

Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

Page 1 of \* 25

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549  
Form 19b-4

File No. \* SR 2023 - \* 09

Amendment No. (req. for Amendments \*)

Filing by Nasdaq ISE, LLC

Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

<b>Initial *</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Amendment *</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Withdrawal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Section 19(b)(2) *</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Section 19(b)(3)(A) *</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Section 19(b)(3)(B) *</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>Pilot</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Extension of Time Period for Commission Action *</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Date Expires *</b> <input type="text"/>	<b>Rule</b>		
			<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(4)	
			<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(5)	
			<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(6)	

**Notice of proposed change pursuant to the Payment, Clearing, and Settlement Act of 2010**

**Section 806(e)(1) \***

**Section 806(e)(2) \***

**Security-Based Swap Submission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

**Section 3C(b)(2) \***

**Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document**

**Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document**

**Description**

Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked \*).

Extend Certain Pilot Programs

**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.

First Name \* Angela Last Name \* Dunn

Title \* Principal Associate General Counsel

E-mail \* Angela.dunn@nasdaq.com

Telephone \* (215) 496-5692 Fax

**Signature**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange of 1934, Nasdaq ISE, LLC has duty caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duty authorized.

Date 04/14/2023


(Title \*)

By John Zecca

EVP and Chief Legal Officer

(Name \*)

NOTE: Clicking the signature block at right will initiate digitally signing the form. A digital signature is as legally binding as a physical signature, and once signed, this form cannot be changed.



Date: 2023.04.14  
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Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and astericks.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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

**Form 19b-4 Information \***

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SR-ISE-2023-09 19b4.doc

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

**Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change \***

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SR-ISE-2023-09 Exhibit 1.doc

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

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

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

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

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

Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

**Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire**

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

Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

**Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies**

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

**Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text**

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SR-ISE-2023-09 Exhibit 5.doc

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

**Partial Amendment**

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

1. Text of the Proposed Rule Change

(a) Nasdaq ISE, LLC (“ISE” or “Exchange”), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “Commission”) a proposal to extend the pilot to permit the listing and trading of options based on 1/5 the value of the Nasdaq-100 Index (“Nasdaq-100”) and the Exchange’s nonstandard expirations pilot program, both currently set to expire on May 4, 2023.

A notice of the proposed rule change for publication in the Federal Register is attached hereto 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 senior management of the Exchange pursuant to authority delegated by the Board of Directors (the “Board”). Exchange staff will advise the Board of any action taken pursuant to delegated authority. No other action is necessary for the filing of the rule change.

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

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

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

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

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

a. Purpose

ISE proposes to extend 2 pilots, which are both set to expire on May 4, 2023. The Exchange proposes to extend (1) its pilot to permit the listing and trading of options based on 1/5 the value of the Nasdaq-100 Index (“NQX Pilot”), and (2) the Exchange’s nonstandard expirations pilot program (“Nonstandard Pilot”).

NQX Pilot

ISE filed a rule change to permit the listing and trading of index options on the Nasdaq 100 Reduced Value Index (“NQX”) on a twelve month pilot basis.<sup>3</sup> NQX options trade independently of and in addition to NDX options, and the NQX options are subject to the same rules that presently govern the trading of index options based on the Nasdaq-100, including sales practice rules, margin requirements, trading rules, and position and exercise limits. Similar to NDX, NQX options are European-style and cash-settled, and have a contract multiplier of 100. The contract specifications for NQX options mirror in all respects those of the NDX options contract listed on the Exchange, except that NQX options are based on 1/5 of the value of the Nasdaq-100, and are P.M.-settled pursuant to Options 4A, Section 12(a)(6).

The Exchange proposes to amend ISE Options 4A, Section 12(a)(6)(i) to extend the current NQX Pilot period to November 6, 2023. The NQX Pilot was previously extended with the last extension through May 4, 2023.<sup>4</sup> The Exchange continues to have

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<sup>3</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 82911 (March 20, 2018), 83 FR 12966 (March 26, 2018) (SR-ISE-2017-106) (Approval Order).

<sup>4</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 86071 (June 10, 2019), 84 FR 27822 (June 14, 2019) (SR-ISE-2019-18); 87379 (October 22, 2019), 84 FR 57793

sufficient capacity to handle additional quotations and message traffic associated with the listing and trading of NQX options. In addition, index options are integrated into the Exchange's existing surveillance system architecture and are thus subject to the relevant surveillance processes. The Exchange also continues to have adequate surveillance procedures to monitor trading in NQX options thereby aiding in the maintenance of a fair and orderly market. Additionally, there is continued investor interest in these products and this extension will provide additional time to collect data related to the NQX Pilot. The Exchange believes that the proposed extension of the NQX Pilot will not have an adverse impact on capacity.

*NQX Pilot Report*

The Exchange currently makes public on its website the data and analysis previously submitted to the Commission on the NQX Pilot and will continue to make public any data or analysis it submits under the NQX Pilot in the future. The Exchange has filed a rule change proposing permanency of the NQX Pilot.<sup>5</sup> The Exchange continues to provide monthly data and has provided additional data in the permanency filing. The Exchange would continue to provide the Commission with ongoing data unless and until the NQX Pilot is made permanent or discontinued.

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(October 28, 2019) (SR-ISE-2019-27); 88683 (April 17, 2020), 85 FR 22768 (April 23, 2020) (SR-ISE-2020-18); 90257 (October 22, 2020), 85 FR 68387 (October 28, 2020) (SR-ISE-2020-33); 91485 (April 6, 2021), 86 FR 19052 (April 12, 2021) (SR-ISE-2021-05); 93448 (October 28, 2021), 86 FR 60717 (November 3, 2021) (SR-ISE-2021-22); 94632 (April 7, 2022), 87 FR 21940 (SR-ISE-2022-09); and 95992 (October 6, 2022), 87 FR 62163 (October 13, 2022) (SR-ISE-2022-20).

<sup>5</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 96979 (February 24, 2023), 88 FR 13182 (March 2, 2023) (SR-ISE-2023-08).

*Nonstandard Pilot*

ISE filed a rule change for the listing and trading on the Exchange, on a twelve month pilot basis, of p.m.-settled options on broad-based indexes with nonstandard expirations dates.<sup>6</sup> The Nonstandard Pilot permits both Weekly Expirations and End of Month (“EOM”) expirations similar to those of the a.m.-settled broad-based index options, except that the exercise settlement value of the options subject to the pilot are based on the index value derived from the closing prices of component stocks. On July 29, 2022, the Commission approved a Proposed Rule Change To Permit the Listing and Trading of P.M.-Settled Nasdaq-100 Index Options That Expire on Tuesday or Thursday Under Its Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Program.<sup>7</sup> The Nonstandard Pilot was extended various times with the last extension through May 4, 2023.<sup>8</sup>

Supplementary Material .07(a) to Options 4A, Section 12 provides that the Exchange may open for trading Weekly Expirations on any broad-based index eligible

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<sup>6</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 82612 (February 1, 2018), 83 FR 5470 (February 7, 2018) (approving SR-ISE-2017-111) (Order Approving a Proposed Rule Change To Establish a Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Program).

<sup>7</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 95393 (July 29, 2022), 87 FR 47807 (August 4, 2022) (SR-ISE-2022-13) (Order Granting Approval of a Proposed Rule Change To Permit the Listing and Trading of P.M.-Settled Nasdaq-100 Index Options That Expire on Tuesday or Thursday Under Its Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Program).

<sup>8</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 85030 (February 1, 2019), 84 FR 2633 (February 7, 2019) (SR-ISE-2019-01); 85672 (April 17, 2019), 84 FR 16899 (April 23, 2019) (SR-ISE-2019-11); 87380 (October 22, 2019), 84 FR 57786 (October 28, 2019) (SR-ISE-2019-28); 88681 (April 17, 2020), 85 FR 22775 (April 23, 2020) (SR-ISE-2020-17); 90265 (October 23, 2020), 85 FR 68605 (October 29, 2020) (SR-ISE-2020-34); 91486 (April 6, 2021), 86 FR 19048 (April 12, 2021) (SR-ISE-2021-06); 93449 (October 28, 2021), 86 FR 60679 (November 3, 2021) (SR-ISE-2021-23); 94632 (April 7, 2022), 87 FR 21940 (SR-ISE-2022-09); and 95992 (October 6, 2022), 87 FR 62163 (October 13, 2022) (SR-ISE-2022-20).

for standard options trading to expire on any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday (other than the third Friday-of- the-month or days that coincide with an EOM expiration). In addition, the Exchange may also open for trading Weekly Expirations on Nasdaq-100 Index options to expire on any Tuesday or Thursday (other than days that coincide with the third Friday-of-the-month or an EOM expiration). Weekly Expirations are subject to all provisions of Options 4A, Section 12 and are treated the same as options on the same underlying index that expire on the third Friday of the expiration month. Unlike the standard monthly options, however, Weekly Expirations are p.m.-settled.

Pursuant to Supplementary Material .07(b) to Options 4A, Section 12 the Exchange may open for trading EOM expirations on any broad-based index eligible for standard options trading to expire on the last trading day of the month. EOM expirations are subject to all provisions of Options 4A, Section 12 and treated the same as options on the same underlying index that expire on the third Friday of the expiration month. However, the EOM expirations are p.m.-settled.

The Exchange now proposes to amend Supplementary Material .07(c) to Options 4A, Section 12 so that the duration of the Nonstandard Pilot for these nonstandard expirations will be through November 6, 2023. The Exchange continues to have sufficient systems capacity to handle p.m.-settled options on broad-based indexes with nonstandard expirations dates and has not encountered any issues or adverse market effects as a result of listing them. Additionally, there is continued investor interest in these products. The Exchange will continue to make public on its website any data and analysis it submits to the Commission under the Nonstandard Pilot. The Exchange

believes that the proposed extension of the Nonstandard Pilot will not have an adverse impact on capacity.

*Nonstandard Pilot Report*

The Exchange submitted a rule change proposing permanency of the Nonstandard Pilot.<sup>9</sup> The Exchange continues to provide monthly data and has provided additional data in the permanency filing. The Exchange would continue to provide the Commission with ongoing data unless and until the Nonstandard Pilot is made permanent or discontinued.

b. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>10</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>11</sup> in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, 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.

NQX Pilot

In particular, the Exchange believes that the NQX Pilot has been successful to date. The Exchange has not encountered any problems with the NQX Pilot. By extending the NQX Pilot, the Exchange believes it will attract order flow to the Exchange, increase the variety of listed options, and provide a valuable hedge tool to retail and other investors. Specifically, the Exchange believes that the NQX Pilot will provide additional trading and hedging opportunities for investors while providing the

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<sup>9</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 96979 (February 24, 2023), 88 FR 13182 (March 2, 2023) (SR-ISE-2023-08).

<sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>11</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).



Commission with data to monitor for and assess any potential for adverse market effects of allowing P.M.-settlement for NQX options, including on the underlying component stocks.

#### Nonstandard Pilot

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change will protect investors and the public interest by providing the Exchange, the Commission and investors the benefit of additional time to analyze nonstandard expiration options. In particular, the Exchange believes that the Nonstandard Pilot has been successful to date. The Exchange has not encountered any problems with the Nonstandard Pilot. By extending the Nonstandard Pilot, investors may continue to benefit from a wider array of investment opportunities. Additionally, both the Exchange and the Commission may continue to monitor the pilot for potential adverse market effects of p.m.-settlement on the market, including the underlying cash equities market, at the expiration of these options.

#### 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 that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change will not impose an undue burden on inter-market competition as this rule change will continue to facilitate the listing and trading of new option products that will enhance competition among market participants, to the benefit of investors and the marketplace. Furthermore, these products could offer a competitive alternative to other existing investment products. Finally, it is possible for other exchanges to develop or license the use of a new or different index to compete with these products and seek Commission approval to list and trade options on such an index.

### NQX Pilot

NQX options would be available for trading to all market participants and therefore would not impose an undue burden on intra-market competition. The continued listing of the NQX Pilot will enhance competition by providing investors with an additional investment vehicle, in a fully-electronic trading environment, through which investors can gain and hedge exposure to the Nasdaq-100.

### Nonstandard Pilot

Options with nonstandard expirations would be available for trading to all market participants. The continued listing of the Nonstandard Pilot will enhance competition by providing investors with an additional investment vehicle, in a fully-electronic trading environment, through which investors can gain and hedge exposure to the Nasdaq-100.

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

No written comments were either solicited or received.

6. Extension of Time Period for Commission Action

The Exchange does not consent to an extension of the time period for Commission action.

7. Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder in that it effects a change that: (i) does not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) does not impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) by its terms, does not become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public

interest. This filing proposes to extend a previously approved NQX Pilot and raises no new regulatory issues. The Exchange therefore believes that the proposed rule change qualifies for immediate effectiveness as a “non-controversial” rule change.

With respect to the NQX Pilot, the proposed rule change does not significantly affect the protection of investors. The Exchange has adequate surveillance procedures to monitor trading in these options thereby helping to ensure the maintenance of a fair and orderly market, and it has sufficient capacity to handle additional quotations and message traffic associated with the continued listing and trading of NQX options. With respect to the NQX Pilot, the proposed rule change does not impose any significant burden on competition because NQX options would continue to be available for trading to all market participants. The extension would allow the Exchange and the Commission to gather additional data to make a determination concerning the NQX Pilot.

With respect to the Nonstandard Pilot, the proposed rule change does not significantly affect the protection of investors. The Exchange has adequate surveillance procedures to monitor trading in these options thereby helping to ensure the maintenance of a fair and orderly market, and it has sufficient capacity to handle nonstandard expiration options. The proposed rule change does not impose any significant burden on competition because, as discussed above, options with nonstandard expirations would be available for trading to all market participants. With respect to the Nonstandard Pilot, the proposed rule change will facilitate the continued listing and trading of nonstandard expiration options that will enhance competition among market participants, to the benefit of investors and the marketplace.

Furthermore, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) requires a self-regulatory organization to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file a proposed rule change under that subsection at least five business days prior to the date of filing, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. The Exchange has provided such notice.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b-4(f)(6) normally does not become operative prior to 30 days after the date of filing. Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii), however, permits the Commission to designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange requests that the Commission waive the 30-day operative delay contained in Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) so that the pilots will continue uninterrupted.

8. Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization or of the Commission

Not applicable.

9. 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.
5. Text of the proposed rule change.

**EXHIBIT 1**

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
(Release No. \_\_\_\_\_ ; File No. SR-ISE-2023-09)

April \_\_, 2023

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Nasdaq ISE, LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Extend Certain Pilot Programs

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on April 14, 2023, Nasdaq ISE, LLC (“ISE” or “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III, below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to extend the pilot to permit the listing and trading of options based on 1/5 the value of the Nasdaq-100 Index (“Nasdaq-100”) and the Exchange’s nonstandard expirations pilot program, both currently set to expire on May 4, 2023.

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

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

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

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

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

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

1. Purpose

ISE proposes to extend 2 pilots, which are both set to expire on May 4, 2023. The Exchange proposes to extend (1) its pilot to permit the listing and trading of options based on 1/5 the value of the Nasdaq-100 Index ("NQX Pilot"), and (2) the Exchange's nonstandard expirations pilot program ("Nonstandard Pilot").

NQX Pilot

ISE filed a rule change to permit the listing and trading of index options on the Nasdaq 100 Reduced Value Index ("NQX") on a twelve month pilot basis.<sup>3</sup> NQX options trade independently of and in addition to NDX options, and the NQX options are subject to the same rules that presently govern the trading of index options based on the Nasdaq-100, including sales practice rules, margin requirements, trading rules, and position and exercise limits. Similar to NDX, NQX options are European-style and cash-settled, and have a contract multiplier of 100. The contract specifications for NQX options mirror in all respects those of the NDX options contract listed on the Exchange,

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<sup>3</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 82911 (March 20, 2018), 83 FR 12966 (March 26, 2018) (SR-ISE-2017-106) (Approval Order).

except that NQX options are based on 1/5 of the value of the Nasdaq-100, and are P.M.-settled pursuant to Options 4A, Section 12(a)(6).

The Exchange proposes to amend ISE Options 4A, Section 12(a)(6)(i) to extend the current NQX Pilot period to November 6, 2023. The NQX Pilot was previously extended with the last extension through May 4, 2023.<sup>4</sup> The Exchange continues to have sufficient capacity to handle additional quotations and message traffic associated with the listing and trading of NQX options. In addition, index options are integrated into the Exchange's existing surveillance system architecture and are thus subject to the relevant surveillance processes. The Exchange also continues to have adequate surveillance procedures to monitor trading in NQX options thereby aiding in the maintenance of a fair and orderly market. Additionally, there is continued investor interest in these products and this extension will provide additional time to collect data related to the NQX Pilot. The Exchange believes that the proposed extension of the NQX Pilot will not have an adverse impact on capacity.

#### *NQX Pilot Report*

The Exchange currently makes public on its website the data and analysis previously submitted to the Commission on the NQX Pilot and will continue to make public any data or analysis it submits under the NQX Pilot in the future. The Exchange

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<sup>4</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 86071 (June 10, 2019), 84 FR 27822 (June 14, 2019) (SR-ISE-2019-18); 87379 (October 22, 2019), 84 FR 57793 (October 28, 2019) (SR-ISE-2019-27); 88683 (April 17, 2020), 85 FR 22768 (April 23, 2020) (SR-ISE-2020-18); 90257 (October 22, 2020), 85 FR 68387 (October 28, 2020) (SR-ISE-2020-33); 91485 (April 6, 2021), 86 FR 19052 (April 12, 2021) (SR-ISE-2021-05); 93448 (October 28, 2021), 86 FR 60717 (November 3, 2021) (SR-ISE-2021-22); 94632 (April 7, 2022), 87 FR 21940 (SR-ISE-2022-09); and 95992 (October 6, 2022), 87 FR 62163 (October 13, 2022) (SR-ISE-2022-20).



has filed a rule change proposing permanency of the NQX Pilot.<sup>5</sup> The Exchange continues to provide monthly data and has provided additional data in the permanency filing. The Exchange would continue to provide the Commission with ongoing data unless and until the NQX Pilot is made permanent or discontinued.

*Nonstandard Pilot*

ISE filed a rule change for the listing and trading on the Exchange, on a twelve month pilot basis, of p.m.-settled options on broad-based indexes with nonstandard expirations dates.<sup>6</sup> The Nonstandard Pilot permits both Weekly Expirations and End of Month (“EOM”) expirations similar to those of the a.m.-settled broad-based index options, except that the exercise settlement value of the options subject to the pilot are based on the index value derived from the closing prices of component stocks. On July 29, 2022, the Commission approved a Proposed Rule Change To Permit the Listing and Trading of P.M.-Settled Nasdaq-100 Index Options That Expire on Tuesday or Thursday Under Its Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Program.<sup>7</sup> The Nonstandard Pilot was extended various times with the last extension through May 4, 2023.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 96979 (February 24, 2023), 88 FR 13182 (March 2, 2023) (SR-ISE-2023-08).

<sup>6</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 82612 (February 1, 2018), 83 FR 5470 (February 7, 2018) (approving SR-ISE-2017-111) (Order Approving a Proposed Rule Change To Establish a Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Program).

<sup>7</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 95393 (July 29, 2022), 87 FR 47807 (August 4, 2022) (SR-ISE-2022-13) (Order Granting Approval of a Proposed Rule Change To Permit the Listing and Trading of P.M.-Settled Nasdaq-100 Index Options That Expire on Tuesday or Thursday Under Its Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Program).

<sup>8</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 85030 (February 1, 2019), 84 FR 2633 (February 7, 2019) (SR-ISE-2019-01); 85672 (April 17, 2019), 84 FR 16899 (April 23, 2019) (SR-ISE-2019-11); 87380 (October 22, 2019), 84 FR 57786

Supplementary Material .07(a) to Options 4A, Section 12 provides that the Exchange may open for trading Weekly Expirations on any broad-based index eligible for standard options trading to expire on any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday (other than the third Friday-of- the-month or days that coincide with an EOM expiration). In addition, the Exchange may also open for trading Weekly Expirations on Nasdaq-100 Index options to expire on any Tuesday or Thursday (other than days that coincide with the third Friday-of-the-month or an EOM expiration). Weekly Expirations are subject to all provisions of Options 4A, Section 12 and are treated the same as options on the same underlying index that expire on the third Friday of the expiration month. Unlike the standard monthly options, however, Weekly Expirations are p.m.-settled.

Pursuant to Supplementary Material .07(b) to Options 4A, Section 12 the Exchange may open for trading EOM expirations on any broad-based index eligible for standard options trading to expire on the last trading day of the month. EOM expirations are subject to all provisions of Options 4A, Section 12 and treated the same as options on the same underlying index that expire on the third Friday of the expiration month. However, the EOM expirations are p.m.-settled.

The Exchange now proposes to amend Supplementary Material .07(c) to Options 4A, Section 12 so that the duration of the Nonstandard Pilot for these nonstandard expirations will be through November 6, 2023. The Exchange continues to have

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(October 28, 2019) (SR-ISE-2019-28); 88681 (April 17, 2020), 85 FR 22775 (April 23, 2020) (SR-ISE-2020-17); 90265 (October 23, 2020), 85 FR 68605 (October 29, 2020) (SR-ISE-2020-34); 91486 (April 6, 2021), 86 FR 19048 (April 12, 2021) (SR-ISE-2021-06); 93449 (October 28, 2021), 86 FR 60679 (November 3, 2021) (SR-ISE-2021-23); 94632 (April 7, 2022), 87 FR 21940 (SR-ISE-2022-09); and 95992 (October 6, 2022), 87 FR 62163 (October 13, 2022) (SR-ISE-2022-20).

sufficient systems capacity to handle p.m.-settled options on broad-based indexes with nonstandard expirations dates and has not encountered any issues or adverse market effects as a result of listing them. Additionally, there is continued investor interest in these products. The Exchange will continue to make public on its website any data and analysis it submits to the Commission under the Nonstandard Pilot. The Exchange believes that the proposed extension of the Nonstandard Pilot will not have an adverse impact on capacity.

#### *Nonstandard Pilot Report*

The Exchange submitted a rule change proposing permanency of the Nonstandard Pilot.<sup>9</sup> The Exchange continues to provide monthly data and has provided additional data in the permanency filing. The Exchange would continue to provide the Commission with ongoing data unless and until the Nonstandard Pilot is made permanent or discontinued.

#### 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>10</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>11</sup> in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, 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.

#### NQX Pilot

In particular, the Exchange believes that the NQX Pilot has been successful to

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<sup>9</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 96979 (February 24, 2023), 88 FR 13182 (March 2, 2023) (SR-ISE-2023-08).

<sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>11</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

date. The Exchange has not encountered any problems with the NQX Pilot. By extending the NQX Pilot, the Exchange believes it will attract order flow to the Exchange, increase the variety of listed options, and provide a valuable hedge tool to retail and other investors. Specifically, the Exchange believes that the NQX Pilot will provide additional trading and hedging opportunities for investors while providing the Commission with data to monitor for and assess any potential for adverse market effects of allowing P.M.-settlement for NQX options, including on the underlying component stocks.

#### Nonstandard Pilot

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change will protect investors and the public interest by providing the Exchange, the Commission and investors the benefit of additional time to analyze nonstandard expiration options. In particular, the Exchange believes that the Nonstandard Pilot has been successful to date. The Exchange has not encountered any problems with the Nonstandard Pilot. By extending the Nonstandard Pilot, investors may continue to benefit from a wider array of investment opportunities. Additionally, both the Exchange and the Commission may continue to monitor the pilot for potential adverse market effects of p.m.-settlement on the market, including the underlying cash equities market, at the expiration of these options.

#### 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 that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change will not impose an undue burden on inter-market competition as this rule change will continue to facilitate the listing and trading of new option products that will enhance competition among

market participants, to the benefit of investors and the marketplace. Furthermore, these products could offer a competitive alternative to other existing investment products. Finally, it is possible for other exchanges to develop or license the use of a new or different index to compete with these products and seek Commission approval to list and trade options on such an index.

#### NQX Pilot

NQX options would be available for trading to all market participants and therefore would not impose an undue burden on intra-market competition. The continued listing of the NQX Pilot will enhance competition by providing investors with an additional investment vehicle, in a fully-electronic trading environment, through which investors can gain and hedge exposure to the Nasdaq-100.

#### Nonstandard Pilot

Options with nonstandard expirations would be available for trading to all market participants. The continued listing of the Nonstandard Pilot will enhance competition by providing investors with an additional investment vehicle, in a fully-electronic trading environment, through which investors can gain and hedge exposure to the Nasdaq-100.

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

No written comments were either solicited or received.

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

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not: (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant

to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act<sup>12</sup> and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.<sup>13</sup>

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

#### IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic comments:

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an e-mail to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-ISE-2023-09 on the subject line.

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<sup>12</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

<sup>13</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6) requires a self-regulatory organization to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. The Exchange has satisfied this requirement.

Paper comments:

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

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-ISE-2023-09. 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-ISE-2023-09 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>14</sup>

J. Matthew DeLesDernier  
Assistant Secretary

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<sup>14</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).



**EXHIBIT 5**

*New text is underlined; deleted text is in brackets.*

**Nasdaq ISE, LLC Rules**

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**Options Rules**

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**Options 4A Options Index Rules**

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**Section 12. Terms of Index Options Contracts**

(a) *General.*

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(6) No change.

(i) In addition to A.M.-settled Nasdaq-100 Index options approved for trading on the Exchange pursuant to Options 4A, Section 12(a)(5), the Exchange may also list options on the Nasdaq 100 Reduced Value Index (“NQX”) whose exercise settlement value is derived from closing prices on the expiration day (“P.M.-settled”). NQX options will be listed for trading for a pilot period expiring on [May 4]November 6, 2023.

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**Supplementary Material to Options 4A, Section 12**

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.07 Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Program

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(c) Duration of Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Program. The Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Program shall be through [May 4]November 6, 2023.

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