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Page 1 of *	67	WASHING	EXCHANGE COMMIS GTON, D.C. 20549 orm 19b-4		File No.*	SR - 2016 - * 25
Filing by ISE Mercury, LLC						
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934						
Initial * ✓	Amendment *	Withdrawal	Section 19(b)(2) *	Section	on 19(b)(3)(A) *	Section 19(b)(3)(B) *
1 1101	ktension of Time Period r Commission Action *	Date Expires *		19b-4(f)19b-4(f)19b-4(f))(2) 1 9b-4(f)(5)	
Notice of p	roposed change pursuant 6(e)(1) *	to the Payment, Clear Section 806(e)(2) *	ing, and Settlement Ac	t of 2010	Security-Based Swap to the Securities Exch Section 3C(b)(2)	
Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document						
Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked *). A proposal to amend ISE Mercury Rule 723, concerning its Price Improvement Mechanism. Contact Information Provide the name, telephone number, and e-mail address of the person on the staff of the self-regulatory organization prepared to respond to questions and comments on the action.						
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First Name * Andrew		and Carrer - '	Last Name * Madar			
Title *	Senior Associate General Counsel					
E-mail * andrew.madar@nasdaq.com Telephone * (301) 978-8420						
Signature Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, has duly caused this filling to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.						
(Title *) Date 12/12/2016 Executive Vice President and General Counsel						
	12/2016		Executive VICE Presid	ient and Ge	merai Counsel	
By Edv	vard S. Knight					
(Name *) NOTE: Clicking the button at right will digitally sign and lock this form. A digital signature is as legally binding as a physical signature, and once signed, this form cannot be changed.						

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website. The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a Form 19b-4 Information * clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal Remove is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act. The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change * 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 Add Remove View 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) The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication **Exhibit 1A- Notice of Proposed Rule** in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers or Advance Notice by Clearing Agencies * 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, security-based swap submission, or advance notice being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3) Exhibit 2 - Notices, Written Comments, Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such **Transcripts, Other Communications** documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G. Remove View Add Exhibit Sent As Paper Document П Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire 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 Add Remove View referred to by the proposed rule change. Exhibit Sent As Paper Document The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and **Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies** deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit Add Remove View 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** 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 Add Remove View of the proposed rule change. If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy **Partial Amendment** 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) ISE Mercury, LLC (the "Exchange" or "ISE Mercury"), 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 ISE Mercury Rule 723, concerning its Price Improvement Mechanism ("PIM"). Certain aspects of PIM are currently operating on a pilot basis ("Pilot"), which is set to expire on January 18, 2017.³

The Pilot concerns (i) the termination of the exposure period by unrelated orders; and (ii) no minimum size requirement of orders eligible for PIM. ISE Mercury seeks to make the Pilot permanent, and also proposes to change the requirements for providing price improvement for Agency Orders of less than 50 option contracts.

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

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

2. Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization

The proposed rule change was approved by the Board of Directors of the Exchange on November 18, 2016. No other action is necessary for the filing of the rule change.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 78342 (July 15, 2016), 81 FR 47481 (July 21, 2016) (SR-ISEMercury-2016-13).

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

Andrew Madar Senior Associate General Counsel Nasdaq, Inc. 301-978-8420.

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

a. <u>Purpose</u>

The purpose of this proposed rule change is to make permanent certain pilots within Rule 723, relating to PIM. Paragraph .03 of the Supplementary Material to Rule 723 provides that there is no minimum size requirement for orders to be eligible for PIM. Paragraph .05 concerns the termination of the exposure period by unrelated orders. In addition, ISE Mercury proposes to modify the requirements for PIM auctions involving less than 50 contracts where the National Best Bid and Offer ("NBBO") is only \$0.01 wide.

Background

The Exchange adopted PIM as part of its application to be registered as a national securities exchange.⁴ In approving PIM, the Commission noted that it was largely based on a similar functionality offered by the International Securities Exchange, LLC ("ISE").⁵ The PIM is a process that allows Electronic Access Members ("EAM") to provide price improvement opportunities for a transaction wherein the Member seeks to execute an agency order as principal or execute an agency order against a solicited order (a "Crossing Transaction"). A Crossing Transaction is comprised of the order the EAM

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 76998 (January 29, 2016), 81 FR 6066 (February 4, 2016) (File No. 10-221) ("Exchange Approval Order").

⁵ <u>See Exchange Approval Order, supra</u> note 4.

represents as agent (the "Agency Order") and a counter-side order for the full size of the Agency Order (the "Counter-Side Order"). The Counter-Side Order may represent interest for the Member's own account, or interest the Member has solicited from one or more other parties, or a combination of both.

Rule 723 sets forth the criteria pursuant to which the PIM is initiated.

Specifically, a Crossing Transaction must be entered only at a price that is equal to or better than the national best bid or offer ("NBBO") and better than the limit order or quote on the Exchange order book on the same side of the Agency Order. The Crossing Transaction may be priced in one-cent increments. The Crossing Transaction may not be canceled, but the price of the Counter-Side Order may be improved during the exposure period.

Rule 723 also sets forth requirements relating to the exposure of orders in PIM and the termination of the exposure period. Upon entry of a Crossing Transaction into the Price Improvement Mechanism, a broadcast message that includes the series, price and size of the Agency Order, and whether it is to buy or sell, will be sent to all Members. This broadcast message will not be included in the ISE Mercury disseminated best bid or offer and will not be disseminated through OPRA. Members will be given 500 milliseconds to indicate the size and price at which they want to participate in the execution of the Agency Order ("Improvement Orders"). Improvement Orders may be entered by all Members for their own account or for the account of a Public Customer in one-cent increments at the same price as the Crossing Transaction or at an improved price for the Agency Order, and for any size up to the size of the Agency Order. During the exposure period, Improvement Orders may not be canceled, but may be modified to (1)

increase the size at the same price, or (2) improve the price of the Improvement Order for any size up to the size of the Agency Order. During the exposure period, responses (including the Counter Side Order, Improvement Orders, and any changes to either) submitted by Members shall not be visible to other auction participants. The exposure period will automatically terminate (i) at the end of the 500 millisecond period, (ii) upon the receipt of a market or marketable limit order on the Exchange in the same series, or (iii) upon the receipt of a nonmarketable limit order in the same series on the same side of the market as the Agency Order that would cause the price of the Crossing Transaction to be outside of the best bid or offer on the Exchange.

Rule 723 also describes how orders will be executed at the end of the exposure period. Specifically, at the end of the exposure period, the Agency Order will be executed in full at the best prices available, taking into consideration orders and quotes in the Exchange market, Improvement Orders, and the Counter-Side Order. The Agency Order will receive executions at multiple price levels if there is insufficient size to execute the entire order at the best price. At a given price, Priority Customer interest is executed in full before Professional Orders and any other interest of Members (i.e., proprietary interest from Electronic Access Members and Exchange market makers).

After Priority Customer interest at a given price, Professional Orders and Members' interest will participate in the execution of the Agency Order based upon the percentage of the total number of contracts available at the price that is represented by the size of the Members' interest.

In the case where the Counter-Side Order is at the same price as Members' interest (after Priority Customer interest at a given price), the Counter-Side order will be

allocated the greater of one (1) contract or forty percent (40%) of the initial size of the Agency Order before other Member interest is executed. Upon entry of Counter-Side orders, Members can elect to automatically match the price and size of orders, quotes and responses received during the exposure period up to a specified limit price or without specifying a limit price. In this case, the Counter-Side order will be allocated its full size at each price point, or at each price point within its limit price if a limit is specified, until a price point is reached where the balance of the order can be fully executed. At such price point, the Counter-Side order shall be allocated the greater of one contract or forty percent (40%) of the original size of the Agency Order, but only after Priority Customer Orders at such price point are executed in full. Thereafter, all other orders, Responses, and quotes at the price point will participate in the execution of the Agency Order based upon the percentage of the total number of contracts available at the price that is represented by the size of the order, Response or quote. An election to automatically match better prices cannot be cancelled or altered during the exposure period.

When a market order or marketable limit order on the opposite side of the market from the Agency Order ends the exposure period, it will participate in the execution of the Agency Order at the price that is mid-way between the best counter-side interest and the NBBO, so that both the market or marketable limit order and the Agency Order receive price improvement. Transactions will be rounded, when necessary, to the \$.01 increment that favors the Agency Order.

The Pilot

As described above, two components of PIM are currently operating on a pilot basis: (i) the termination of the exposure period by unrelated orders; and (ii) no minimum

size requirement of orders entered into PIM. The pilot has been extended until January 18, 2017.⁶

As described in greater detail below, during the pilot period the Exchange has been required to submit, and has been submitting, certain data periodically as required by the Commission, to provide supporting evidence that, among other things, there is meaningful competition for all size orders within the PIM, that there is significant price improvement for all orders executed through the PIM, and that there is an active and liquid market functioning on the Exchange both within PIM and outside of the Auction mechanism. The Exchange has also analyzed the impact of certain aspects of the Pilot; for example, situation in which PIM is terminated prematurely by an unrelated order.

The Exchange now seeks to have the Pilot approved on a permanent basis. In addition, the Exchange proposes to modify the scope of PIM so that, with respect to PIM orders for less than 50 option contracts, members will be required to receive price improvement of at least one minimum price improvement increment over the NBBO if the NBBO is only \$0.01 wide. For orders of 50 contracts or more, or if the difference in the NBBO is greater than \$0.01, the requirements for price improvement remain the same.

Price Improvement for Orders Under 50 Contracts

Currently, the PIM may be initiated if all of the following conditions are met. A Crossing Transaction must be entered only at a price that is equal to or better than the NBBO and better than the limit order or quote on the Exchange order book on the same side of the Agency Order. The Crossing Transaction may be priced in one-cent

⁶ See note 3 above.

increments. The Crossing Transaction may not be canceled, but the price of the Counter-Side Order may be improved during the exposure period.

ISE Mercury proposes to amend Rule 723(b) to require Electronic Access Members to provide at least \$0.01 price improvement for an Agency Order if that order is for less than 50 contracts and if the difference between the NBBO is \$0.01. For the period beginning January 19, 2017 until a date specified by the Exchange in a Regulatory Information Circular, which date shall be no later than September 15, 2017, ISE Mercury will adopt a member conduct standard to implement this requirement. Under this provision, the Exchange is proposing to amend the Auction Eligibility Requirements to require that, if the Agency Order is for less than 50 option contracts, and if the difference between the NBBO is \$0.01, an Electronic Access Member shall not enter a Crossing Transaction unless such Crossing Transaction is entered at a price that is one minimum price improvement increment better than the NBBO on the opposite side of the market from the Agency Order and better than any limit order on the limit order book on the same side of the market as the Agency Order. This requirement will apply regardless of whether the Agency Order is for the account of a public customer, or where the Agency Order is for the account of a broker dealer or any other person or entity that is not a

The Exchange notes that its indirect parent company, U.S. Exchange Holdings, Inc. has been acquired by Nasdaq, Inc. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 78119 (June 21, 2016), 81 FR 41611 (June 27, 2016) (SR-ISEMercury-2016-11). Pursuant to this acquisition, ISE Mercury platforms are migrating to Nasdaq platforms, including the platform that operates PIM. ISE Mercury intends to retain the proposed member conduct standard requiring price improvement for options orders of under 50 contracts where the difference between the NBBO is \$0.01 until the ISE Mercury platforms and the corresponding symbols are migrated to the platforms operated by Nasdaq, Inc.

Public Customer. Failure to provide such price improvement will subject Members to the fines set forth in Rule 1614(d)(4) of the International Securities Exchange, LLC ("ISE").⁸

The Exchange will conduct electronic surveillance of PIM to ensure that members comply with the proposed price improvement requirements for option orders of less than 50 contracts. Specifically, using an electronic surveillance system that produces alerts of potentially unlawful PIM orders, the Exchange will perform a frequent review of member firm activity to identify instances of apparent violations. Upon discovery of an apparent violation, the Exchange will attempt to contact the appropriate member firm to communicate the specifics of the apparent violation with the intent to assist the member firm in preventing submission of subsequent problematic orders. The Exchange will review the alerts monthly and determine the applicability of the MRVP and appropriate penalty. The Exchange is not limited to the application of the MRVP, and may at its discretion, choose to escalate a matter for processing through the Exchange's disciplinary program.

The Exchange is also proposing a systems-based mechanism to implement this price improvement requirement, which shall be effective following the migration of a

In a separate proposed rule change, ISE is proposing to adopt similar price improvement requirements for orders of less than 50 contracts for its PIM. As part of that rule change, ISE is proposing to amend ISE Rule 1614 (Imposition of Fines for Minor Rule Violations) to add Rule 1614(d)(4), which will provide that, beginning January 19, 2017, any Member who enters an order into PIM for less than 50 contracts, while the National Best Bid or Offer spread is \$0.01, must provide price improvement of at least one minimum price improvement increment better than the NBBO on the opposite side of the market from the Agency Order, which increment may not be smaller than \$0.01. Failure to provide such price improvement will result in members being subject to the following fines: \$500 for the second offense, \$1,000 for the third offense, and \$2,500 for the fourth offense. Subsequent offenses will subject the member to formal disciplinary action. ISE will review violations on a monthly cycle to assess these violations.

symbol to INET, the platform operated by Nasdaq, Inc. that will also operate the PIM. Under this provision, if the Agency Order is for less than 50 option contracts, and if the difference between the National Best Bid and National Best Offer ("NBBO") is \$0.01, the Crossing Transaction must be entered at one minimum price improvement increment better than the NBBO on the opposite side of the market from the Agency Order and better than the limit order or quote on the ISE order book on the same side of the Agency Order.

The Exchange believes that these changes to PIM may provide additional opportunities for Agency Orders of under 50 option contracts to receive price improvement over the NBBO where the difference in the NBBO is \$0.01 and therefore encourage the increased submission of orders of under 50 option contracts. The Exchange notes that the statistics for the current pilot, which include, among other things, price improvement for orders of less than 50 option contracts under the current auction eligibility requirements, show relatively small amounts of price improvement for such orders. ISE Mercury believes that the proposed requirements will therefore increase the price improvement that orders of under 50 option contracts may receive in PIM.

The Exchange will retain the current requirements for auction eligibility where the Agency Order is for 50 option contracts or more, or if the difference between the NBBO is greater than \$0.01. Accordingly, the Exchange is amending the Auction Eligibility Requirements to state that, if the PIM Order is for 50 option contracts or more or if the difference between the NBBO is greater than \$0.01, the Crossing Transaction must be entered only at a price that is equal to or better than the NBBO and better than

the limit order or quote on the ISE Mercury order book on the same side as the Agency Order.

No Minimum Size Requirement

Supplemental Material .03 to Rule 723 provides that, as part of the current Pilot, there will be no minimum size requirement for orders to be eligible for the Auction. As with the ISE PIM, the Exchange proposed the no-minimum size requirement for the PIM because it believed that this would provide small customer orders with the opportunity to participate in the PIM and to receive corresponding price improvement. In initially approving the ISE PIM, the Commission noted that the no minimum size requirement provided an opportunity for more market participants to participate in the auction. The Commission also stated that it would evaluate PIM during the Pilot Period to determine whether it would be beneficial to customers and to the options market as a whole to approve any proposal requesting permanent approval to permit orders of fewer than 50 contracts to be submitted to the PIM.

As noted above, throughout the Pilot, the Exchange has been required to submit certain data periodically to provide supporting evidence that, among other things, there is meaningful competition for all size orders within the PIM, that there is significant price

The provision relating to the no minimum size requirement also requires the Exchange to submit certain data, periodically as required by the Commission, to provide supporting evidence that, among other things, there is meaningful competition for all size orders within the PIM, that there is significant price improvement for all orders executed through the PIM, and that there is an active and liquid market functioning on the Exchange outside of the PIM. Any raw data which is submitted to the Commission will be provided on a confidential basis.

 <u>See</u> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 50819 (December 8, 2004), 69 FR
 75093 (December 15, 2004) (SR-ISE-2003-06) ("ISE PIM Approval Order").

¹¹ Id.

improvement for all orders executed through the PIM, and that there is an active and liquid market functioning on the Exchange both within PIM and outside of the Auction mechanism.

The Exchange believes that the data gathered since the approval of the Pilot establishes that there is liquidity and competition both within PIM and outside of PIM, and that there are opportunities for significant price improvement within PIM.¹²

In the period between February and June 2016, the PIM executed a total of 613,353 contracts, which represented 26.36% of total ISE Mercury contract volume and 0.04% of industry volume. The percent of ISE Mercury volume traded in PIM ranged from 0% in February 2016 to 37.88% in June 2016.

The Exchange compiled price improvement data in orders from February through June 2016 that divides the data into the following groups: (1) orders of over 50 contracts where the Agency Order was on behalf of a Public Customer and ISE Mercury was at the NBBO; (2) orders of over 50 contracts where the Agency Order was on behalf of a Public Customer and ISE Mercury was not at the NBBO; (3) orders of over 50 contracts where the Agency Order was on behalf of a non-customer and ISE Mercury was at the NBBO; (4) orders of over 50 contracts where the Agency Order was on behalf of a non-customer and ISE Mercury was not at the NBBO; (5) orders of 50 contracts or less where the Agency Order was on behalf of a Public Customer and ISE Mercury was at the NBBO;

Specifically, the Exchange gathered and reported nine separate data fields relating to PIM orders of fewer than 50 contracts, including (1) the number of orders of fewer than 50 contracts entered into the PIM; (2) the percentage of all orders of fewer than 50 contracts sent to the Exchange that are entered into the PIM; (3) the spread in the option, at the time an order of fewer than 50 contracts is submitted to the PIM; and (4) of PIM trades, the percentage done at the NBBO plus \$.01, plus \$.02, plus \$.03, etc. See Exhibit B to ISE Mercury Exchange Application (File No. 10-209).

(6) orders of 50 contracts or less where the Agency Order was on behalf of a Public Customer and ISE Mercury was not at the NBBO; (7) orders of 50 contracts or less where the Agency Order was on behalf of a non-customer and ISE Mercury was at the NBBO; and (8) orders of 50 contracts or less where the Agency Order was on behalf of a non-customer and ISE Mercury was not at the NBBO.

For March 2016, where the order was on behalf of a Public Customer, the order was for 50 contracts or less, and ISE Mercury was at the NBBO, the most contracts traded (2,525) occurred when the spread was \$0.03, with an average number of two participants. All of these contracts received \$0.01 price improvement. When the spread was \$0.01 for this same category, a total of 734 contracts traded, with none of those contracts receiving price improvement. There was an average number of 3 participants when the spread was \$0.01.

In comparison, where the order was on behalf of a Public Customer, the order was for greater than 50 contracts, and ISE Mercury was at the NBBO, the most contracts traded (934) occurred when the spread was \$0.10 to \$0.20, with an average number of 3 participants. The greatest number of these contracts (429) received \$0.05 - \$0.10 price improvement.

In March 2016, where the order was on behalf of a Public Customer, the order was for 50 contracts or less, and ISE Mercury was not at the NBBO, the most contracts traded (3,772) occurred when the spread \$0.01. Of this category, the greatest number of contracts (3,722) received no price improvement, and 50 contracts received \$0.01 price

This discussion of March 2016 data is intended to be illustrative of data that was gathered between February 2016 and July 2016. The complete underlying data for February 2016 through June 2016 for these eight categories is attached as Exhibit 3.

improvement. There was an average number of 2 participants when the spread was \$0.01.

In comparison, in March 2016, where the order was on behalf of a Public Customer, the order was for greater than 50 contracts, and ISE Mercury was not at the NBBO, the most contracts traded (1,431) occurred when the spread was \$0.02. Of these contracts, the greatest number of contracts (758) received no price improvement. There was an average number of 2 participants when the spread was \$0.02.

ISE Mercury believes that the data gathered during the Pilot period indicates that there is meaningful competition in PIM auctions for all size orders, there is an active and liquid market functioning on the Exchange outside of the auction mechanism, and that there are opportunities for significant price improvement for orders executed through PIM. The Exchange therefore believes that it is appropriate to approve the no-minimum size requirement on a permanent basis.

Early Conclusion of the PIM Auction

Supplemental Material .05 to Rule 723 provides that Rule 723(c)(5) and Rule 723(d)(4), which relate to the termination of the exposure period by unrelated orders shall be part of the current Pilot. Rule 723(c)(5) provides that the exposure period will automatically terminate (i) at the end of the 500 millisecond period, ¹⁴ (ii) upon the receipt of a market or marketable limit order on the Exchange in the same series, or (iii) upon the receipt of a nonmarketable limit order in the same series on the same side of the market as the Agency Order that would cause the price of the Crossing Transaction to be outside

The Exchange notes that it is proposing to modify the exposure period to a time period of no less than 100 milliseconds and no more than one second. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 79354 (November 18, 2016), 81 FR 85295 (November 25, 2016) (SR-ISEMercury-2016-21).

of the best bid or offer on the Exchange. Rule 723(d)(4) provides that, when a market order or marketable limit order on the opposite side of the market from the Agency Order ends the exposure period, it will participate in the execution of the Agency Order at the price that is mid-way between the best counter-side interest and the NBBO, so that both the market or marketable limit order and the Agency Order receive price improvement. Transactions will be rounded, when necessary, to the \$.01 increment that favors the Agency Order.

As with the no minimum size requirement, the Exchange has gathered data on these three conditions to assess the effect of early PIM conclusions on the Pilot. 15

¹⁵ The Exchange agreed to gather and submit the following data on this part of the Pilot: (1) The number of times that a market or marketable limit order in the same series on the same side of the market as the Agency Order prematurely ended the PIM auction, and the number of times such orders were entered by the same (or affiliated) firm that initiated the PIM that was terminated; (2) the percentage of PIM early terminations due to the receipt of a market or marketable limit order in the same series on the same side of the market that occurred within a 1/2 second of the start of the PIM auction; the percentage that occurred within one second of the start of the PIM auction; the percentage that occurred within one and 1/2 second of the start of the PIM auction; the percentage that occurred within 2 seconds of the start of the PIM auction; the percentage that occurred within 2 and 1/2 seconds of the PIM auction; and the average amount of price improvement provided to the Agency Order where the PIM is terminated early at each of these time periods; (3) the number of times that a market or marketable limit order in the same series on the opposite side of the market as the Agency Order prematurely ended the PIM auction and at what time the unrelated order ended the PIM auction, and the number of times such orders were entered by the same (or affiliated) firm that initiated the PIM that was terminated; (4) the percentage of PIM early terminations due to the receipt of a market or marketable limit order in the same series on the opposite side of the market that occurred within a 1/2second of the start of the PIM auction; the percentage that occurred within one second of the start of the PIM auction; the percentage that occurred within one and 1/2 second of the start of the PIM auction; the percentage that occurred within 2 seconds of the start of the PIM auction; the percentage that occurred within 2 and 1/2 seconds of the PIM auction; and the average amount of price improvement provided to the Agency Order where the PIM is terminated early at each of these time periods; (5) the number of times that a nonmarketable limit

For the period from January 2016 through June 2016, there were a total of 77 early terminated auctions. The number of orders in early terminated PIM auctions constituted 0.35% of total PIM orders. There were a total of 1,581 contracts that traded through early terminated auctions. The number of contracts in early terminated PIM auctions represented 0.26% of total PIM contracts. Of the early terminated auctions, 46.75% of those auctions received price improvement, and 31.37% of contracts that traded in an early-terminated auction received price improvement. Of the PIM auctions that terminated early and received price improvement from February 2016 through June 2016, the total amount of price improvement received was \$16.53.

Based on the data gathered during the pilot, the Exchange does not anticipate that any of these conditions will occur with significant frequency, or will otherwise significantly affect the functioning of the PIM. Of the early terminated auctions, 46.75% of those auctions received price improvement, and 31.37% of contracts that traded in an early-terminated auction received price improvement. The total amount of price

order in the same series on the same side of the market as the Agency Order that would cause the price of the Crossing Transaction to be outside of the best bid or offer on the Exchange prematurely ended the PIM auction and at what time the unrelated order ended the PIM auction, and the number of times such orders were entered by the same (or affiliated) firm that initiated the PIM that was terminated; (6) the percentage of PIM early terminations due to the receipt of a market or marketable limit order in the same series on the same side of the market as the Agency Order that would cause the price of the Crossing Transaction to be outside of the best bid or offer on the Exchange that occurred within a 1/2 second of the start of the PIM auction; the percentage that occurred within one second of the start of the PIM auction; the percentage that occurred within one and 1/2 second of the start of the PIM auction; the percentage that occurred within 2 seconds of the start of the PIM auction; the percentage that occurred within 2 and 1/2 seconds of the PIM auction; and the average amount of price improvement provided to the Agency Order where the PIM is terminated early at each of these time periods; and (7) the average amount of price improvement provided to the Agency Order when the PIM auction is not terminated early. See Exhibit B to ISE Mercury Exchange Application (File No. 10-209).

improvement for PIM auctions that terminated early was \$16.53. The Exchange therefore believes it is appropriate to approve this aspect of the Pilot on a permanent basis.

b. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 6 of the Act, ¹⁶ in general and with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act, ¹⁷ in that it is designed 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; and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers, or to regulate by virtue of any authority conferred by the Act matters not related to the purposes of the Act or the administration of the Exchange.

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is also consistent with Section 6(b)(8) of the Act¹⁸ in that it does not impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

Specifically, the Exchange believes that PIM, including the rules to which the Pilot applies, results in increased liquidity available at improved prices, with competitive final pricing out of the complete control of the Electronic Access Member that initiated

¹⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f.

¹⁵ U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

¹⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(8).

the auction. The Exchange believes that PIM promotes and fosters competition and affords the opportunity for price improvement to more options contracts. The Exchange believes that the changes to the PIM requiring price improvement of at least one minimum price improvement increment over the NBBO for Agency Orders of less than 50 option contracts where the difference in the NBBO is \$0.01 will provide further price improvement for those orders, and thereby encourage additional submission of those orders into PIM. The Exchange believes that the proposal, which subjects members to the Minor Rule Violation Plan for failing to provide the required price improvement, coupled with the Exchange's surveillance efforts, are designed to facilitate members' compliance with the proposed requirement.

The Exchange believes that approving the Pilot on a permanent basis is also consistent with the Act. With respect to the no minimum size requirement, the Exchange believes that the data gathered during the Pilot period indicates that there is meaningful competition in the PIM for all size orders, there is an active and liquid market functioning on the Exchange outside of the auction mechanism, and that there are opportunities for significant price improvement for orders executed through PIM, including for small customer orders.

With respect to the early termination of the PIM, the Exchange believes that it is appropriate to terminate an auction (i) at the end of the 500 millisecond period, (ii) upon the receipt of a market or marketable limit order on the Exchange in the same series, or (iii) upon the receipt of a nonmarketable limit order in the same series on the same side of the market as the Agency Order that would cause the price of the Crossing Transaction to be outside of the best bid or offer on the Exchange. The Exchange also believes that it is

consistent with the Act to require that, when a market order or marketable limit order on the opposite side of the market from the Agency Order ends the exposure period, it will participate in the execution of the Agency Order at the price that is mid-way between the best counter-side interest and the NBBO, so that both the market or marketable limit order and the Agency Order receive price improvement. Based on the data gathered during the pilot, the Exchange does not anticipate that any of these conditions will occur with significant frequency, or will otherwise disrupt the functioning of the PIM. The Exchange also notes that a significant percentage of PIM auctions that terminated early executed at a price that was better than the NBBO at the time the auction began, and that a significant percentage of contracts in auctions that terminated early received price improvement.

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. The proposal will apply to all Exchange members, and participation in the PIM process is completely voluntary. Based on the data collected by the Exchange during the Pilot, the Exchange believes that there is meaningful competition in the PIM for all size orders, there are opportunities for significant price improvement for orders executed through PIM, and that there is an active and liquid market functioning on the Exchange outside of the PIM. The Exchange believes that requiring increased price improvement for Agency Orders may encourage competition by attracting additional orders to participate in the PIM. The Exchange believes that approving the Pilot on a permanent basis will not significantly impact competition, as the Exchange is proposing no other change to the Pilot beyond implementing it on a permanent basis.

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

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 Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)</u>

The Exchange requests accelerated effectiveness pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act. ¹⁹ The Exchange is requesting, and believes that good cause exists for granting, accelerated approval so that this proposal will be approved and effective as of the current expiration date of the Pilot, which is January 18, 2017. This will avoid any potential investor confusion or market disruption that could otherwise result from a temporary interruption in the PIM.

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 Federal Register.
- 3. Summary of pilot data.
- 5. Text of the proposed rule change.

¹⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

EXHIBIT 1

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

(Release No.

; File No. SR-ISEMercury-2016-25)

December ___, 2016

Self-Regulatory Organizations; ISE Mercury LLC; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change to Amend ISE Gemini Rule 723 and to Make Pilot Program Permanent

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 December 12, 2016, ISE Mercury, LLC (the "Exchange" or "ISE Mercury") 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 ISE Mercury Rule 723, concerning its Price Improvement Mechanism ("PIM"). Certain aspects of PIM are currently operating on a pilot basis ("Pilot"), which is set to expire on January 18, 2017.³ The Pilot concerns (i) the termination of the exposure period by unrelated orders; and (ii) no minimum size requirement of orders eligible for PIM. ISE Mercury seeks to make the Pilot permanent,

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 78342 (July 15, 2016), 81 FR 47481 (July 21, 2016) (SR-ISEMercury-2016-13).

and also proposes to change the requirements for providing price improvement for Agency Orders of less than 50 option contracts.

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

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 purpose of this proposed rule change is to make permanent certain pilots within Rule 723, relating to PIM. Paragraph .03 of the Supplementary Material to Rule 723 provides that there is no minimum size requirement for orders to be eligible for PIM. Paragraph .05 concerns the termination of the exposure period by unrelated orders. In addition, ISE Mercury proposes to modify the requirements for PIM auctions involving less than 50 contracts where the National Best Bid and Offer ("NBBO") is only \$0.01 wide.

Background

The Exchange adopted PIM as part of its application to be registered as a national securities exchange. In approving PIM, the Commission noted that it was largely based on a similar functionality offered by the International Securities Exchange, LLC ("ISE"). The PIM is a process that allows Electronic Access Members ("EAM") to provide price improvement opportunities for a transaction wherein the Member seeks to execute an agency order as principal or execute an agency order against a solicited order (a "Crossing Transaction"). A Crossing Transaction is comprised of the order the EAM represents as agent (the "Agency Order") and a counter-side order for the full size of the Agency Order (the "Counter-Side Order"). The Counter-Side Order may represent interest for the Member's own account, or interest the Member has solicited from one or more other parties, or a combination of both.

Rule 723 sets forth the criteria pursuant to which the PIM is initiated.

Specifically, a Crossing Transaction must be entered only at a price that is equal to or better than the national best bid or offer ("NBBO") and better than the limit order or quote on the Exchange order book on the same side of the Agency Order. The Crossing Transaction may be priced in one-cent increments. The Crossing Transaction may not be canceled, but the price of the Counter-Side Order may be improved during the exposure period.

Rule 723 also sets forth requirements relating to the exposure of orders in PIM and the termination of the exposure period. Upon entry of a Crossing Transaction into

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 76998 (January 29, 2016), 81 FR 6066 (February 4, 2016) (File No. 10-221) ("Exchange Approval Order").

⁵ <u>See Exchange Approval Order, supra</u> note 4.

the Price Improvement Mechanism, a broadcast message that includes the series, price and size of the Agency Order, and whether it is to buy or sell, will be sent to all Members. This broadcast message will not be included in the ISE Mercury disseminated best bid or offer and will not be disseminated through OPRA. Members will be given 500 milliseconds to indicate the size and price at which they want to participate in the execution of the Agency Order ("Improvement Orders"). Improvement Orders may be entered by all Members for their own account or for the account of a Public Customer in one-cent increments at the same price as the Crossing Transaction or at an improved price for the Agency Order, and for any size up to the size of the Agency Order. During the exposure period, Improvement Orders may not be canceled, but may be modified to (1) increase the size at the same price, or (2) improve the price of the Improvement Order for any size up to the size of the Agency Order. During the exposure period, responses (including the Counter Side Order, Improvement Orders, and any changes to either) submitted by Members shall not be visible to other auction participants. The exposure period will automatically terminate (i) at the end of the 500 millisecond period, (ii) upon the receipt of a market or marketable limit order on the Exchange in the same series, or (iii) upon the receipt of a nonmarketable limit order in the same series on the same side of the market as the Agency Order that would cause the price of the Crossing Transaction to be outside of the best bid or offer on the Exchange.

Rule 723 also describes how orders will be executed at the end of the exposure period. Specifically, at the end of the exposure period, the Agency Order will be executed in full at the best prices available, taking into consideration orders and quotes in the Exchange market, Improvement Orders, and the Counter-Side Order. The Agency

Order will receive executions at multiple price levels if there is insufficient size to execute the entire order at the best price. At a given price, Priority Customer interest is executed in full before Professional Orders and any other interest of Members (i.e., proprietary interest from Electronic Access Members and Exchange market makers).

After Priority Customer interest at a given price, Professional Orders and Members' interest will participate in the execution of the Agency Order based upon the percentage of the total number of contracts available at the price that is represented by the size of the Members' interest.

In the case where the Counter-Side Order is at the same price as Members' interest (after Priority Customer interest at a given price), the Counter-Side order will be allocated the greater of one (1) contract or forty percent (40%) of the initial size of the Agency Order before other Member interest is executed. Upon entry of Counter-Side orders, Members can elect to automatically match the price and size of orders, quotes and responses received during the exposure period up to a specified limit price or without specifying a limit price. In this case, the Counter-Side order will be allocated its full size at each price point, or at each price point within its limit price if a limit is specified, until a price point is reached where the balance of the order can be fully executed. At such price point, the Counter-Side order shall be allocated the greater of one contract or forty percent (40%) of the original size of the Agency Order, but only after Priority Customer Orders at such price point are executed in full. Thereafter, all other orders, Responses, and quotes at the price point will participate in the execution of the Agency Order based upon the percentage of the total number of contracts available at the price that is

represented by the size of the order, Response or quote. An election to automatically match better prices cannot be cancelled or altered during the exposure period.

When a market order or marketable limit order on the opposite side of the market from the Agency Order ends the exposure period, it will participate in the execution of the Agency Order at the price that is mid-way between the best counter-side interest and the NBBO, so that both the market or marketable limit order and the Agency Order receive price improvement. Transactions will be rounded, when necessary, to the \$.01 increment that favors the Agency Order.

The Pilot

As described above, two components of PIM are currently operating on a pilot basis: (i) the termination of the exposure period by unrelated orders; and (ii) no minimum size requirement of orders entered into PIM. The pilot has been extended until January 18, 2017.⁶

As described in greater detail below, during the pilot period the Exchange has been required to submit, and has been submitting, certain data periodically as required by the Commission, to provide supporting evidence that, among other things, there is meaningful competition for all size orders within the PIM, that there is significant price improvement for all orders executed through the PIM, and that there is an active and liquid market functioning on the Exchange both within PIM and outside of the Auction mechanism. The Exchange has also analyzed the impact of certain aspects of the Pilot; for example, situation in which PIM is terminated prematurely by an unrelated order.

See note 3 above.

The Exchange now seeks to have the Pilot approved on a permanent basis. In addition, the Exchange proposes to modify the scope of PIM so that, with respect to PIM orders for less than 50 option contracts, members will be required to receive price improvement of at least one minimum price improvement increment over the NBBO if the NBBO is only \$0.01 wide. For orders of 50 contracts or more, or if the difference in the NBBO is greater than \$0.01, the requirements for price improvement remain the same.

Price Improvement for Orders Under 50 Contracts

Currently, the PIM may be initiated if all of the following conditions are met. A

Crossing Transaction must be entered only at a price that is equal to or better than the

NBBO and better than the limit order or quote on the Exchange order book on the same
side of the Agency Order. The Crossing Transaction may be priced in one-cent
increments. The Crossing Transaction may not be canceled, but the price of the CounterSide Order may be improved during the exposure period.

ISE Mercury proposes to amend Rule 723(b) to require Electronic Access

Members to provide at least \$0.01 price improvement for an Agency Order if that order is
for less than 50 contracts and if the difference between the NBBO is \$0.01. For the
period beginning January 19, 2017 until a date specified by the Exchange in a Regulatory
Information Circular, which date shall be no later than September 15, 2017, ISE Mercury
will adopt a member conduct standard to implement this requirement. Under this

The Exchange notes that its indirect parent company, U.S. Exchange Holdings, Inc. has been acquired by Nasdaq, Inc. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 78119 (June 21, 2016), 81 FR 41611 (June 27, 2016) (SR-ISEMercury-2016-10). Pursuant to this acquisition, ISE Mercury platforms are migrating to Nasdaq platforms, including the platform that operates PIM. ISE Mercury intends to

provision, the Exchange is proposing to amend the Auction Eligibility Requirements to require that, if the Agency Order is for less than 50 option contracts, and if the difference between the NBBO is \$0.01, an Electronic Access Member shall not enter a Crossing Transaction unless such Crossing Transaction is entered at a price that is one minimum price improvement increment better than the NBBO on the opposite side of the market from the Agency Order and better than any limit order on the limit order book on the same side of the market as the Agency Order. This requirement will apply regardless of whether the Agency Order is for the account of a public customer, or where the Agency Order is for the account of a broker dealer or any other person or entity that is not a Public Customer. Failure to provide such price improvement will subject Members to the fines set forth in Rule 1614(d)(4) of the International Securities Exchange, LLC ("ISE").8

The Exchange will conduct electronic surveillance of PIM to ensure that members comply with the proposed price improvement requirements for option orders of less than 50 contracts. Specifically, using an electronic surveillance system that produces alerts of

retain the proposed member conduct standard requiring price improvement for options orders of under 50 contracts where the difference between the NBBO is \$0.01 until the ISE Mercury platforms and the corresponding symbols are migrated to the platforms operated by Nasdaq, Inc.

In a separate proposed rule change, ISE is proposing to adopt similar price improvement requirements for orders of less than 50 contracts for its PIM. As part of that rule change, ISE is proposing to amend ISE Rule 1614 (Imposition of Fines for Minor Rule Violations) to add Rule 1614(d)(4), which will provide that, beginning January 19, 2017, any Member who enters an order into PIM for less than 50 contracts, while the National Best Bid or Offer spread is \$0.01, must provide price improvement of at least one minimum price improvement increment better than the NBBO on the opposite side of the market from the Agency Order, which increment may not be smaller than \$0.01. Failure to provide such price improvement will result in members being subject to the following fines: \$500 for the second offense, \$1,000 for the third offense, and \$2,500 for the fourth offense. Subsequent offenses will subject the member to formal disciplinary action. ISE will review violations on a monthly cycle to assess these violations.

potentially unlawful PIM orders, the Exchange will perform a frequent review of member firm activity to identify instances of apparent violations. Upon discovery of an apparent violation, the Exchange will attempt to contact the appropriate member firm to communicate the specifics of the apparent violation with the intent to assist the member firm in preventing submission of subsequent problematic orders. The Exchange will review the alerts monthly and determine the applicability of the MRVP and appropriate penalty. The Exchange is not limited to the application of the MRVP, and may at its discretion, choose to escalate a matter for processing through the Exchange's disciplinary program.

The Exchange is also proposing a systems-based mechanism to implement this price improvement requirement, which shall be effective following the migration of a symbol to INET, the platform operated by Nasdaq, Inc. that will also operate the PIM. Under this provision, if the Agency Order is for less than 50 option contracts, and if the difference between the National Best Bid and National Best Offer ("NBBO") is \$0.01, the Crossing Transaction must be entered at one minimum price improvement increment better than the NBBO on the opposite side of the market from the Agency Order and better than the limit order or quote on the ISE order book on the same side of the Agency Order.

The Exchange believes that these changes to PIM may provide additional opportunities for Agency Orders of under 50 option contracts to receive price improvement over the NBBO where the difference in the NBBO is \$0.01 and therefore encourage the increased submission of orders of under 50 option contracts. The Exchange notes that the statistics for the current pilot, which include, among other things,

price improvement for orders of less than 50 option contracts under the current auction eligibility requirements, show relatively small amounts of price improvement for such orders. ISE Mercury believes that the proposed requirements will therefore increase the price improvement that orders of under 50 option contracts may receive in PIM.

The Exchange will retain the current requirements for auction eligibility where the Agency Order is for 50 option contracts or more, or if the difference between the NBBO is greater than \$0.01. Accordingly, the Exchange is amending the Auction Eligibility Requirements to state that, if the PIM Order is for 50 option contracts or more or if the difference between the NBBO is greater than \$0.01, the Crossing Transaction must be entered only at a price that is equal to or better than the NBBO and better than the limit order or quote on the ISE Mercury order book on the same side as the Agency Order.

No Minimum Size Requirement

Supplemental Material .03 to Rule 723 provides that, as part of the current Pilot, there will be no minimum size requirement for orders to be eligible for the Auction. As with the ISE PIM, the Exchange proposed the no-minimum size requirement for the PIM because it believed that this would provide small customer orders with the opportunity to participate in the PIM and to receive corresponding price improvement. In initially approving the ISE PIM, the Commission noted that the no minimum size requirement

The provision relating to the no minimum size requirement also requires the Exchange to submit certain data, periodically as required by the Commission, to provide supporting evidence that, among other things, there is meaningful competition for all size orders within the PIM, that there is significant price improvement for all orders executed through the PIM, and that there is an active and liquid market functioning on the Exchange outside of the PIM. Any raw data which is submitted to the Commission will be provided on a confidential basis.

provided an opportunity for more market participants to participate in the auction. ¹⁰ The Commission also stated that it would evaluate PIM during the Pilot Period to determine whether it would be beneficial to customers and to the options market as a whole to approve any proposal requesting permanent approval to permit orders of fewer than 50 contracts to be submitted to the PIM. ¹¹

As noted above, throughout the Pilot, the Exchange has been required to submit certain data periodically to provide supporting evidence that, among other things, there is meaningful competition for all size orders within the PIM, that there is significant price improvement for all orders executed through the PIM, and that there is an active and liquid market functioning on the Exchange both within PIM and outside of the Auction mechanism.

The Exchange believes that the data gathered since the approval of the Pilot establishes that there is liquidity and competition both within PIM and outside of PIM, and that there are opportunities for significant price improvement within PIM.¹²

In the period between February and June 2016, the PIM executed a total of 613,353 contracts, which represented 26.36% of total ISE Mercury contract volume and

 <u>See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 50819 (December 8, 2004), 69 FR 75093 (December 15, 2004) (SR-ISE-2003-06) ("ISE PIM Approval Order").</u>

^{11 &}lt;u>Id</u>.

Specifically, the Exchange gathered and reported nine separate data fields relating to PIM orders of fewer than 50 contracts, including (1) the number of orders of fewer than 50 contracts entered into the PIM; (2) the percentage of all orders of fewer than 50 contracts sent to the Exchange that are entered into the PIM; (3) the spread in the option, at the time an order of fewer than 50 contracts is submitted to the PIM; and (4) of PIM trades, the percentage done at the NBBO plus \$.01, plus \$.02, plus \$.03, etc. See Exhibit B to ISE Mercury Exchange Application (File No. 10-209).

0.04% of industry volume. The percent of ISE Mercury volume traded in PIM ranged from 0% in February 2016 to 37.88% in June 2016.

The Exchange compiled price improvement data in orders from February through June 2016 that divides the data into the following groups: (1) orders of over 50 contracts where the Agency Order was on behalf of a Public Customer and ISE Mercury was at the NBBO; (2) orders of over 50 contracts where the Agency Order was on behalf of a Public Customer and ISE Mercury was not at the NBBO; (3) orders of over 50 contracts where the Agency Order was on behalf of a non-customer and ISE Mercury was at the NBBO; (4) orders of over 50 contracts where the Agency Order was on behalf of a non-customer and ISE Mercury was not at the NBBO; (5) orders of 50 contracts or less where the Agency Order was on behalf of a Public Customer and ISE Mercury was at the NBBO; (6) orders of 50 contracts or less where the Agency Order was on behalf of a Public Customer and ISE Mercury was not at the NBBO; (7) orders of 50 contracts or less where the Agency Order was on behalf of a non-customer and ISE Mercury was at the NBBO; and (8) orders of 50 contracts or less where the Agency Order was on behalf of a non-customer and ISE Mercury was at the NBBO; and (8) orders of 50 contracts or less where the Agency Order was on behalf of a non-customer and ISE Mercury was not at the NBBO.

For March 2016, where the order was on behalf of a Public Customer, the order was for 50 contracts or less, and ISE Mercury was at the NBBO, the most contracts traded (2,525) occurred when the spread was \$0.03, with an average number of two participants. All of these contracts received \$0.01 price improvement. When the spread was \$0.01 for this same category, a total of 734 contracts traded, with none of

This discussion of March 2016 data is intended to be illustrative of data that was gathered between February 2016 and July 2016. The complete underlying data for February 2016 through June 2016 for these eight categories is attached as Exhibit 3.

those contracts receiving price improvement. There was an average number of 3 participants when the spread was \$0.01.

In comparison, where the order was on behalf of a Public Customer, the order was for greater than 50 contracts, and ISE Mercury was at the NBBO, the most contracts traded (934) occurred when the spread was \$0.10 to \$0.20, with an average number of 3 participants. The greatest number of these contracts (429) received \$0.05 - \$0.10 price improvement.

In March 2016, where the order was on behalf of a Public Customer, the order was for 50 contracts or less, and ISE Mercury was not at the NBBO, the most contracts traded (3,772) occurred when the spread \$0.01. Of this category, the greatest number of contracts (3,722) received no price improvement, and 50 contracts received \$0.01 price improvement. There was an average number of 2 participants when the spread was \$0.01.

In comparison, in March 2016, where the order was on behalf of a Public Customer, the order was for greater than 50 contracts, and ISE Mercury was not at the NBBO, the most contracts traded (1,431) occurred when the spread was \$0.02. Of these contracts, the greatest number of contracts (758) received no price improvement. There was an average number of 2 participants when the spread was \$0.02.

ISE Mercury believes that the data gathered during the Pilot period indicates that there is meaningful competition in PIM auctions for all size orders, there is an active and liquid market functioning on the Exchange outside of the auction mechanism, and that there are opportunities for significant price improvement for orders executed through

PIM. The Exchange therefore believes that it is appropriate to approve the no-minimum size requirement on a permanent basis.

Early Conclusion of the PIM Auction

Supplemental Material .05 to Rule 723 provides that Rule 723(c)(5) and Rule 723(d)(4), which relate to the termination of the exposure period by unrelated orders shall be part of the current Pilot. Rule 723(c)(5) provides that the exposure period will automatically terminate (i) at the end of the 500 millisecond period, ¹⁴ (ii) upon the receipt of a market or marketable limit order on the Exchange in the same series, or (iii) upon the receipt of a nonmarketable limit order in the same series on the same side of the market as the Agency Order that would cause the price of the Crossing Transaction to be outside of the best bid or offer on the Exchange. Rule 723(d)(4) provides that, when a market order or marketable limit order on the opposite side of the market from the Agency Order ends the exposure period, it will participate in the execution of the Agency Order at the price that is mid-way between the best counter-side interest and the NBBO, so that both the market or marketable limit order and the Agency Order receive price improvement. Transactions will be rounded, when necessary, to the \$.01 increment that favors the Agency Order.

As with the no minimum size requirement, the Exchange has gathered data on these three conditions to assess the effect of early PIM conclusions on the Pilot. ¹⁵

The Exchange notes that it is proposing to modify the exposure period to a time period of no less than 100 milliseconds and no more than one second. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 79354 (November 18, 2016), 81 FR 85295 (November 25, 2016) (SR-ISEMercury-2016-21).

The Exchange agreed to gather and submit the following data on this part of the Pilot: (1) The number of times that a market or marketable limit order in the same series on the same side of the market as the Agency Order prematurely ended the

For the period from January 2016 through June 2016, there were a total of 77 early terminated auctions. The number of orders in early terminated PIM auctions

PIM auction, and the number of times such orders were entered by the same (or affiliated) firm that initiated the PIM that was terminated; (2) the percentage of PIM early terminations due to the receipt of a market or marketable limit order in the same series on the same side of the market that occurred within a 1/2 second of the start of the PIM auction; the percentage that occurred within one second of the start of the PIM auction; the percentage that occurred within one and 1/2 second of the start of the PIM auction; the percentage that occurred within 2 seconds of the start of the PIM auction; the percentage that occurred within 2 and 1/2 seconds of the PIM auction; and the average amount of price improvement provided to the Agency Order where the PIM is terminated early at each of these time periods; (3) the number of times that a market or marketable limit order in the same series on the opposite side of the market as the Agency Order prematurely ended the PIM auction and at what time the unrelated order ended the PIM auction, and the number of times such orders were entered by the same (or affiliated) firm that initiated the PIM that was terminated; (4) the percentage of PIM early terminations due to the receipt of a market or marketable limit order in the same series on the opposite side of the market that occurred within a 1/2 second of the start of the PIM auction; the percentage that occurred within one second of the start of the PIM auction; the percentage that occurred within one and 1/2 second of the start of the PIM auction; the percentage that occurred within 2 seconds of the start of the PIM auction; the percentage that occurred within 2 and 1/2 seconds of the PIM auction; and the average amount of price improvement provided to the Agency Order where the PIM is terminated early at each of these time periods; (5) the number of times that a nonmarketable limit order in the same series on the same side of the market as the Agency Order that would cause the price of the Crossing Transaction to be outside of the best bid or offer on the Exchange prematurely ended the PIM auction and at what time the unrelated order ended the PIM auction, and the number of times such orders were entered by the same (or affiliated) firm that initiated the PIM that was terminated; (6) the percentage of PIM early terminations due to the receipt of a market or marketable limit order in the same series on the same side of the market as the Agency Order that would cause the price of the Crossing Transaction to be outside of the best bid or offer on the Exchange that occurred within a 1/2 second of the start of the PIM auction; the percentage that occurred within one second of the start of the PIM auction; the percentage that occurred within one and 1/2 second of the start of the PIM auction; the percentage that occurred within 2 seconds of the start of the PIM auction; the percentage that occurred within 2 and 1/2 seconds of the PIM auction; and the average amount of price improvement provided to the Agency Order where the PIM is terminated early at each of these time periods; and (7) the average amount of price improvement provided to the Agency Order when the PIM auction is not terminated early. See Exhibit B to ISE Mercury Exchange Application (File No. 10-209).

constituted 0.35% of total PIM orders. There were a total of 1,581 contracts that traded through early terminated auctions. The number of contracts in early terminated PIM auctions represented 0.26% of total PIM contracts. Of the early terminated auctions, 46.75% of those auctions received price improvement, and 31.37% of contracts that traded in an early-terminated auction received price improvement. Of the PIM auctions that terminated early and received price improvement from February 2016 through June 2016, the total amount of price improvement received was \$16.53.

Based on the data gathered during the pilot, the Exchange does not anticipate that any of these conditions will occur with significant frequency, or will otherwise significantly affect the functioning of the PIM. Of the early terminated auctions, 46.75% of those auctions received price improvement, and 31.37% of contracts that traded in an early-terminated auction received price improvement. The total amount of price improvement for PIM auctions that terminated early was \$16.53. The Exchange therefore believes it is appropriate to approve this aspect of the Pilot on a permanent basis.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 6 of the Act,¹⁶ in general and with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,¹⁷ in that it is designed 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

¹⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f.

¹⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

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; and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers, or to regulate by virtue of any authority conferred by the Act matters not related to the purposes of the Act or the administration of the Exchange.

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is also consistent with Section 6(b)(8) of the Act¹⁸ in that it does not impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

Specifically, the Exchange believes that PIM, including the rules to which the Pilot applies, results in increased liquidity available at improved prices, with competitive final pricing out of the complete control of the Electronic Access Member that initiated the auction. The Exchange believes that PIM promotes and fosters competition and affords the opportunity for price improvement to more options contracts. The Exchange believes that the changes to the PIM requiring price improvement of at least one minimum price improvement increment over the NBBO for Agency Orders of less than 50 option contracts where the difference in the NBBO is \$0.01 will provide further price improvement for those orders, and thereby encourage additional submission of those orders into PIM. The Exchange believes that the proposal, which subjects members to the Minor Rule Violation Plan for failing to provide the required price improvement, coupled with the Exchange's surveillance efforts, are designed to facilitate members' compliance with the proposed requirement.

¹⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(8).

The Exchange believes that approving the Pilot on a permanent basis is also consistent with the Act. With respect to the no minimum size requirement, the Exchange believes that the data gathered during the Pilot period indicates that there is meaningful competition in the PIM for all size orders, there is an active and liquid market functioning on the Exchange outside of the auction mechanism, and that there are opportunities for significant price improvement for orders executed through PIM, including for small customer orders.

With respect to the early termination of the PIM, the Exchange believes that it is appropriate to terminate an auction (i) at the end of the 500 millisecond period, (ii) upon the receipt of a market or marketable limit order on the Exchange in the same series, or (iii) upon the receipt of a nonmarketable limit order in the same series on the same side of the market as the Agency Order that would cause the price of the Crossing Transaction to be outside of the best bid or offer on the Exchange. The Exchange also believes that it is consistent with the Act to require that, when a market order or marketable limit order on the opposite side of the market from the Agency Order ends the exposure period, it will participate in the execution of the Agency Order at the price that is mid-way between the best counter-side interest and the NBBO, so that both the market or marketable limit order and the Agency Order receive price improvement. Based on the data gathered during the pilot, the Exchange does not anticipate that any of these conditions will occur with significant frequency, or will otherwise disrupt the functioning of the PIM. The Exchange also notes that a significant percentage of PIM auctions that terminated early executed at a price that was better than the NBBO at the time the auction began, and that

a significant percentage of contracts in auctions that terminated early received price improvement.

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. The proposal will apply to all Exchange members, and participation in the PIM process is completely voluntary. Based on the data collected by the Exchange during the Pilot, the Exchange believes that there is meaningful competition in the PIM for all size orders, there are opportunities for significant price improvement for orders executed through PIM, and that there is an active and liquid market functioning on the Exchange outside of the PIM. The Exchange believes that requiring increased price improvement for Agency Orders may encourage competition by attracting additional orders to participate in the PIM. The Exchange believes that approving the Pilot on a permanent basis will not significantly impact competition, as the Exchange is proposing no other change to the Pilot beyond implementing it on a permanent basis.

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>

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

disapprove such 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 <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number SR-ISE
 Mercury-2016-25 on the subject line.

Paper comments:

 Send paper comments in triplicate to Brent J. Fields, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-ISEMercury-2016-25. 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 Web site (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 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 Number SR-ISEMercury-2016-25 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority. ¹⁹

Robert W. Errett Deputy Secretary

¹⁹

Total PIM Volume Data (Jan 2016 - June 2016)

Total	*Jan. 2016	^t Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016	Apr. 2016	May. 2016	Jun. 2016	Totals/%
PIM	0	0	39,356	123,238	162,062	288,697	613,353
MCRY	0	20,971	408,683	559,373	575,919	762,160	2,327,106
Industry	0	331,918,260	347,068,227	331,842,870	311,177,955	367,558,193	1,689,565,505
% PIM-to-MCRY	0.00%	0.00%	9.63%	22.03%	28.14%	37.88%	26.36%
% PIM-to-Ind.	0.00%	0.00%	0.01%	0.04%	0.05%	0.08%	0.04%

ADV	*Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016	Apr. 2016	May. 2016	Jun. 2016	Totals
PIM	0	0	1,874	5,868	7,717	13,123	5,841
MCRY	0	1,049	19,461	26,637	27,425	34,644	22,163
Industry	0	16,595,913	16,527,058	15,802,041	14,817,998	16,707,191	16,091,100
Trading Days	-	20	21	21	21	22	105

^{*}ISE Mercury launched in February 2016

PIM Price Improvement Data (Jan 2016 - June 2016)

Appendix: Detailed price improvement statistics for the volume transacted through PIM for January 2016.

Customer <50 contracts; At NBBO

Not Applicable

Customer	<50 contracts; Not At NBBO
Not Applicable	

^t MMs did not initiate any PIM auctions in February.

	<50 contracts; At NBBO
Not Applicable	
	<50 contracts; Not At NBBO
Not Applicable	
	>=50 contracts; At NBBO
Not Applicable	

	>=50 contracts; Not at NBBO
Not Applicable	
	>=50 contracts; At NBBO
Not Applicable	
	>=50 contracts; Not At NBBO
Not Applicable	

Appendix: Detailed price improvement statistics for the volume transacted through PIM for February 2016.

Customer	<50 contracts; At NBBO
Not Applicable	
	<50 contracts; Not At NBBO
Not Applicable	
	<50 contracts; At NBBO
Not Applicable	

	COU CUITITALIS, INCLATINGDO
Not Applicable	
	>=50 contracts; At NBBO
Not Applicable	
_	
	>=50 contracts; Not At NBBO
Not Applicable	

Non-Customer	>=50 contracts:	At NRRO

Not Applicable	

Non-Customer >=50 contracts; Not At NBBO

Not Applicable	

Appendix: Detailed price improvement statistics for the volume transacted through PIM for March 2016.

Customer <50 contracts; At NBBO

Spread	Improvement															
	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	113	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	129	2	62.70%	48.09%
0.02	217	437	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	654	2	70.98%	61.20%
0.03	98	390	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	493	2	67.24%	69.49%
0.04	7	94	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	105	3	57.86%	39.09%
0.05	0	147	155	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	327	3	44.42%	33.03%
>.05<=.10	44	133	215	121	125	51	73	0	0	0	0	0	762	3	48.89%	38.39%
>.10<=.20	6	47	86	87	14	158	429	107	0	0	0	0	934	3	51.74%	38.65%
>.20<=.30	1	11	0	0	27	13	121	97	17	0	0	0	287	3	58.00%	43.25%
>.30<=.40	0	1	0	0	20	7	39	110	33	0	0	0	210	3	60.14%	40.00%
>.40<=.50	0	0	0	0	0	6	32	41	32	32	0	0	143	3	71.44%	48.97%
>.50	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	58	48	56	51	77	295	3	53.50%	38.31%

Customer <50 contracts; Not At NBBO

Spread	Improvement															
	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	803	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	833	2	87.22%	78.92%
0.02	758	673	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1431	2	86.49%	83.60%
0.03	204	380	9	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	596	2	82.47%	75.17%
0.04	223	225	12	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	474	2	79.86%	79.32%
0.05	181	368	36	27	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	637	2	70.50%	71.74%
>.05<=.10	344	518	164	74	74	35	71	0	0	0	0	0	1280	2	73.43%	71.12%
>.10<=.20	109	8	83	48	23	81	42	25	0	0	0	0	419	2	63.12%	51.79%
>.20<=.30	54	0	2	2	4	1	12	67	0	0	0	0	142	2	72.96%	72.54%
>.30<=.40	0	0	2	44	2	6	25	16	6	0	0	0	101	2	42.31%	72.28%
>.40<=.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	21	2	2	0	0	74	2	55.83%	72.97%
>.50	0	20	36	0	10	1	15	13	37	14	13	37	196	2	57.19%	56.12%

Non-Customer <50 contracts; At NBBO

Spread								Improv	ement							
	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
0.02	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	3	42.42%	42.42%
0.03	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
0.04	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
0.05	0	23	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	2	100.00%	100.00%
>.05<=.10	0	0	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	3	72.22%	66.67%
>.10<=.20	0	0	0	46	0	10	35	0	0	0	0	0	91	3	16.00%	15.38%
>.20<=.30	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	100.00%	100.00%
>.30<=.40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	61	0	0	0	61	2	60.00%	67.21%
>.40<=.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	10	0	0	0	15	3	0.00%	0.00%
>.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	10	3	0.00%	0.00%

Non-Customer <50 contracts; Not At NBBO

Spread								Improv	ement							
	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	171	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	179	2	96.19%	97.77%
0.02	135	99	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	234	2	83.37%	82.05%
0.03	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	3	42.64%	42.50%
0.04	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
0.05	126	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	127	2	100.00%	100.00%
>.05<=.10	208	49	8	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	286	2	81.67%	79.72%
>.10<=.20	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	2	100.00%	100.00%
>.20<=.30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	19	3	42.11%	42.11%
>.30<=.40	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	3	3	66.67%	66.67%
>.40<=.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	10	3	0.00%	0.00%
>.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%

Customer >=50 contracts; At NBBO

Spread								Improv	ement							
	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	734	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	734	3	40.00%	40.00%
0.02	42	1900	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1942	2	92.50%	96.15%
0.03	0	2525	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2525	2	92.94%	93.47%
0.04	0	1134	70	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1254	3	43.69%	47.53%
0.05	42	230	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	272	2	70.00%	73.21%
>.05<=.10	0	160	428	100	110	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	856	3	20.00%	15.65%
>.10<=.20	0	130	0	120	0	50	50	50	0	0	0	0	400	2	63.33%	52.50%
>.20<=.30	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	70	0	0	0	0	100	3	20.00%	20.00%
>.30<=.40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	50	3	40.00%	40.00%
>.40<=.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
>.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%

Customer >=50 contracts; Not At NBBO

Spread								Improv	ement							
	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	3,722	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3772	2	86.15%	90.06%
0.02	1,659	2081	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3740	2	90.92%	90.32%
0.03	1,055	1641	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2696	2	76.05%	78.45%
0.04	783	845	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1628	2	72.00%	67.75%
0.05	458	500	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1028	2	67.14%	68.09%
>.05<=.10	669	395	275	95	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1434	2	42.93%	48.05%
>.10<=.20	544	75	250	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	907	2	87.54%	91.95%
>.20<=.30	0	220	160	50	0	492	0	0	0	0	0	0	922	2	90.00%	86.98%
>.30<=.40	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	100	2	100.00%	100.00%
>.40<=.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
>.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%

Non-Customer >=50 contracts; At NBBO

Spread	Improvemen															
	ō	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
0.02	197	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	197	2	60.10%	55.33%
0.03	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
0.04	0	0	0	0	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	80	3	40.00%	40.00%
0.05	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	2	100.00%	100.00%
>.05<=.10	0	68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	68	3	41.18%	41.18%
>.10<=.20	0	0	0	0	0	50	50	0	0	0	0	0	100	2	70.00%	70.00%
>.20<=.30	0	0	0	0	0	0	150	0	0	0	0	0	150	3	20.00%	18.67%
>.30<=.40	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	50	3	0.00%	0.00%
>.40<=.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
>.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%

Non-Customer >=50 contracts; Not At NBBO

Spread	Improvemen															
	Ö	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	1,648	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1648	2	92.56%	96.97%
0.02	266	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	321	2	88.00%	90.65%
0.03	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	80	3	40.00%	40.00%
0.04	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
0.05	50	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	150	2	100.00%	100.00%
>.05<=.10	234	0	0	0	122	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	356	3	40.39%	40.17%
>.10<=.20	0	0	0	0	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	58	2	100.00%	100.00%
>.20<=.30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
>.30<=.40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
>.40<=.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
>.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%

Appendix: Detailed price improvement statistics for the volume transacted through PIM for April 2016.

Customer <50 contracts; At NBBO

Spread								Improv	ement							
	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	266	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	286	3	62.43%	44.39%
0.02	507	683	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1190	2	76.10%	69.27%
0.03	181	762	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	956	2	75.18%	74.66%
0.04	124	499	32	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	665	2	67.34%	64.77%
0.05	11	413	309	106	30	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	876	3	36.46%	40.16%
>.05<=.10	61	227	543	586	211	204	144	0	0	0	0	0	1976	3	35.04%	33.07%
>.10<=.20	29	115	129	234	128	121	597	143	0	0	0	0	1496	3	35.08%	26.61%
>.20<=.30	31	0	6	6	20	5	198	169	13	0	0	0	448	3	36.60%	28.48%
>.30<=.40	0	9	0	0	6	0	40	46	46	20	0	0	167	3	47.29%	55.09%
>.40<=.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	69	20	40	0	0	153	3	31.86%	43.14%
>.50	0	1	0	1	22	0	13	37	66	60	90	114	404	2	54.49%	50.25%

Customer <50 contracts; Not At NBBO

Spread								Improv	ement							
	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	2,825	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2832	2	83.85%	81.27%
0.02	1,527	1974	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3501	2	89.57%	87.46%
0.03	718	940	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1678	2	79.91%	79.32%
0.04	363	671	20	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1105	2	77.61%	74.66%
0.05	775	691	349	11	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1838	2	69.39%	64.53%
>.05<=.10	428	631	453	161	35	31	22	0	0	0	0	0	1761	2	65.40%	63.30%
>.10<=.20	194	151	214	88	68	86	207	54	0	0	0	0	1062	2	49.43%	46.34%
>.20<=.30	34	12	38	19	44	58	85	36	1	0	0	0	327	2	62.71%	56.02%
>.30<=.40	16	22	6	26	69	52	28	12	15	0	3	0	249	2	65.17%	77.11%
>.40<=.50	3	3	0	0	0	0	3	11	2	0	0	0	22	2	85.45%	77.27%
>.50	10	37	31	23	10	18	1	14	36	15	4	21	220	2	65.48%	55.00%

Non-Customer <50 contracts; At NBBO

Spread	Improvemen															
	Ö	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	0	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	2	100.00%	100.00%
0.02	165	108	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	273	2	71.32%	69.18%
0.03	13	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	57	2	72.50%	87.72%
0.04	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	50.00%	50.00%
0.05	92	56	30	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	179	2	45.56%	38.55%
>.05<=.10	0	50	0	0	10	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	62	2	28.00%	70.97%
>.10<=.20	2	30	15	25	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	2	28.00%	34.41%
>.20<=.30	0	0	0	3	0	0	18	58	0	0	0	0	79	2	25.00%	50.63%
>.30<=.40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	1	0	0	0	50	3	46.67%	10.00%
>.40<=.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	0	0	0	40	3	0.00%	0.00%
>.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%

Non-Customer <50 contracts; Not At NBBO

Spread								Improv	ement							
	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	206	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	208	2	92.67%	91.83%
0.02	389	86	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	475	2	85.61%	83.79%
0.03	192	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	192	2	68.71%	66.67%
0.04	137	137	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	274	2	76.00%	80.66%
0.05	120	198	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	328	2	74.74%	67.99%
>.05<=.10	325	77	242	0	0	0	27	0	0	0	0	0	671	2	70.61%	68.11%
>.10<=.20	18	146	76	30	70	76	0	0	0	0	0	0	416	2	43.33%	42.31%
>.20<=.30	52	6	47	6	25	30	29	15	0	0	0	0	210	2	46.00%	50.95%
>.30<=.40	0	0	0	0	0	10	6	30	0	0	0	0	46	2	100.00%	100.00%
>.40<=.50	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0.00%	0.00%
>.50	6	0	0	2	0	4	10	4	20	22	0	0	68	2	65.00%	58.82%

Customer >=50 contracts; At NBBO

Spread								Improv	rement							
	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	735	202	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	937	2	51.07%	48.11%
0.02	827	4213	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5040	2	87.40%	89.92%
0.03	111	2304	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2415	2	75.29%	86.76%
0.04	60	326	50	87	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	523	2	75.05%	78.60%
0.05	507	1151	510	130	125	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2423	2	35.24%	42.88%
>.05<=.10	834	845	200	154	228	172	50	0	0	0	0	0	2483	2	35.47%	36.77%
>.10<=.20	7	249	0	97	50	50	150	50	0	0	0	0	653	2	36.44%	35.91%
>.20<=.30	48	0	0	0	0	32	113	387	0	0	0	0	580	3	30.21%	25.00%
>.30<=.40	0	75	0	0	0	125	0	0	50	0	0	0	250	3	20.00%	20.00%
>.40<=.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	55	79	78	0	0	0	212	3	13.33%	10.38%
>.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	110	171	0	0	0	281	2	46.67%	69.40%

Customer >=50 contracts; Not At NBBO

Spread								Improv	ement							
	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	21,178	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21178	2	89.51%	94.41%
0.02	4,724	5772	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10496	2	88.34%	87.20%
0.03	2,290	1919	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4209	2	77.02%	79.08%
0.04	680	1264	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1944	2	85.88%	87.59%
0.05	1,219	1081	0	0	0	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	2380	2	81.45%	82.30%
>.05<=.10	1,000	1598	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2755	2	88.67%	89.76%
>.10<=.20	313	570	295	107	138	50	345	0	0	0	0	0	1818	2	72.86%	70.90%
>.20<=.30	0	0	82	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	82	3	0.00%	0.00%
>.30<=.40	49	0	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	82	3	40.24%	40.24%
>.40<=.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
>.50	0	48	0	0	0	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	80	3	40.00%	40.00%

Non-Customer >=50 contracts; At NBBO

Spread								Improv	ement							
	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	755	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	755	2	85.00%	84.33%
0.02	1,179	600	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1779	2	52.52%	64.96%
0.03	568	1830	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2398	2	50.91%	56.05%
0.04	0	550	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	550	3	40.00%	40.00%
0.05	0	316	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	516	3	21.34%	19.19%
>.05<=.10	45	690	285	150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1170	2	39.58%	51.85%
>.10<=.20	0	0	57	39	130	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	326	2	48.13%	51.84%
>.20<=.30	0	0	0	36	0	80	25	0	0	0	0	0	141	2	70.49%	74.47%
>.30<=.40	0	30	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	3	40.00%	40.00%
>.40<=.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
>.50	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	3	40.00%	40.00%

Non-Customer >=50 contracts; Not At NBBO

Spread								Improv	ement							
	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	8,135	350	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8485	2	93.18%	89.89%
0.02	5,155	1476	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6631	2	83.37%	83.15%
0.03	2,177	1024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3201	2	66.16%	65.76%
0.04	1,997	573	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2570	2	72.00%	71.87%
0.05	1,002	1149	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2151	2	85.34%	89.82%
>.05<=.10	1,241	762	633	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2636	2	50.54%	51.90%
>.10<=.20	702	0	392	171	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1365	2	74.55%	72.89%
>.20<=.30	75	80	125	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	350	2	68.00%	77.14%
>.30<=.40	91	0	0	0	62	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	153	3	40.52%	40.52%
>.40<=.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
>.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	80	80	0	0	0	160	3	0.00%	0.00%

Appendix: Detailed price improvement statistics for the volume transacted through PIM for May 2016.

Customer <50 contracts; At NBBO

Spread								Improv	ement							
	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	236	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	236	2	55.07%	43.02%
0.02	435	612	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1047	2	73.23%	66.27%
0.03	163	445	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	649	2	69.40%	66.90%
0.04	28	245	37	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	311	2	58.15%	42.60%
0.05	63	784	369	106	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1338	2	36.62%	36.40%
>.05<=.10	55	304	490	373	121	171	118	0	0	0	0	0	1632	3	39.96%	39.41%
>.10<=.20	23	31	152	137	160	213	344	53	0	0	0	0	1113	3	32.99%	29.40%
>.20<=.30	0	49	36	1	21	7	120	104	16	0	0	0	354	3	39.93%	38.83%
>.30<=.40	0	0	0	6	3	1	41	77	41	26	0	0	195	3	46.30%	42.05%
>.40<=.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	43	29	0	0	0	81	3	33.51%	25.93%
>.50	0	0	0	0	1	0	20	93	109	54	61	92	430	3	36.42%	30.47%

Customer <50 contracts; Not At NBBO

Spread								Improv	ement							
	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	2,723	106	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2829	2	87.08%	85.81%
0.02	1,683	1968	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3681	2	89.16%	87.07%
0.03	660	1010	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1700	2	82.80%	79.58%
0.04	356	507	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	863	2	74.48%	71.36%
0.05	863	1835	273	35	1	8	11	0	0	0	0	0	3026	2	81.62%	81.16%
>.05<=.10	481	503	460	155	32	19	13	2	0	0	0	0	1665	2	68.50%	65.15%
>.10<=.20	314	325	260	148	144	111	79	49	1	0	0	0	1431	2	62.79%	64.15%
>.20<=.30	85	54	47	7	68	28	58	41	4	0	0	0	392	2	53.42%	59.44%
>.30<=.40	43	40	1	1	22	23	61	39	40	0	0	0	270	2	54.98%	66.30%
>.40<=.50	5	5	0	2	0	2	23	34	18	0	0	0	89	2	58.33%	57.30%
>.50	21	15	0	10	7	3	27	19	10	7	32	16	167	2	66.02%	76.05%

Non-Customer <50 contracts; At NBBO

Spread								Improv	ement							
	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
0.02	87	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	87	2	44.40%	43.24%
0.03	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	3	40.63%	40.63%
0.04	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
0.05	31	2	0	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	3	30.48%	28.36%
>.05<=.10	0	113	69	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	183	2	23.00%	23.78%
>.10<=.20	0	0	0	0	34	40	70	10	0	0	0	0	154	3	5.00%	5.19%
>.20<=.30	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	20	0	0	0	0	45	2	50.00%	55.56%
>.30<=.40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
>.40<=.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
>.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%

Non-Customer <50 contracts; Not At NBBO

Spread								Improv	ement							
	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	563	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	567	2	83.79%	81.66%
0.02	327	86	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	413	2	69.08%	62.71%
0.03	140	10	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	156	2	78.18%	73.68%
0.04	122	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	141	2	71.46%	74.47%
0.05	271	159	5	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	460	2	69.90%	67.61%
>.05<=.10	184	86	130	10	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	415	2	68.16%	68.19%
>.10<=.20	31	206	68	104	122	10	116	12	0	0	0	0	669	2	52.59%	45.89%
>.20<=.30	43	0	93	25	0	10	17	40	0	0	0	0	228	2	75.80%	67.54%
>.30<=.40	0	15	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	25	2	50.00%	60.00%
>.40<=.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	10	3	40.00%	40.00%
>.50	0	0	0	0	0	26	0	59	20	0	0	10	115	2	45.23%	54.78%

Customer >=50 contracts; At NBBO

Spread								Improv	ement							
	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	983	145	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1128	2	58.56%	66.96%
0.02	1,024	3625	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4649	2	79.75%	81.10%
0.03	706	2415	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3181	2	78.10%	85.27%
0.04	278	1044	800	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2122	2	77.33%	91.04%
0.05	875	2091	848	400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4214	3	37.81%	36.60%
>.05<=.10	332	1109	1272	619	654	210	0	0	0	0	0	0	4196	2	37.50%	41.51%
>.10<=.20	0	450	1019	177	143	850	122	729	0	0	0	0	3490	2	55.10%	65.78%
>.20<=.30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1560	50	0	0	0	1610	2	60.00%	37.89%
>.30<=.40	0	0	500	0	0	0	59	500	0	0	0	0	1059	2	65.87%	51.65%
>.40<=.50	0	0	0	0	0	400	0	180	0	0	0	0	580	2	93.88%	83.10%
>.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	2000	0	0	0	64	2114	2	44.64%	23.65%

Customer >=50 contracts; Not At NBBO

Spread								Improv	ement							
	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	19,852	1275	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22568	2	88.78%	88.59%
0.02	9,176	8552	96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18324	2	87.84%	88.54%
0.03	2,988	3958	20	0	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8026	2	81.52%	78.85%
0.04	2,224	2864	500	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5788	2	85.80%	75.24%
0.05	4,385	2755	170	324	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8709	2	76.95%	72.84%
>.05<=.10	2,516	3196	2246	50	394	1107	140	0	0	0	0	0	10149	2	80.89%	85.84%
>.10<=.20	1,576	1170	607	200	80	1830	0	20	0	0	0	0	6983	2	82.23%	94.21%
>.20<=.30	652	0	0	0	48	0	550	0	0	0	0	0	1250	2	56.00%	86.40%
>.30<=.40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
>.40<=.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
>.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%

Non-Customer >=50 contracts; At NBBO

Spread								Improv	ement							
	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	3	40.00%	40.00%
0.02	1,006	1008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2014	2	58.18%	62.90%
0.03	750	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	800	2	44.00%	41.25%
0.04	120	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	220	3	20.00%	21.82%
0.05	268	875	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1193	2	44.12%	40.48%
>.05<=.10	80	1713	182	372	0	0	48	0	0	0	0	0	2395	3	38.75%	39.08%
>.10<=.20	30	0	29	56	105	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	273	2	32.67%	32.38%
>.20<=.30	62	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	162	3	20.15%	16.17%
>.30<=.40	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	32	0	0	0	0	80	3	40.00%	40.00%
>.40<=.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
>.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%

Non-Customer >=50 contracts; Not at NBBO

Spread								Improv	ement							
	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	5,278	620	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5898	2	89.09%	93.79%
0.02	3,045	950	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3995	2	69.18%	70.89%
0.03	923	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1023	2	66.67%	71.07%
0.04	970	205	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1255	2	68.57%	78.49%
0.05	838	175	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1013	2	82.95%	88.15%
>.05<=.10	1,124	915	56	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2095	2	56.00%	59.71%
>.10<=.20	402	180	368	168	184	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1302	2	51.74%	52.23%
>.20<=.30	173	112	80	155	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	520	3	60.07%	59.62%
>.30<=.40	0	113	73	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	236	3	69.88%	68.64%
>.40<=.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
>.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%

Appendix: Detailed price improvement statistics for the volume transacted through PIM for June 2016.

Customer <50 contracts; At NBBO

Spread								Improv	rement							
	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	478	50	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	548	2	70.09%	59.57%
0.02	677	1553	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2235	2	77.43%	74.05%
0.03	197	755	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	986	2	72.78%	59.94%
0.04	24	602	89	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	743	2	64.76%	62.08%
0.05	65	1251	509	767	142	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	2789	2	51.68%	52.92%
>.05<=.10	39	610	788	647	273	152	266	5	0	0	0	0	2780	3	45.60%	38.11%
>.10<=.20	3	100	270	129	214	242	509	250	0	0	0	0	1717	3	46.66%	41.89%
>.20<=.30	0	12	20	2	18	25	85	338	39	0	0	0	539	3	51.21%	40.99%
>.30<=.40	0	5	0	10	0	0	69	176	47	26	0	0	333	3	44.21%	23.24%
>.40<=.50	0	0	7	0	34	8	8	91	107	22	0	0	277	3	40.41%	33.57%
>.50	0	0	0	0	1	11	27	101	89	98	69	156	552	3	51.29%	39.67%

Customer <50 contracts; Not At NBBO

Spread								Improv	ement							
	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	5,129	80	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5215	2	88.24%	86.27%
0.02	2,761	2760	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5531	2	86.71%	86.09%
0.03	910	1058	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2020	2	83.57%	81.09%
0.04	496	833	42	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1379	2	82.58%	80.27%
0.05	868	1537	463	233	102	21	5	0	0	0	0	0	3229	2	75.77%	73.50%
>.05<=.10	627	1312	867	446	229	81	124	55	0	0	0	0	3741	2	72.81%	73.75%
>.10<=.20	256	404	298	174	131	127	166	81	1	0	0	0	1638	2	66.37%	66.97%
>.20<=.30	64	31	40	17	91	45	159	67	0	0	0	0	514	2	76.23%	70.82%
>.30<=.40	0	0	36	15	20	0	51	67	10	0	0	0	199	2	52.34%	48.24%
>.40<=.50	0	30	0	1	0	15	97	5	0	0	0	0	148	2	66.25%	68.92%
>.50	55	16	10	10	5	0	60	76	48	23	11	12	326	2	63.23%	70.86%

Non-Customer <50 contracts; At NBBO

Spread								Improv	rement							
	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
0.02	52	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75	2	70.82%	59.49%
0.03	18	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	2	60.00%	43.24%
0.04	25	144	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	169	2	63.94%	57.45%
0.05	34	79	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	123	2	71.25%	72.41%
>.05<=.10	16	137	156	0	25	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	335	3	33.73%	29.07%
>.10<=.20	0	8	25	23	0	25	37	0	0	0	0	0	118	2	34.29%	44.07%
>.20<=.30	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	54	25	0	0	0	116	2	30.20%	21.55%
>.30<=.40	0	36	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	56	2	50.00%	64.29%
>.40<=.50	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	45	3	0.00%	0.00%
>.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	11	0	0	0	41	3	66.67%	26.83%

Non-Customer <50 contracts; Not At NBBO

Spread								Improv	ement							
	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	323	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	323	2	84.94%	76.47%
0.02	449	79	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	564	2	88.47%	91.73%
0.03	297	146	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	443	2	84.13%	87.95%
0.04	103	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	143	2	71.12%	64.05%
0.05	208	165	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	398	2	65.14%	64.72%
>.05<=.10	291	204	203	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	723	2	65.24%	61.27%
>.10<=.20	129	115	143	194	21	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	617	2	67.21%	68.88%
>.20<=.30	0	5	0	15	25	0	64	80	0	0	0	0	189	2	47.05%	57.67%
>.30<=.40	37	0	18	20	16	10	89	0	0	0	0	0	190	2	44.00%	36.32%
>.40<=.50	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	2	100.00%	100.00%
>.50	6	0	4	0	1	6	40	15	0	20	0	0	92	3	23.33%	5.43%

Customer >=50 contracts; At NBBO

Spread								Improv	ement							
	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	3,423	155	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3578	2	54.57%	53.87%
0.02	3,515	8892	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12407	2	88.13%	82.26%
0.03	1,141	3216	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4357	2	71.54%	71.71%
0.04	1,035	2789	583	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4407	2	72.76%	55.77%
0.05	826	3438	3423	755	0	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	8942	2	51.94%	40.74%
>.05<=.10	0	6023	2053	1734	208	257	0	0	0	0	0	0	10275	2	56.99%	63.28%
>.10<=.20	0	391	1299	1315	93	150	680	70	0	0	0	0	3998	2	52.04%	47.25%
>.20<=.30	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	100	50	0	0	0	200	2	25.00%	25.00%
>.30<=.40	0	0	0	0	0	120	0	0	50	0	0	0	170	3	0.00%	0.00%
>.40<=.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	0	0	0	54	4	0.00%	0.00%
>.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%

Customer >=50 contracts; Not At NBBO

Spread	Improvement															
	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	31,702	1282	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33484	2	90.22%	92.81%
0.02	15,729	9487	705	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26921	2	86.20%	88.20%
0.03	6,373	5084	250	182	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11889	2	79.57%	78.66%
0.04	4,649	2251	228	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7128	2	71.85%	55.59%
0.05	5,435	6147	546	199	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12327	2	81.72%	87.22%
>.05<=.10	4,463	7746	1447	224	500	300	320	0	0	0	0	0	15000	2	81.34%	70.65%
>.10<=.20	1,296	2404	1129	354	560	380	609	0	0	0	0	0	6732	2	74.03%	73.29%
>.20<=.30	354	541	170	260	100	100	100	0	0	0	0	0	1625	2	95.23%	91.69%
>.30<=.40	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	3	40.00%	40.00%
>.40<=.50	0	0	0	50	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300	2	100.00%	100.00%
>.50	0	23	0	0	0	0	132	30	20	20	0	0	225	2	58.50%	63.11%

Non-Customer >=50 contracts; At NBBO

Spread								Improv	rement							
	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	1,070	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1070	2	76.52%	54.77%
0.02	3,093	1222	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4315	2	59.10%	51.75%
0.03	1,420	1500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2920	2	67.26%	65.49%
0.04	3,188	3488	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6676	2	54.71%	51.70%
0.05	1,706	1630	170	230	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3756	2	49.61%	45.17%
>.05<=.10	702	1600	1472	1520	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5294	2	47.04%	44.23%
>.10<=.20	245	1133	346	1150	105	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	3229	2	50.90%	49.97%
>.20<=.30	0	128	0	332	700	83	50	75	0	0	0	0	1368	3	44.19%	76.90%
>.30<=.40	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	50	0	0	0	0	100	3	50.00%	50.00%
>.40<=.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
>.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%

Non-Customer >=50 contracts; Not At NBBO

Spread								Improv	ement							
	0	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	>.05<=.10	>.10<=.20	>.20<=.30	>.30<=.40	>.40<=.50	>.50	Total Contracts Traded	Average Number of Participant	Average Percent of Orders Initiator Receives	Average Percent of Contracts Initiator Receives
0.01	1,070	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1070	2	76.52%	54.77%
0.02	3,093	1222	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4315	2	59.10%	51.75%
0.03	1,420	1500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2920	2	67.26%	65.49%
0.04	3,188	3488	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6676	2	54.71%	51.70%
0.05	1,706	1630	170	230	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3756	2	49.61%	45.17%
>.05<=.10	702	1600	1472	1520	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5294	2	47.04%	44.23%
>.10<=.20	245	1133	346	1150	105	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	3229	2	50.90%	49.97%
>.20<=.30	0	128	0	332	700	83	50	75	0	0	0	0	1368	3	44.19%	76.90%
>.30<=.40	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	50	0	0	0	0	100	3	50.00%	50.00%
>.40<=.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
>.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%

PIM Early Termination Data (Jan 2016 - June 2016)

	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016	Apr. 2016	May. 2016	Jun. 2016	Totals/%
Early Terminated Auctions	-	-	10	11	21	35	77
% Early Terminated Auctions	-	-	0.31%	0.21%	0.40%	0.42%	0.35%
T		ſ	T = 4	470	1 427	040	4.504
Traded Contracts in Early Terminated Auctions	-	-	54	172	437	918	1,581
% Traded Contracts in Early Terminated Auctions	-	-	0.14%	0.14%	0.27%	0.32%	0.26%
% Early Terminated Auctions Receiving PIM	-	-	70.00%	90.91%	52.38%	37.14%	46.75%
% Traded Contracts in Early Terminated Auctions Receiving PIM	-	-	25.93%	85.47%	17.39%	34.75%	31.37%
Amount of PI Received by Early Terminated Auctions	-	-	\$0.61	\$6.24	\$1.23	\$8.45	\$16.53

EXHIBIT 5

Deleted text is [bracketed]. New text is <u>underlined</u>.

ISE MERCURY, LLC RULES

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Chapter 7 Doing Business on the Exchange

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723. Price Improvement Mechanism for Crossing Transactions

- (a) The Price Improvement Mechanism is a process by which an Electronic Access Member can provide price improvement opportunities for a transaction wherein the Electronic Access Member seeks to facilitate an order it represents as agent, and/or a transaction wherein the Electronic Access Member solicited interest to execute against an order it represents as agent (a "Crossing Transaction").
- (b) Crossing Transaction Entry. A Crossing Transaction is comprised of the order the Electronic Access Member represents as agent (the "Agency Order") and a counterside order for the full size of the Agency Order (the "Counter-Side Order"). The Counter-Side Order may represent interest for the Member's own account, or interest the Member has solicited from one or more other parties, or a combination of both.

For the period beginning January 19, 2017 until a date specified by the Exchange in a Regulatory Information Circular, which date shall be no later than September 15, 2017, the following provisions shall be in effect:

- (1) If the Agency Order is for less than 50 option contracts, and if the difference between the National Best Bid and National Best Offer ("NBBO") is \$0.01, the Electronic Access Member shall not enter a Crossing Transaction unless such Crossing Transaction is entered at one minimum price improvement increment better than the NBBO on the opposite side of the market from the Agency Order and better than the limit order or quote on the ISE Mercury order book on the same side of the Agency Order. Failure to provide such price improvement will subject Members to the fines set forth in ISE Rule 1614(d)(4).
- ([1]2) If the Agency Order is for 50 option contracts or more, or if the difference between the NBBO is greater than \$0.01, [A]a Crossing Transaction must be entered only at a price that is equal to or better than the [national best bid or offer ("]NBBO[")] and better than the limit order or quote on the ISE Mercury order book on the same side of the Agency Order.

([2]3) The Crossing Transaction may be priced in one-cent increments.

([3]4) The Crossing Transaction may not be canceled, but the price of the Counter-Side Order may be improved during the exposure period.

After the date specified by the Exchange in a Regulatory Information Circular, which date shall be no later than September 15, 2017, the following provisions shall be in effect:

- (1) If the Agency Order is for less than 50 option contracts, and if the difference between the National Best Bid and National Best Offer ("NBBO") is \$0.01, the Crossing Transaction must be entered at one minimum price improvement increment better than the NBBO on the opposite side of the market from the Agency Order and better than the limit order or quote on the ISE Mercury order book on the same side of the Agency Order.
- (2) If the Agency Order is for 50 option contracts or more, or if the difference between the NBBO is greater than \$0.01, a Crossing Transaction must be entered only at a price that is equal to or better than the national best bid or offer ("NBBO") and better than the limit order or quote on the ISE Mercury order book on the same side of the Agency Order.
 - (3) The Crossing Transaction may be priced in one-cent increments.
- (4) The Crossing Transaction may not be canceled, but the price of the Counter-Side Order may be improved during the exposure period.

* * * * *

Supplementary Material to Rule 723

.01 - .02 No Change.

.03 [Initially, and for at least a Pilot Period expiring on January 18, 2017, t]There will be no minimum size requirements for orders to be eligible for the Price Improvement Mechanism. [During the Pilot Period, the Exchange will submit certain data, periodically as required by the Commission, to provide supporting evidence that, among other things, there is meaningful competition for all size orders within the Price Improvement Mechanism, that there is significant price improvement for all orders executed through the Price Improvement Mechanism, and that there is an active and liquid market functioning on the Exchange outside of the Price Improvement Mechanism. Any raw data which is submitted to the Commission will be provided on a confidential basis.]

.04 No Change.

[.05 Paragraphs (c)(5) and (d)(4) will be effective for a Pilot Period expiring on January 18, 2017. During the Pilot Period, the Exchange will submit certain data relating

to the frequency with which the exposure period is terminated by unrelated orders. Any raw data which is submitted to the Commission will be provided on a confidential basis.]

.0[6]<u>5</u> No Change.

.0[7]6 No Change.

.0[8]7 Reserved.

.0[9]8 No Change.

.[10]9 No Change.

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