above.

Implementation Date

¹² See Exchange Rule 519C(a) and (b).

¹³ Current Exchange port functionality supports cancellation rates that exceed one thousand messages per second and the Exchange's research indicates that certain market participants rely on such functionality and at times utilize such cancellation rates.

¹⁴ See Exchange Rule 516C(c).

¹⁵ See Exchange Rule 532.

The proposed fees will be effective October 1, 2023.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,¹⁶ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,¹⁷ in particular, in that it is not designed to permit unfair discrimination among customers, brokers, or dealers. The Exchange also believes that its proposed fee is consistent with Section 6(b)(4) of the Act¹⁸ because it represents an equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among market participants.

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change would promote just and equitable principles of trade and remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market because offering Members optional service and flexible fee structures promotes choice, flexibility, efficiency, and competition. The Exchange believes Purge Ports enhance Members' ability to manage orders, which would, in turn, improve their risk controls to the benefit of all market participants. The Exchange believes that Purge Ports foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in facilitating transactions in securities because designating Purge Ports for purge messages may encourage better use of such ports. This may, concurrent with the ports that carry orders and other information necessary for market making activities, enable more efficient, as well as fair and reasonable, use of Members' resources. Similar connectivity and functionality is offered by options exchanges, including the Exchange's own affiliated options exchanges, and other equities exchanges.¹⁹ The Exchange believes that proper risk management, including the

¹⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

¹⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

¹⁹ See supra notes 4 and 10. See also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 77613 (April 13, 2016), 81 FR 23023 (April 19, 2016). See also Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 79956 (February 3, 2017), 82 FR

ability to efficiently cancel multiple orders quickly when necessary, is similarly valuable to firms that trade in the equities market, including Members that have heightened quoting obligations that are not applicable to other market participants.

Purge Ports do not relieve Members of their quoting obligations or firm quote obligations under Regulation NMS Rule 602.²⁰ Specifically, any interest that is executable against a Member's or Market Maker's orders that is received by the Exchange prior to the time of the removal of orders request will automatically execute. Members that purge their orders will not be relieved of the obligation to provide continuous two-sided orders on a daily basis, nor will it prohibit the Exchange from taking disciplinary action against a Market Maker for failing to meet their continuous quoting obligation each trading day.²¹

The Exchange is not the only exchange to offer this functionality and to charge associated fees.²² The Exchange believes the proposed fee for Purge Ports is reasonable because it is lower than that currently charged by other exchanges. For example, BZX and EDGX charge a fee of \$750 per purge port per month, Cboe charges \$850 per purge port per month, Nasdaq GEMX assesses its members \$1,250 per SQF Purge Port per month, subject to a monthly cap of \$17,500 for SQF Purge Ports and SQF Ports.²³

The Exchange believes it is reasonable to charge \$600 per month for Purge Ports as such ports represent targeted enhancement of technology and were specially developed to allow for the sending of a single message to cancel multiple orders, thereby assisting firms in

10102 (February 9, 2017) (SR- BatsBZX-2017-05); 79957 (February 3, 2017), 82 FR 10070 (February 9, 2017) (SR-BatsEDGX-2017-07); 83201 (May 9, 2018), 83 FR 22546 (May 15, 2018) (SR-C2-2018-006).

²⁰ See Exchange Rule 604. See also generally Chapter VI of the Exchange's Rules.

²¹ Id.

²² See supra notes 4 and 10.

²³ See supra note 10.

effectively managing risk. The Exchange also believes that a Member that chooses to utilize Purge Ports may, in the future, reduce their need for additional ports by consolidating cancel messages to the Purge Port and thus freeing up some capacity of the existing logical ports and, therefore, allowing for increased message traffic without paying for additional logical ports. Purge Ports provide the ability to cancel multiple orders across multiple ports with less messaging from the firms using the ports and therefore may create efficiencies for firms and provide a more economical solution to their risk management needs. In addition, Purge Port requests may cancel orders submitted over numerous ports and contain added functionality to purge only a subset of these orders. Effective risk management is important both for individual market participants that choose to utilize risk features provided by the Exchange, as well as for the market in general. As a result, the Exchange believes that it is appropriate to charge fees for such functionality as doing so aids in the maintenance of a fair and orderly market.

The Exchange also believes that its ability to set fees for Purge Ports is subject to significant substitution-based forces because Members are able to rely on currently available services both free and those they receive when using existing trading protocols. If the value of the efficiency introduced through the Purge Port functionality is not worth the proposed fees, Members will simply continue to rely on the existing functionality and not pay for Purge Ports. In that regard, Members may currently cancel individual orders through the existing functionality, such as through the use of a mass cancel message by which a Market Maker may request that the Exchange remove all or a subset of its quotations and block all or a subset of its new inbound quotations. Members already can also cancel orders individually and by utilizing Exchange protocols that allow them to develop proprietary systems that can send

cancel messages at a high rate.²⁴ In addition, the Exchange already provides similar ability to mass cancel orders through the Exchange's risk controls, which are offered at no charge that enables Members to establish pre-determined levels of risk exposure, and can be used to cancel all open orders.²⁵

Similarly, Members may use cancel-on-disconnect control when they experience a disruption in connection to the Exchange to immediately cancel all pending Exchange.²⁶ Finally, this existing purging functionality will allow Participants to achieve essentially the same outcome in canceling orders as they would by utilizing the Purge Ports. Accordingly, the Exchange believes that the proposed Purge Ports fee is reasonable because it is related to the efficiency of Purge Ports related to other means and services already available which are either free or already a part of a fee assessed to the Participant's for existing connectivity. Accordingly, because Purge Ports provide additional optional functionality, excessive fees would simply serve to reduce or eliminate demand for this optional product.

The Exchange also believes that offering Purge Ports at the Matching Engine level promotes risk management across the industry, and thereby facilitates investor protection. Some market participants, in particular the larger firms, could and do build similar risk functionality (as described above) in their trading systems that permit the flexible cancellation of orders entered on the Exchange at a high rate. Offering Matching Engine level protections ensures that such functionality is widely available to all firms, including smaller firms that may

²⁴ Current Exchange port functionality supports cancellation rates that exceed one thousand messages per second and the Exchange's research indicates that certain Participants rely on such functionality and at times utilize such cancellation rates.

²⁵ See Exchange Rule 532.

²⁶ See Exchange Rule 516C(c).

otherwise not be willing to incur the costs and development work necessary to support their own customized mass cancel functionality.

As noted above, the Exchange is not the only exchange to offer dedicated Purge Ports, and the proposed rate is lower than that charged by other exchanges for similar functionality. The Exchange also believes that moving to a per Matching Engine fee is reasonable due to the Exchange's architecture that provides it the ability to provide two (2) Purge Ports per Matching Engine for a fee that would still be lower than other exchanges that charge on a per port basis. Generally speaking, restricting the Exchange's ability to charge fees for these services discourages innovation and competition. Specifically in this case, the Exchange's inability to offer similar services to those offered by other exchanges, and charge reasonable and equitable fees for such services, would put the Exchange at a significant competitive disadvantage and, therefore, serve to restrict competition in the market – especially when other exchanges assess comparable fees higher than those proposed by the Exchange.

The Exchange believes that the proposed Purge Port fees are equitable because the proposed Purge Ports are completely voluntary as they relate solely to optional risk management functionality.

The Exchange also believes that the proposed amendments to its fee schedule are not unfairly discriminatory because they will apply uniformly to all Members that choose to use the optional Purge Ports. Purge Ports are completely voluntary and, as they relate solely to optional risk management functionality, no Market Maker is required or under any regulatory obligation to utilize them. All Members that voluntarily select this service option will be charged the same amount for the same services. All Members have the option to select any connectivity

option, and there is no differentiation among Members with regard to the fees charged for the services offered by the Exchange.

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 not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. Purge Ports are completely voluntary and are available to all Members on an equal basis at the same cost. While the Exchange believes that Purge Ports provide a valuable service, Members can choose to purchase, or not purchase, these ports based on their own determination of the value and their business needs. No Member is required or under any regulatory obligation to utilize Purge Ports. Accordingly, the Exchange believes that Purge Ports offer appropriate risk management functionality to firms that trade on the Exchange without imposing an unnecessary or inappropriate burden on competition.

Furthermore, the Exchange operates in a highly competitive environment, and its ability to price the Purge Ports is constrained by competition among exchanges that offer similar functionality. As discussed, there are currently a number of similar offers available to market participants for higher fees at other exchanges. Proposing fees that are excessively higher than established fees for similar functionality would simply serve to reduce demand for the Purge Ports, which as discussed, market participants are under no obligation to utilize. It could also cause firms to shift trading to other exchanges that offer similar functionality at a lower cost, adversely impacting the overall trading on the Exchange and reducing market share. In this competitive environment, potential purchasers are free to choose which, if any, similar product to purchase to satisfy their need for risk management. As a result, the Exchange believes this proposed rule change permits fair competition among national securities exchanges.

The Exchange also does not believe the proposal would cause any unnecessary or in

appropriate burden on intermarket competition as other exchanges are free to introduce their own purge port functionality and lower their prices to better compete with the Exchange's offering. The Exchange does not believe the proposed rule change would cause any unnecessary or inappropriate burden on intramarket competition. Particularly, the proposal would apply uniformly to any market participant, in that it does not differentiate between Members. The proposal would allow any interested Members to purchase Purge Port functionality based on their business needs.

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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act,²⁷ and Rule 19b-4(f)(2)²⁸ thereunder. 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. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or 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:

²⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

²⁸ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

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-PEARL-2023-52 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-PEARL-2023-52. 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-PEARL-2023-52 and should be

submitted on or before [INSERT DATE 21 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.²⁹

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

²⁹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).