

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-67392; File No. SR-OCC-2012-10)

July 10, 2012

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Options Clearing Corporation; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change to Amend OCC's By-Laws and Rules to Terminate OCC's Pledge Program

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 June 28, 2012, The Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC") 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 primarily by OCC. 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 proposed rule change would terminate OCC's pledge program ("Program"). Since implementation of the Program, only a limited number of clearing members participated and those that did participate did so on a sporadic basis.

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

In its filing with the Commission, OCC 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. OCC has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

A. **Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change**

The purpose of this proposed rule change is to terminate OCC's pledge program. Since implementation of the Program, only a limited number of clearing members participated and those that did participate did so on a sporadic basis. OCC now proposes to eliminate the Program in its entirety.

The Program was adopted by OCC in the early 1980s to facilitate the ability of an OCC clearing member to finance positions by permitting the clearing member to pledge unsegregated long positions in cleared securities (other than securities futures) for a loan of cash. The Program was initially designed for, and used by, firms clearing market maker business; however, use of the Program diminished as market making operations were acquired by larger wire houses. While OCC occasionally receives an inquiry regarding the Program, it has been essentially dormant for some time. OCC recently reviewed the Program and determined that any potential benefits that OCC may gain through updating the Program are greatly offset by the resources required for such modernization. Accordingly, OCC plans to terminate the Program in its entirety.

OCC proposes to eliminate Rule 614 in its entirety as well as references to the Program and Rule 614 in its Rules and in its By-Laws.

OCC believes that the proposed changes to OCC's Rules and By-Laws are consistent with the purposes and requirements of Section 17A of the Act³ and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to OCC because they will allow OCC to remove a rarely used operational function and focus its resources on core clearing operations. Moreover, OCC believes that

³ 15 U.S.C. 78q-1.

elimination of the Program will not materially affect clearing members given its limited and infrequent use. The proposed rule change is not inconsistent with any rules of OCC, including any proposed to be amended.

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

OCC does not believe that the proposed rule change would impose any burden on competition.

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

Written comments were not and are not intended to be solicited with respect to the proposed rule change and none have been received.

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

Within 45 days of the date of publication of this notice in the Federal Register or within such longer period up to 90 days (i) as the Commission may designate if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

- (A) by order approve or disapprove the proposed rule change or
- (B) institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be 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
- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-OCC-2012-10 on the subject line.

Paper Comments:

- Paper comments should be sent in triplicate to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C., 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-OCC-2012-10. 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, N.E., Washington, D.C., 20549-1090, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 am and 3:00 pm. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of OCC and on OCC's website at http://www.optionsclearing.com/components/docs/legal/rules_and_bylaws/sr_occ_12_10.pdf.

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-OCC-2012-10 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.⁴

Kevin O'Neill
Deputy Secretary

⁴ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).