Page 1 of * 30		SECURITIES AND EXCHA WASHINGTON, D Form 19b).C. 20549		File No. * S	
Filing by The N	Nasdaq Stock Market LLC					
Pursuant to Rul	e 19b-4 under the Securities Exch	ange Act of 1934				
Initial *	Amendment *	Withdrawal	Section 19(b)	(2) * Section 19(b)(3)(A) *	Section 19(b)(3)(B) *
Pilot	Extension of Time Period for	Date Expires *		Rule	7	
	Commission Action *	Date Expires		19b-4(f)(1) 19b-4(f)(2)	19b-4(f)(4) 19b-4(f)(5)	
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				19b-4(f)(3)	19b-4(f)(6)	
Notice of pro	posed change pursuant to the Pay	ment, Clearing, and Settlement A	Act of 2010	Security-Based Swa Securities Exchange Section 3C(b)(2) *		oursuant to the
Exhibit 2 Ser	nt As Paper Document	Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper D	ocument			
	rief description of the action (limit 2 o amend Options 7, Section 2	250 characters, required when Ini	tial is checked *).			
	formation name, telephone number, and e-m respond to questions and commer		staff of the self-re	gulatory organization		
First Name *	Angela	Last Name * Dunr	າ			
Title *	Principal Associate General Counsel					
E-mail *	Angela.Dunn@Nasdaq.com					
Telephone *	(215) 496-5692	Fax				
	the requirements of the Securities used this filing to be signed on its b					
Date	09/29/2023		(Т	itle *)	_	
Ву	John A. Zecca	EVP	and Chief Legal C	Officer		
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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website.

Form 19b-4 Information *			
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The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act.

Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change *

Add Remove View SR-NASDAQ-2023-040 Exhibit 1.doc The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)

Exhibit 1A - Notice of Proposed Rule Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, or Advanced Notice by Clearing Agencies

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The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)

Exhibit 2- Notices, Written Comments, **Transcripts, Other Communications**

Remove Add View Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G.

Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is referred to by the proposed rule change.

Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire

Add Remove View

Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies

Add Remove View The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which it has been working.

Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text

Add Remove View SR-NASDAQ-2023-040 Exhibit 5.doc The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed changes to rule text in place of providing it in Item I and which may otherwise be more easily readable if provided separately from Form 19b-4. Exhibit 5 shall be considered part of the proposed rule change

Partial Amendment

View Add Remove

If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy proposed rule change, it may, with the Commission's permission, file only those portions of the text of the proposed rule change in which changes are being made if the filing (i.e. partial amendment) is clearly understandable on its face. Such partial amendment shall be clearly identified and marked to show deletions and additions.

1. Text of the Proposed Rule Change

(a) The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq" or "Exchange"), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") a proposal to amend The Nasdaq Options Market LLC ("NOM") Pricing Schedule at Options 7, Section 2.

While the changes proposed herein are effective upon filing, the Exchange has designated the amendments become operative on October 2, 2023.

A notice of the proposed rule change for publication in the <u>Federal Register</u> is attached as <u>Exhibit 1</u>. The text of the proposed rule change is attached as <u>Exhibit 5</u>.

- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Not applicable.

2. Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization

The proposed rule change was approved by senior management of the Exchange pursuant to authority delegated by the Board of Directors (the "Board"). Exchange staff will advise the Board of any action taken pursuant to delegated authority. No other action is necessary for the filing of the rule change.

Questions and comments on the proposed rule change may be directed to:

Angela Saccomandi Dunn Principal Associate General Counsel Nasdaq, Inc. 215-496-5692

¹⁵ U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

3. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change</u>

a. <u>Purpose</u>

The Exchange proposes to amend NOM's Pricing Schedule at Options 7,
Section 2, Nasdaq Options Market - Fees and Rebates. Today, NOM Options 7,
Section 2(1) provides for various fees and rebates applicable to NOM Participants.

Today, NOM Market Maker³ Rebates to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols are paid per the highest tier achieved among the below tiers.

Monthly Volume

- Tier 1 Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols of up to 0.10% of total industry customer equity and ETF option average daily volume ("ADV") contracts per day in a month
- Tier 2 Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 0.10% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month
- Tier 3 Participant: (a) adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 0.20% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month; or (b)(1) adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 0.15% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, (2) transacts in all securities through one or more of its Nasdaq Market Center MPIDs that represent (i) 0.50% or more of Consolidated Volume ("CV") which adds liquidity in the same month on The Nasdaq Stock Market or (ii) 50 million shares or more ADV which adds liquidity in the same month on The Nasdag Stock Market, and (3) executes 1.5 million shares or more ADV in the same month utilizing the M-ELO order type on The Nasdaq Stock Market

The term "NOM Market Maker" or ("M") is a Participant that has registered as a Market Maker on NOM pursuant to Options 2, Section 1, and must also remain in good standing pursuant to Options 2, Section 9. In order to receive NOM Market Maker pricing in all securities, the Participant must be registered as a NOM Market Maker in at least one security. See Options 7, Section 1(a).

Tier 4 Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols of above 0.60% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month

Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols of above 0.40% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month and transacts in all securities through one or more of its Nasdaq Market Center MPIDs that represent 0.40% or more of Consolidated Volume ("CV") which adds liquidity in the same month on The Nasdaq Stock Market

Tier 6 Participant: (a)(1) adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 0.95% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, (2) executes Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 30,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity, and (3) adds Firm, Broker-Dealer and Non-NOM Market Maker liquidity in Non-Penny Symbols of 10,000 or more contracts per day in a month; or (b)(1) adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 1.50% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, and (2) executes Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 15,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity

"Total Volume" is defined as Customer, Professional, Firm, Broker-Dealer, Non-NOM Market Maker and NOM Market Maker volume in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols which either adds or removes liquidity on NOM.

Proposal

At this time, the Exchange proposes to amend Tiers 5 and 6 of the NOM Market Maker Rebates to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols.

NOM Market Maker Tier 5

Currently, the NOM Market Maker Tier 5 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny

Symbols provides:

Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols of above 0.40% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month and transacts in all securities through one or more of its Nasdaq Market Center MPIDs that represent 0.40% or more of Consolidated Volume ("CV") which adds liquidity in the same month on The Nasdaq Stock Market

The Exchange proposes to amend the NOM Market Maker Tier 5 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols by adding an additional qualifier to achieve the rebate. The Exchange proposes to provide that a Participant may add NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 1.00% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month to qualify for the NOM Market Maker Tier 5 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols. In the alternative, as is the case today, a Participant may continue to add NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols of above 0.40% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month and transacts in all securities through one or more of its Nasdaq Market Center MPIDs that represent 0.40% or more of Consolidated Volume ("CV") which adds liquidity in the same month on The Nasdaq Stock Market to qualify for the NOM Market Maker Tier 5 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols. Therefore, a Participant may qualify for the \$0.44 per contract NOM Market Maker Tier 5 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols by either qualifying for the new tier qualifier that is denoted by an "a" or the current qualifier which is denoted by a "b." As proposed, the NOM Market Maker Tier 5 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols would provide:

Participant: (a) adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 1.00% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month; or (b) adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols of above 0.40% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month and transacts in all securities through one or more of its Nasdaq Market Center MPIDs that represent 0.40% or more of Consolidated Volume ("CV") which adds liquidity in the same month on The Nasdaq Stock Market

The Exchange believes the additional proposed qualifier for the NOM Market Maker Tier 5 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols will provide Participants an additional way to achieve the Tier 5 rebate. The new qualification criteria is intended to attract additional order flow to NOM. Any Participant may interact with the additional liquidity attracted by this incentive.

NOM Market Maker Tier 6

Currently, the NOM Market Maker Tier 6 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols provides:

Participant: (a)(1) adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 0.95% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, (2) executes Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 30,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity, and (3) adds Firm, Broker-Dealer and Non-NOM Market Maker liquidity in Non-Penny Symbols of 10,000 or more contracts per day in a month; or (b)(1) adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 1.50% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, and (2) executes Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity

Currently, there are two ways to qualify for the \$0.48 per contract NOM Market Maker Tier 6 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols. A Participant may add NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above

0.95% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, (2) execute Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 30,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity, and (3) add Firm, Broker-Dealer and Non-NOM Market Maker liquidity in Non-Penny Symbols of 10,000 or more contracts per day in a month to qualify for the NOM Market Maker Tier 6 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols. This option is denoted as "a." In the alternative, a Participant may add NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 1.50% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, and (2) execute Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 15,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity to qualify for the NOM Market Maker Tier 6 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols. This option is denoted as "b."

At this time, the Exchange proposes to amend the qualifier in "b" of the NOM Market Maker Tier 6 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols by lowering the (b)(1) qualifier from 1.50% to 1.40%. The proposed amended (b)(1) qualifier would require a Participant to add NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 1.40% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month. As proposed, the amended NOM Market Maker Tier 6 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols would provide:

Participant: (a)(1) adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 0.95% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month,

Of note, 1.50% equates to approximately 490,000 contracts per day adding liquidity and 1.40% equates to approximately 450,000 contracts per day adding liquidity.

(2) executes Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 30,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity, and (3) adds Firm, Broker-Dealer and Non-NOM Market Maker liquidity in Non-Penny Symbols of 10,000 or more contracts per day in a month; or (b)(1) adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 1.40% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, and (2) executes Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity

The Exchange believes that lowering part of the NOM Market Maker Tier 6 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols qualifier will attract additional order flow to NOM by allowing additional Participants to qualify for this tier.

b. Statutory Basis

The proposed changes to its Pricing Schedule are reasonable in several respects. As a threshold matter, the Exchange is subject to significant competitive forces in the market for options transaction services that constrain its pricing determinations in that market. The fact that this market is competitive has long been recognized by the courts. In NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange

Commission⁵ ("NetCoalition"), the D.C. Circuit stated, "[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is 'fierce.' ... As the SEC explained, '[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution'; [and] 'no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for granted' because 'no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers'...."

⁵ NetCoalition v. SEC, 615 F.3d 525 (D.C. Cir. 2010).

Id. at 539 (quoting Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59039 (December 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770, 74782-83 (December 9, 2008) (SR-NYSEArca-2006-21)).

Numerous indicia demonstrate the competitive nature of this market. For example, clear substitutes to the Exchange exist in the market for options transaction services. The Exchange is only one of seventeen options exchanges to which market participants may direct their order flow. Within this environment, market participants can freely and often do shift their order flow among the Exchange and competing venues in response to changes in their respective pricing schedules. Within the foregoing context, the proposal represents a reasonable attempt by the Exchange to attract additional order flow to the Exchange and increase its market share relative to its competitors.

NOM Market Maker Tier 5

The Exchange's proposal to amend the NOM Market Maker Tier 5 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols by adding an additional qualifier is reasonable because it will provide Participants another way to qualify for the Tier 5 rebate.

NOM Participants that currently qualify for the NOM Market Maker Tier 5 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols will continue to qualify for this rebate because the current qualifications are not being amended. With this proposal, additional NOM Participants may be able to qualify for the NOM Market Maker Tier 5 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols utilizing the proposed new qualifier. The new qualification criteria is intended to attract additional order flow to NOM. Any Participant may interact with the additional liquidity attracted by this incentive.

The Exchange's proposal to amend the NOM Market Maker Tier 5 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols by adding an additional qualifier is equitable

and not unfairly discriminatory because the proposed tier qualifier will be applied uniformly to all qualifying NOM Participants.

NOM Market Maker Tier 6

The Exchange's proposal to amend part "b" of the NOM Market Maker Tier 6 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols by lowering the (b)(1) qualifier from 1.50% to 1.40% is reasonable because it will attract additional order flow to NOM by allowing additional Participants to qualify for this tier. NOM Participants who currently qualify for the NOM Market Maker Tier 6 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols will continue to qualify for this rebate. With this proposal, additional Participants may be able to qualify for the NOM Market Maker Tier 6 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols with the proposed lower (b)(1) qualifier. The proposed lower (b)(1) qualification criteria is intended to attract additional order flow to NOM. Any Participant may interact with the additional liquidity attracted by this incentive.

The Exchange's proposal to amend part "b" of the NOM Market Maker Tier 6 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols by lowering the (b)(1) qualifier from 1.50% to 1.40% is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the proposed tier qualifier will be applied uniformly to all qualifying NOM Participants.

4. 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.

Intermarket Competition

The Exchange operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily favor competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive, or rebate opportunities available at other venues to be more favorable. In such an environment, the Exchange must continually adjust its pricing to remain competitive with other exchanges. Because competitors are free to modify their pricing in response, and because market participants may readily adjust their order routing practices, the Exchange believes that the degree to which pricing changes in this market may impose any burden on competition is extremely limited because other options exchanges offer similar pricing.

Moreover, as noted above, price competition between exchanges is fierce, with liquidity and market share moving freely between exchanges in reaction to fee and rebate changes. In sum, if the changes proposed herein are unattractive to market participants, it is likely that the Exchange will lose market share as a result. Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed changes will impair the ability of members or competing order execution venues to maintain their competitive standing in the financial markets.

Intramarket Competition

The proposed rule change does not impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

NOM Market Maker Tier 5

The Exchange's proposal to amend the NOM Market Maker Tier 5 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols by adding an additional qualifier does not

impose an undue burden on competition because the proposed tier qualifier will be applied uniformly to all qualifying NOM Participants.

NOM Market Maker Tier 6

The Exchange's proposal to amend part "b" of the NOM Market Maker Tier 6 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols by lowering the (b)(1) qualifier from 1.50% to 1.40% does not impose an undue burden on competition because the proposed tier qualifier will be applied uniformly to all qualifying NOM Participants.

- 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.
- Extension of Time Period for Commission Action
 Not applicable.
- 7. <u>Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for</u>
 Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act,⁷ the Exchange has designated this proposal as establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the self-regulatory organization on any person, whether or not the person is a member of the self-regulatory organization, which renders the proposed rule change effective upon filing.

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: (i) necessary or appropriate in the public interest; (ii) for the protection of investors; or (iii) otherwise in furtherance of the

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

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.

- 8. <u>Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization or of the Commission</u>
 - Not applicable.
- Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act
 Not applicable.
- 10. Advance Notices Filed Pursuant to Section 806(e) of the Payment, Clearing and Settlement Supervision Act

Not applicable.

11. Exhibits

1. Notice of Proposed Rule Change for publication in the <u>Federal</u>

Register.

5. Text of the proposed rule change.

EXHIBIT 1

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. ; File No. SR-NASDAQ-2023-040)

September , 2023

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Amend Options 7, Section 2

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, The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "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. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change</u>

The Exchange proposes to amend The Nasdaq Options Market LLC ("NOM")
Pricing Schedule at Options 7, Section 2.

While the changes proposed herein are effective upon filing, the Exchange has designated the amendments become operative on October 2, 2023.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's Website at https://listingcenter.nasdaq.com/rulebook/nasdaq/rules, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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

1. <u>Purpose</u>

The Exchange proposes to amend NOM's Pricing Schedule at Options 7, Section 2, Nasdaq Options Market - Fees and Rebates. Today, NOM Options 7, Section 2(1) provides for various fees and rebates applicable to NOM Participants.

Today, NOM Market Maker³ Rebates to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols are paid per the highest tier achieved among the below tiers.

Monthly Volume

Tier 1 Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols of up to 0.10% of total industry customer equity and ETF option average daily volume ("ADV") contracts per day in a month

- Tier 2 Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 0.10% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month
- Tier 3 Participant: (a) adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 0.20% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month; or (b)(1) adds NOM Market Maker liquidity

The term "NOM Market Maker" or ("M") is a Participant that has registered as a Market Maker on NOM pursuant to Options 2, Section 1, and must also remain in good standing pursuant to Options 2, Section 9. In order to receive NOM Market Maker pricing in all securities, the Participant must be registered as a NOM Market Maker in at least one security. See Options 7, Section 1(a).

in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 0.15% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, (2) transacts in all securities through one or more of its Nasdaq Market Center MPIDs that represent (i) 0.50% or more of Consolidated Volume ("CV") which adds liquidity in the same month on The Nasdaq Stock Market or (ii) 50 million shares or more ADV which adds liquidity in the same month on The Nasdaq Stock Market, and (3) executes 1.5 million shares or more ADV in the same month utilizing the M-ELO order type on The Nasdaq Stock Market

- Tier 4 Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols of above 0.60% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month
- Tier 5 Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols of above 0.40% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month and transacts in all securities through one or more of its Nasdaq Market Center MPIDs that represent 0.40% or more of Consolidated Volume ("CV") which adds liquidity in the same month on The Nasdaq Stock Market
- Tier 6 Participant: (a)(1) adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 0.95% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, (2) executes Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 30,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity, and (3) adds Firm, Broker-Dealer and Non-NOM Market Maker liquidity in Non-Penny Symbols of 10,000 or more contracts per day in a month; or (b)(1) adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 1.50% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, and (2) executes Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 15,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity

"Total Volume" is defined as Customer, Professional, Firm, Broker-Dealer, Non-NOM Market Maker and NOM Market Maker volume in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols which either adds or removes liquidity on NOM.

Proposal

At this time, the Exchange proposes to amend Tiers 5 and 6 of the NOM Market Maker Rebates to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols.

NOM Market Maker Tier 5

Currently, the NOM Market Maker Tier 5 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols provides:

Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols of above 0.40% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month and transacts in all securities through one or more of its Nasdaq Market Center MPIDs that represent 0.40% or more of Consolidated Volume ("CV") which adds liquidity in the same month on The Nasdaq Stock Market

The Exchange proposes to amend the NOM Market Maker Tier 5 Rebate to Add
Liquidity in Penny Symbols by adding an additional qualifier to achieve the rebate. The
Exchange proposes to provide that a Participant may add NOM Market Maker liquidity
in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 1.00% of total industry customer
equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month to qualify for the NOM Market
Maker Tier 5 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols. In the alternative, as is the
case today, a Participant may continue to add NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny
Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols of above 0.40% of total industry customer equity
and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month and transacts in all securities through
one or more of its Nasdaq Market Center MPIDs that represent 0.40% or more of
Consolidated Volume ("CV") which adds liquidity in the same month on The Nasdaq
Stock Market to qualify for the NOM Market Maker Tier 5 Rebate to Add Liquidity in
Penny Symbols. Therefore, a Participant may qualify for the \$0.44 per contract NOM

Market Maker Tier 5 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols by either qualifying for the new tier qualifier that is denoted by an "a" or the current qualifier which is denoted by a "b." As proposed, the NOM Market Maker Tier 5 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols would provide:

Participant: (a) adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 1.00% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month; or (b) adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols of above 0.40% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month and transacts in all securities through one or more of its Nasdaq Market Center MPIDs that represent 0.40% or more of Consolidated Volume ("CV") which adds liquidity in the same month on The Nasdaq Stock Market

The Exchange believes the additional proposed qualifier for the NOM Market Maker Tier 5 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols will provide Participants an additional way to achieve the Tier 5 rebate. The new qualification criteria is intended to attract additional order flow to NOM. Any Participant may interact with the additional liquidity attracted by this incentive.

NOM Market Maker Tier 6

Currently, the NOM Market Maker Tier 6 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols provides:

Participant: (a)(1) adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 0.95% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, (2) executes Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 30,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity, and (3) adds Firm, Broker-Dealer and Non-NOM Market Maker liquidity in Non-Penny Symbols of 10,000 or more contracts per day in a month; or (b)(1) adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 1.50% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, and (2) executes Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 15,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity

Currently, there are two ways to qualify for the \$0.48 per contract NOM Market Maker Tier 6 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols. A Participant may add NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 0.95% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, (2) execute Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 30,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity, and (3) add Firm, Broker-Dealer and Non-NOM Market Maker liquidity in Non-Penny Symbols of 10,000 or more contracts per day in a month to qualify for the NOM Market Maker Tier 6 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols. This option is denoted as "a." In the alternative, a Participant may add NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 1.50% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, and (2) execute Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 15,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity to qualify for the NOM Market Maker Tier 6 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols. This option is denoted as "b."

At this time, the Exchange proposes to amend the qualifier in "b" of the NOM Market Maker Tier 6 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols by lowering the (b)(1) qualifier from 1.50% to 1.40%. The proposed amended (b)(1) qualifier would require a Participant to add NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 1.40% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month. As proposed, the amended NOM Market Maker Tier 6 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols would provide:

Of note, 1.50% equates to approximately 490,000 contracts per day adding liquidity and 1.40% equates to approximately 450,000 contracts per day adding liquidity.

Participant: (a)(1) adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 0.95% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, (2) executes Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 30,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity, and (3) adds Firm, Broker-Dealer and Non-NOM Market Maker liquidity in Non-Penny Symbols of 10,000 or more contracts per day in a month; or (b)(1) adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 1.40% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, and (2) executes Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 15,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity

The Exchange believes that lowering part of the NOM Market Maker Tier 6 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols qualifier will attract additional order flow to NOM by allowing additional Participants to qualify for this tier.

2. <u>Statutory Basis</u>

The proposed changes to its Pricing Schedule are reasonable in several respects. As a threshold matter, the Exchange is subject to significant competitive forces in the market for options transaction services that constrain its pricing determinations in that market. The fact that this market is competitive has long been recognized by the courts. In NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange Commission⁵ ("NetCoalition"), the D.C. Circuit stated, "[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is 'fierce.' ... As the SEC explained, '[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution'; [and] 'no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for granted' because 'no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or

NetCoalition v. SEC, 615 F.3d 525 (D.C. Cir. 2010).

otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers'...."6

Numerous indicia demonstrate the competitive nature of this market. For example, clear substitutes to the Exchange exist in the market for options transaction services. The Exchange is only one of seventeen options exchanges to which market participants may direct their order flow. Within this environment, market participants can freely and often do shift their order flow among the Exchange and competing venues in response to changes in their respective pricing schedules. Within the foregoing context, the proposal represents a reasonable attempt by the Exchange to attract additional order flow to the Exchange and increase its market share relative to its competitors.

NOM Market Maker Tier 5

The Exchange's proposal to amend the NOM Market Maker Tier 5 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols by adding an additional qualifier is reasonable because it will provide Participants another way to qualify for the Tier 5 rebate. NOM Participants that currently qualify for the NOM Market Maker Tier 5 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols will continue to qualify for this rebate because the current qualifications are not being amended. With this proposal, additional NOM Participants may be able to qualify for the NOM Market Maker Tier 5 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols utilizing the proposed new qualifier. The new qualification criteria is intended to attract additional order flow to NOM. Any Participant may interact with the additional liquidity attracted by this incentive.

Id. at 539 (quoting Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59039 (December 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770, 74782-83 (December 9, 2008) (SR-NYSEArca-2006-21)).

The Exchange's proposal to amend the NOM Market Maker Tier 5 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols by adding an additional qualifier is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the proposed tier qualifier will be applied uniformly to all qualifying NOM Participants.

NOM Market Maker Tier 6

The Exchange's proposal to amend part "b" of the NOM Market Maker Tier 6
Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols by lowering the (b)(1) qualifier from 1.50% to 1.40% is reasonable because it will attract additional order flow to NOM by allowing additional Participants to qualify for this tier. NOM Participants who currently qualify for the NOM Market Maker Tier 6 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols will continue to qualify for this rebate. With this proposal, additional Participants may be able to qualify for the NOM Market Maker Tier 6 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols with the proposed lower (b)(1) qualifier. The proposed lower (b)(1) qualification criteria is intended to attract additional order flow to NOM. Any Participant may interact with the additional liquidity attracted by this incentive.

The Exchange's proposal to amend part "b" of the NOM Market Maker Tier 6
Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols by lowering the (b)(1) qualifier from 1.50% to 1.40% is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the proposed tier qualifier will be applied uniformly to all qualifying NOM Participants.

B. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

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.

Intermarket Competition

The Exchange operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily favor competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive, or rebate opportunities available at other venues to be more favorable. In such an environment, the Exchange must continually adjust its pricing to remain competitive with other exchanges. Because competitors are free to modify their pricing in response, and because market participants may readily adjust their order routing practices, the Exchange believes that the degree to which pricing changes in this market may impose any burden on competition is extremely limited because other options exchanges offer similar pricing.

Moreover, as noted above, price competition between exchanges is fierce, with liquidity and market share moving freely between exchanges in reaction to fee and rebate changes. In sum, if the changes proposed herein are unattractive to market participants, it is likely that the Exchange will lose market share as a result. Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed changes will impair the ability of members or competing order execution venues to maintain their competitive standing in the financial markets.

Intramarket Competition

The proposed rule change does not impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

NOM Market Maker Tier 5

The Exchange's proposal to amend the NOM Market Maker Tier 5 Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols by adding an additional qualifier does not impose an undue burden on competition because the proposed tier qualifier will be applied uniformly to all qualifying NOM Participants.

NOM Market Maker Tier 6

The Exchange's proposal to amend part "b" of the NOM Market Maker Tier 6
Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols by lowering the (b)(1) qualifier from 1.50% to 1.40% does not impose an undue burden on competition because the proposed tier qualifier will be applied uniformly to all qualifying NOM Participants.

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

No written comments were either solicited or received.

III. <u>Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action</u>

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act.⁷

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: (i) necessary or appropriate in the public interest; (ii) for the protection of investors; or (iii) 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:

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

Electronic Comments:

- Use the Commission's internet comment form (https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml); or
- Send an email to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include file number
 SR-NASDAQ-2023-040 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-NASDAQ-2023-040. 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-NASDAQ-2023-040 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.⁸

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

^{8 17} CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

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EXHIBIT 5

New text is underlined; deleted text is in brackets.

The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC Rules

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Options Rules

* * * * *

Options 7 Pricing Schedule

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Section 2 Nasdaq Options Market - Fees and Rebates

The following charges shall apply to the use of the order execution and routing services of The Nasdaq Options Market for all securities.

(1) Fees and Rebates for Execution of Contracts on The Nasdaq Options Market*

Rebates to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols

	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5	Tier 6
Customer 1,8,9,10	(\$0.20)	(\$0.25)	(\$0.43)	(\$0.44)	(\$0.45)	$(\$0.48)^7$
Professional 1,9,10	(\$0.20)	(\$0.25)	(\$0.43)	(\$0.44)	(\$0.45)	(\$0.47)
Broker-Dealer	(\$0.10)	(\$0.10)	(\$0.10)	(\$0.10)	(\$0.10)	(\$0.10)
Firm	(\$0.10)	(\$0.10)	(\$0.10)	(\$0.10)	(\$0.10)	(\$0.10)
Non-NOM Market Maker	(\$0.10)	(\$0.10)	(\$0.10)	(\$0.10)	(\$0.10)	(\$0.10)
NOM Market Maker ³	(\$0.20)	$(\$0.25)^4$	$(\$0.30)^4$	$(\$0.32)^4$	$(\$0.44)^{11}$	(\$0.48)

Fees and Rebates to Add Liquidity in Non-Penny Symbols

Customer 9,10,12	(\$0.80)
Professional 9,10,12	(\$0.80)
Broker-Dealer	\$0.45

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Firm	\$0.45
Non-NOM Market Maker	\$0.45
NOM Market Maker 5,6	\$0.35/(\$0.30)

Fees to Remove Liquidity in Penny and Non-Penny Symbols

	Penny Symbols	Non-Penny Symbols
Customer	\$0.49	\$0.85
Professional	\$0.49	\$0.85
Broker-Dealer	\$0.50	\$1.10
Firm	\$0.50	\$1.10
Non-NOM Market Maker ²	\$0.50	\$1.10
NOM Market Maker ²	\$0.50	\$1.10

^{*}Orders executed in the Opening Cross per Options 3, Section 8 are not subject to Options 7, Section 2(1) pricing, instead, these orders are subject to the pricing within Options 7, Section 2(2).

* * * * *

Monthly Volume

indicating volume	
Tier 1	Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols of up to 0.10% of total industry customer equity and ETF option average daily volume ("ADV") contracts per day in a month
Tier 2	Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 0.10% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month
Tier 3	Participant: (a) adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 0.20% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month; or (b)(1) adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or

³ The NOM Market Maker Rebates to Add Liquidity in Penny Symbols will be paid per the highest tier achieved below.

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Non-Penny Symbols above 0.15% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, (2) transacts in all securities through one or more of its Nasdaq Market Center MPIDs that represent (i) 0.50% or more of Consolidated Volume ("CV") which adds liquidity in the same month on The Nasdaq Stock Market or (ii) 50 million shares or more ADV which adds liquidity in the same month on The Nasdaq Stock Market, and (3) executes 1.5 million shares or more ADV in the same month utilizing the M-ELO order type on The Nasdaq Stock Market

Tier 4

Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols of above 0.60% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month

Tier 5

Participant: (a) adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 1.00% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month; or (b) adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols of above 0.40% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month and transacts in all securities through one or more of its Nasdaq Market Center MPIDs that represent 0.40% or more of Consolidated Volume ("CV") which adds liquidity in the same month on The Nasdaq Stock Market

Tier 6

Participant: (a)(1) adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 0.95% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, (2) executes Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 30,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity, and (3) adds Firm, Broker-Dealer and Non-NOM Market Maker liquidity in Non-Penny Symbols of 10,000 or more contracts per day in a month; or (b)(1) adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Symbols and/or Non-Penny Symbols above 1.[5]40% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month, and (2) executes Total Volume of 250,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 15,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be removing liquidity

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