

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-80259; File No. 4-707)

March 16, 2017

Self-Regulatory Organizations; ISE Mercury, LLC; Notice of Filing of Proposed Minor Rule Violation Plan

Pursuant to Section 19(d)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19d-1(c)(2) thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on March 9, 2017, ISE Mercury, LLC ("Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") a proposed minor rule violation plan ("MRVP") with sanctions not exceeding \$2,500 which would not be subject to the provisions of Rule 19d-1(c)(1) of the Act³ requiring that a self-regulatory organization ("SRO") promptly file notice with the Commission of any final disciplinary action taken with respect to any person or organization.⁴ In accordance with Rule 19d-1(c)(2) under the Act,⁵ the Exchange proposed to designate certain specified rule violations as minor rule violations, and requested that it be relieved of the prompt reporting requirements regarding such violations, provided it gives notice of such violations to the Commission on a quarterly basis.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(d)(1)

² 17 CFR 240.19d-1(c)(2).

³ 17 CFR 240.19d-1(c)(1).

⁴ The Commission adopted amendments to paragraph (c) of Rule 19d-1 to allow SROs to submit for Commission approval plans for the abbreviated reporting of minor disciplinary infractions. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 21013 (June 1, 1984), 49 FR 23828 (June 8, 1984). Any disciplinary action taken by an SRO against any person for violation of a rule of the SRO which has been designated as a minor rule violation pursuant to such a plan filed with and declared effective by the Commission shall not be considered "final" for purposes of Section 19(d)(1) of the Act if the sanction imposed consists of a fine not exceeding \$2,500 and the sanctioned person has not sought an adjudication, including a hearing, or otherwise exhausted his administrative remedies.

⁵ 17 CFR 240.19d-1(c)(2).

The Exchange proposes to include in its MRVP the procedures and violations currently included in Exchange Rule 1614 (“Imposition of Fines for Minor Rule Violations”), which has been incorporated by reference from the International Securities Exchange’s rule book.⁶ According to the Exchange’s MRVP, under Rule 1614, the Exchange may impose a fine (not to exceed \$2,500) on any Member, or person associated with or employed by a Member, for any rule listed in Rule 1614(d).⁷ The Exchange shall serve the person against whom a fine is imposed with a written statement setting forth the rule or rules violated, the act or omission constituting each such violation, the fine imposed, and the date by which such determination becomes final or by which such determination must be contested. If the person against whom the fine is imposed pays the fine, such payment shall be deemed to be a waiver of such person’s right to a disciplinary proceeding and any review of the matter under the Exchange rules. Any person against whom a fine is imposed may contest the Exchange’s determination by filing with the Exchange a written answer, at which point the matter shall become a disciplinary proceeding.

The Exchange proposes that, as set forth in Exchange Rule 1614(d), violations of the following rules would be appropriate for disposition under the MRVP: Rule 412 (Position Limits); Rule 1403 (Focus Reports); Rule 1404 (Requests for Trade Data); Rule 723 (Price Improvement Mechanism for Crossing Transactions); Rule 717 (Order Entry);

⁶ The Exchange received its grant of registration on January 29, 2016, which included approving the rules that govern the Exchange. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 76998 (Jan. 29, 2016), 81 FR 6066 (Feb. 4, 2016).

⁷ While Rule 1614 allows the Exchange to administer fines up to \$5,000, the Exchange is only seeking relief from the reporting requirements of paragraph (c)(1) of Rule 19d-1 for fines administered under Rule 1614(d) that do not exceed \$2,500.

Rule 803 (Quotation Parameters); Rule 805 (Execution of Orders in Appointed Options); Rule 419 (Mandatory Systems Testing); Rule 1100 (Exercise of Options Contracts); Rule 415 (Reports Related to Position Limits); and Rule 804(e) (Continuous Quotes).

Upon the Commission's declaration of effectiveness of the MRVP, the Exchange will provide to the Commission a quarterly report for any actions taken on minor rule violations under the MRVP. The quarterly report will include: the Exchange's internal file number for the case, the name of the individual and/or organization, the nature of the violation, the specific rule provision violated, the sanction imposed, the number of times the rule violation occurred, and the date of the disposition.

The Exchange also proposes that, going forward, to the extent that there are any changes to the rules applicable to the Exchange's MRVP, the Exchange requests that the Commission deem such changes to be modifications to the Exchange's MRVP.

I. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the Exchange's proposed MRVP, including whether the proposed MRVP 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 rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File No. 4-707 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 No. 4-707. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet website (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>).

Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed MRVP that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed MRVP 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 the proposed MRVP also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File No. 4-707 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from the date of publication in the Federal Register].

II. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Minor Rule Violation Plan and Timing for Commission Action

Pursuant to Section 19(d)(1) of the Act and Rule 19d-1(c)(2) thereunder,⁸ after [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register], the Commission may, by order, declare the Exchange's proposed MRVP effective if the plan is consistent with the public interest, the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Commission in its order may restrict the categories of violations to be designated as minor rule violations and may impose any other terms or conditions to the proposed MRVP, File No. 4-707, and to the period of its effectiveness, which the Commission deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.⁹

Eduardo A. Aleman
Assistant Secretary

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(d)(1); 17 CFR 240.19d-1(c)(2).

⁹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(44).