

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
(Release No. 34-74962; File No. SR-BX-2015-026)

May 14, 2015

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NASDAQ OMX BX, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Update the Public Disclosure of Sources of Data BX Utilizes

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 May 6, 2015, NASDAQ OMX BX, Inc. (“BX” or “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “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. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to update the public disclosure of the sources of data that BX utilizes when performing (1) order handling and execution; (2) order routing; and (3) related compliance processes.

The text of the proposed rule change is below. Proposed new language is italicized; proposed deletions are bracketed.

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4759. Data Feeds Utilized

[BX shall publicly disclose the proprietary and network processor feeds utilized by the System for the handling, routing, and execution of orders, as well as for the regulatory compliance processes related to those functions. This information shall be displayed on

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

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

www.nasdaqtrader.com, and it shall be updated promptly each time BX determines to add, subtract, or otherwise modify a data source.]

The BX System utilizes the below proprietary and network processor feeds utilized by the System for the handling, routing, and execution of orders, as well as for the regulatory compliance processes related to those functions. The Secondary Source of data is utilized only in emergency market conditions and only until those emergency conditions are resolved.

<b>Market Center</b>	<b>Primary Source</b>	<b>Secondary Source</b>
A – NYSE MKT (AMEX)	CQS/UQDF	n/a
B – NASDAQ OMX BX	BX ITCH 5.0	CQS/UQDF
D – FINRA ADF	CQS/UQDF	n/a
J – DirectEdge A	EdgeBook	CQS/UQDF
K – DirectEdge X	EdgeBook	CQS/UQDF
M – CSX	CQS/UQDF	n/a
N – NYSE	NYSE OpenBook Ultra	CQS/UQDF
P – NYSE Arca	ArcaBook Binary uncompactd	CQS/UQDF
T/Q – NASDAQ	ITCH 5.0	CQS/UQDF
X – NASDAQ OMX PSX	PSX ITCH 5.0	CQS/UQDF
Y – BATS Y-Exchange	BATS PITCH	CQS/UQDF
Z – BATS Exchange	BATS PITCH	CQS/UQDF

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(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

II. 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

In her June 5, 2014 market structure speech, the Chair requested that all national securities exchanges review and disclose their policies and procedures governing the market data used when performing important exchange functions.<sup>3</sup> In a letter dated June 20, 2014, the Director of the Division of Trading and Markets codified this request:

We believe there is a need for clarity regarding whether (1) the SIP data feeds, (2) proprietary data feeds, or (3) a combination thereof, are used by the exchanges for purposes of (1) order handling and execution (e.g., with pegged or midpoint orders), (2) order routing, and (3) regulatory compliance, as applicable. ... Accordingly, we ask that proposed rule changes be filed that disclose the particular market data feeds that are used for each of these purposes. Consistent with your recent discussions with Commission staff, we ask that each SRO file these proposed rule changes with the Commission by July 15, 2014.<sup>4</sup>

BX fully supports the Commission's efforts to provide more clarity in this area. Through this proposed rule change, BX is publicly clarifying on a market-by-market basis the specific network processor and proprietary data feeds that BX utilizes for the handling, routing, and execution of orders, and for performing the regulatory compliance checks related to each of those functions. These complex practices are governed by a few, simple principles that are designed to ensure that BX has the most accurate view of the trading interest available across multiple markets, and to maximize the synchronization of the many exchange functions that depend upon the calculation of an accurate NBBO and top-of-book for each market. These principles are:

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<sup>3</sup> See Mary Jo White, Chair, Securities and Exchange Commission, Speech at the Sandler O'Neill & Partners L.P. Global Exchange and Brokerage Conference (June 5, 2014).

<sup>4</sup> See Letter from Steven Luparello, Director, SEC Division of Trading and Markets, to Robert Greifeld, Chief Executive Officer, NASDAQ OMX Group, Inc., dated June 20, 2014.

1. BX uses a proprietary data feed from each exchange that provides a reliable proprietary data feed. Where no reliable proprietary data feed is available, BX uses the network processor feed;
2. Where BX uses a proprietary data feed for an exchange quote, it also maintains access to the network processor feed as a back-up in the event a specific proprietary feed become [sic] unavailable or unusable for any reason;
3. BX uses the same proprietary data feed when performing order handling, routing, and execution functions, and also when the execution and routing system performs internal compliance checks related to those functions; and
4. BX acquires and processes all proprietary and network processor feeds via the same technological configuration (i.e., telecommunication circuitry, switches, and feed handlers) to the greatest extent possible.
5. BX calculates the National Best Bid and Offer (“NBBO”) and top-of-book for each exchange at a single point within the BX System, and then distributes that data simultaneously to numerous applications performing order handling, routing, execution, and internal compliance functions throughout the BX System.
6. BX aggregates odd-lot orders, including those in its own and affiliated markets, when calculating the NBBO based upon a direct feed from an away exchange. BX processes odd-lot orders from each exchange direct feed in the same manner that that exchange aggregates odd-lots when reporting its own quotations to the SIP.
7. BX utilizes the NBBO and top-of-book calculations described above for the handling of orders that use those reference points, including all variations of midpoint orders, pegged

orders, and price-to-comply orders described in BX Rule 4751(f), as well as Retail Price Improving Orders described in BX Rule 4780(a).

8. When calculating the NBBO, the BX System does not utilize feedback from other venues when calculating the NBBO. The BX System assumes that a protected quotation to which it has routed an order has been executed and can be removed from the NBBO; it does not await or respond to execution reports from such routing activity.

As of the date of this filing, BX utilizes the following data feeds for the handling, execution and routing of orders, as well as for performing related compliance checks:

<b>Market Center</b>	<b>Primary Source</b>	<b>Secondary Source</b>
A – NYSE MKT (AMEX)	CQS/UQDF	n/a
B – NASDAQ OMX BX	BX ITCH 5.0	CQS/UQDF
D – FINRA ADF	CQS/UQDF	n/a
J – DirectEdge A	EdgeBook	CQS/UQDF
K – DirectEdge X	EdgeBook	CQS/UQDF
M – CSX	CQS/UQDF	n/a
N – NYSE	NYSE OpenBook Ultra	CQS/UQDF
P – NYSE Arca	ArcaBook Binary uncompactd	CQS/UQDF
T/Q – NASDAQ	ITCH 5.0	CQS/UQDF
X – NASDAQ OMX PSX	PSX ITCH 5.0	CQS/UQDF
Y – BATS Y-Exchange	BATS PITCH	CQS/UQDF
Z – BATS Exchange	BATS PITCH	CQS/UQDF

BX uses these feeds to calculate the NBBO via an application called the “NMSFeed.”

The NMSFeed consumes the BX Protected Quote Service (“NPQS”), which provides an internal view of that exchange’s own market data as BX ITCH, plus the proprietary and network processor market data feeds listed above. The NMSFeed calculates a Regulation NMS-Compliant “Best Bid or Offer” (“Compliant BBO”), and then delivers that information

throughout the BX System, including to the “OUCH” order entry ports,<sup>5</sup> the routing system, and various compliance applications described below.

Upon receipt of an update to a protected quote for a specific venue, the NMSFeed updates its quote for that venue, recalculates the consolidated BBO based upon the update, and recalculates the Compliant BBO after applying BX’s own BBO. Any portion of a quote that crosses BX’s BBO is ignored for purposes of calculating the NBBO. BX odd lot orders at the same price are aggregated and considered in the NBBO calculation if the sum is greater than or equal to a round lot. Otherwise, they are not considered in the NBBO calculation. Out of the remaining quotes, the most aggressive remaining bid and offer (excluding BX<sup>6</sup> and any destination which has been excluded from the NBBO in compliance with the self-help procedures under Regulation NMS) is selected and reported as the best quote. If away markets are crossing the market after applying BX’s BBO, orders will be accepted as originally priced and have the potential to execute. Any order sent to BX that is not an Intermarket Sweep Order (“ISO”) will have the Compliant BBO check enforced by the system.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> OUCH is a protocol that allows BX participants to enter, replace and cancel orders and receive executions. In addition to OUCH, BX offers the FLITE protocol as an option for participants. In this document, references to OUCH also include FLITE because they are interchangeable for these purposes.

<sup>6</sup> Deletion of BX’s quote at this stage of the process is necessary because otherwise the system would prevent valid executions on BX in the erroneous belief that such executions would be “trade throughs” in violation of Regulation NMS.

<sup>7</sup> In general, any order that is sent to BX with an ISO flag is not re-priced and will be processed at its original price. There are a limited number of circumstances in which an order marked as an ISO will be determined not to be executable at its original price and will be re-priced. These include re-pricing under the Plan to Address Extraordinary Market Volatility, re-pricing to comply with Regulation SHO, and the re-pricing of an order with a post-only condition if BX has an order at that price at the time the order is accepted.

The BX Routing and Special Handling System (“RASH”) utilizes the Compliant BBO to determine if and when an order with special processing directives is marketable either against one or more orders in either the Core Matching System or a remote trading venue. RASH also receives market data feeds from certain venues not displaying protected quotes in the national market system for use in “BDRK” and “BCST” routing strategies set forth in BX Rule 4758(a)(1)(A)(xiii) [sic] and (xiv) [sic], respectively. RASH maintains a number of routing processes, or Routers, unique to each venue that the System accesses. These Routers maintain a limited set of details for orders that are configured as routable by the user, while also monitoring the current best bid and best offer prices on each exchange.

The BX System includes internal compliance applications related to locked and crossed markets, trade throughs, limit-up/limit-down, and Regulation SHO compliance. Each of these applications utilizes the Compliant BBO to ensure compliance with applicable regulations. BX operates a separate real-time surveillance system that is external to the execution systems and that monitors the execution system’s compliance with applicable rules and regulations. The real-time surveillance system utilizes a “mirrored” version of the internal NMSFeed in various realtime surveillance patterns, including (1) Lock/Cross, which detects lock/cross events across all markets, regardless of whether or not BX is a participant in the event; (2) Trade Through, which detects potential trade through events for all three NASDAQ equity markets; and (3) RegSho, which detects potential RegSho violations, alerting when a trade executes at or below the NBB at the time of order entry while the stock is in a RegSho restricted state.

## 2. Statutory Basis

BX believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 6 of the Act,<sup>8</sup> in general and with Sections [sic] 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>9</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 regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in securities, 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.

The Exchange believes that its proposal to describe the Exchange's use of data feeds removes impediments to and perfects the mechanism of a free and open market and protects investors and the public interest because it provides additional specificity and transparency. The Exchange's proposal will enable investors to better assess the quality of the Exchange's execution and routing services. The proposal does not change the operation of the Exchange or its use of data feeds; rather it describes how, and for what purposes, the Exchange uses the quotes disseminated from data feeds to calculate the NBBO for a security for purposes of Regulation NMS, Regulation SHO and various order types that update based on changes to the applicable NBBO. The Exchange believes the additional transparency into the operation of the Exchange as described in the proposal will remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, protect investors and the public interest.

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<sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f.

<sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).



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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended. To the contrary, the Exchange believes the proposal would enhance competition because describing the Exchange's use of data feeds enhances transparency and enables investors to better assess the quality of the Exchange's execution and routing services.

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

No written comments were either solicited or received.

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

Because the proposed rule change does not (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, the proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>10</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.<sup>11</sup>

A proposed rule change filed pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f)(6) under the Act<sup>12</sup> normally does not become operative for 30 days after the date of its filing. However, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii)<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>11</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). As required under Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii), the Exchange provided the Commission with written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change, along with a brief description and the text of the proposed rule change, at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission.

<sup>12</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>13</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

permits the Commission to designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange has asked the Commission to waive the 30-day operative delay so that the proposal may become operative immediately upon filing, noting that waiver of the operative delay would permit the Exchange to immediately enhance transparency. The Commission believes the waiver of the operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. Therefore, the Commission hereby waives the operative delay and designates the proposal operative upon filing.<sup>14</sup>

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:

##### Electronic comments:

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or

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<sup>14</sup> For purposes only of waiving the 30-day operative delay, the Commission has also considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

- Send an e-mail to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-BX-2015-026 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-BX-2015-026. 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 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 the filing will also 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 Number SR-BX-2015-026 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.<sup>15</sup>

Robert W. Errett  
Deputy Secretary

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<sup>15</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).