

Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

Filing by NASDAQ OMX PHLX LLC.  
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Initial *	Amendment *	Withdrawal	Section 19(b)(2) *	Section 19(b)(3)(A) *	Section 19(b)(3)(B) *
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pilot <input type="checkbox"/>			Rule		
Extension of Time Period for Commission Action * <input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(4)	
Date Expires * <input type="text"/>			<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	Security-Based Swap Submission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
Section 806(e)(1) <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 3C(b)(2) <input type="checkbox"/>
Section 806(e)(2) <input type="checkbox"/>	

Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document <input type="checkbox"/>	Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document <input type="checkbox"/>
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**Description**

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

A proposed rule change to establish an Acceptable Trade Range for orders and quotes on PHLX XL.

**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 \* Edith Last Name \* Hallahan  
 Title \* Principal Associate General Counsel  
 E-mail \* edith.hallahan@nasdaqomx.com  
 Telephone \* (215) 496-5179 Fax

**Signature**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,

has duly caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

(Title \*)

Date 06/18/2013 Executive Vice President and General Counsel  
 By Edward S. Knight

Edward S Knight,

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 EFFF website.

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

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

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

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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 1A- Notice of Proposed Rule Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, or Advance 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, 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, Transcripts, Other Communications**

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Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

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 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire**

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Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

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 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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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 Proposed Rule Change

(a) Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> NASDAQ OMX PHLX LLC (“PHLX” or “Exchange”) is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) a proposed rule change to establish an Acceptable Trade Range for orders and quotes on PHLX XL. The Acceptable Trade Range functionality is intended to dampen volatility when necessary in rare cases of unusual market conditions by allowing orders to execute within a succession of price-range steps. At the end of each price-range step, the process allows the market a brief time-period to refresh itself before moving on with the execution process, as described further below. Similar mechanisms operate on other options exchanges.

The text of the proposed rule change is below. Proposed new language is underlined; proposed deletions are in brackets.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Rule 1080 Phlx XL and Phlx XL II**

\* \* \* \* \*

**(p) Acceptable Trade Range.**

(A) After the opening, the System will calculate an Acceptable Trade Range to limit the range of prices at which an order or quote (except an All-or-none order) will be allowed to execute. The Acceptable Trade Range is calculated by taking the Reference Price, plus or minus a value to be determined by the Exchange. (i.e., the Reference Price - (x) for sell orders/quotes and the Reference Price + (x) for buy orders/quotes). Upon receipt of a new order/quote, the Reference Price is the National Best Bid (“NBB”) for sell orders and the National Best Offer (“NBO”)

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

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

for buy orders/quotes or the last price at which the order/quote is posted whichever is higher for a buy order/quote or lower for a sell order/quote.

**(B)** If an order/quote reaches the outer limit of the Acceptable Trade Range (the "Threshold Price") without being fully executed, it will be posted at the Threshold Price for a brief period, not to exceed one second ("Posting Period"), to allow more liquidity to be collected, unless a Quote Exhaust has occurred, in which case the Quote Exhaust process in Rule 1082(a)(ii)(B)(3) will ensue, triggering a new Reference Price. Upon posting, either the current Threshold Price of the order or an updated NBB for buy orders or the NBO for sell orders (whichever is higher for a buy order/lower for a sell order) then becomes the Reference Price for calculating a new Acceptable Trade Range. If the order/quote remains unexecuted, a New Acceptable Trade Range will be calculated and the order/quote will execute, route, or post up to the new Acceptable Trade Range Threshold Price, unless a member organization has requested that their orders be returned if posted at the outer limit of the Acceptable Trade Range (in which case, the order will be returned). This process will repeat until either i) the order/quote is executed, cancelled, or posted at its limit price or ii) the order has been subject to a configurable number of instances of the Acceptable Trade Range as determined by the Exchange (in which case it will be returned).

**(C)** During the Posting Period, the Exchange will disseminate as a quotation: (i) the Threshold Price for the remaining size of the order triggering the Acceptable Trade Range and (ii) on the opposite side of the market, the best price will be displayed using the "non-firm" indicator message in accordance with the specifications of the network processor. Following the Posting Period, the Exchange will return to a normal trading state and disseminate its best bid and offer.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Rule 1082 Firm Quotations**

(a)(i) – (ii)(B)(3)(g)(v) No change.

(vi) If, after trading at the Phlx and/or routing, there is a remainder of the initiating order, and such remainder is still marketable, the entire process of evaluating the Best Phlx price and the ABBO will be repeated until: (A) the order size is exhausted, or (B) the order reaches its limit price. If there still remain unexecuted contracts after routing but the order has reached its limit price, the remainder will be posted at the order's limit price, except that, when the limit price crosses the Acceptable Range Price, the remainder will be posted at the Acceptable Range Price for a period of time not to exceed ten seconds [and then cancelled after such period of time has elapsed, unless the member that submitted the original order has instructed the Exchange in writing to

re-enter the remaining size, in which case the remaining size will be automatically submitted as a new order]. During this up to ten second period, the Phlx XL II system will disseminate on the opposite side of the market from remaining unexecuted contracts: (i) a non-firm bid for the price and size of the next available bid(s) on the Exchange if the remaining size is a seller, or (ii) a non-firm offer for the price and size of the next available offer(s) on the Exchange if the remaining size is a buyer. After such time period, the Acceptable Range Price becomes the Reference Price and Acceptable Trade Range (pursuant to Rule 1080(p)) is applied to the remaining size of the order.

(4) No change.

(C) No change.

(iii) – (iv) No change.

(b) – (d) No change.

**Commentary:**

**.01 - .03** No change.

\* \* \* \* \*

A notice of the proposed rule change for publication in the Federal Register is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

(b) - (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 of the Exchange on July 10, 2012. No other action is necessary for the filing of the rule change. Questions regarding this rule filing may be directed to Edith Hallahan, Principal Associate General Counsel, The NASDAQ OMX Group, Inc., at 215-496-5179

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

a. Purpose

PHLX is proposing to adopt a mechanism that will prevent the PHLX trading System, Phlx XL, (“System”) from experiencing dramatic price swings. This circumstance can exist if, for example, a market order or aggressively priced limit order/quote is entered that is larger than the total volume of contracts quoted at the top-of-book across all U.S. options exchanges. Currently, without any protections in place, this could result in options executing at prices that have little or no relation to the theoretical price of the option.

For example, in a thinly traded option:

Away Exchange Quotes:

Exchange	Bid Size	Bid Price	Offer Price	Offer Size
NOM	10	\$1.00	\$1.05	10
NYSE Arca	10	\$1.00	\$1.05	10
NYSE MKT	10	\$1.00	\$1.10	10
BOX	10	\$1.00	\$1.15	10

PHLX Price Levels:

Exchange	Bid Size	Bid Price	Offer Price	Offer Size
PHLX orders	10	\$1.00	\$1.05	10
PHLX orders			\$1.10	10
PHLX orders			\$1.40	10
PHLX orders			\$5.00	10

If PHLX receives a routable market order to buy 80 contracts, the System will respond as described below:

- 10 contracts will be executed at \$1.05 against NOM
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$1.05 against PHLX
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$1.05 against NYSE Arca.
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$1.10 against PHLX
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$1.10 against NYSE MKT
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$1.15 against BOX

After these executions, there are no other known valid away exchange quotes. The National Best Bid/Offer (“NBBO”) is therefore comprised of the remaining interest on the PHLX book, specifically 10 contracts at \$1.40 and 10 contracts at \$5.00. In the absence of an Acceptable Trade Range mechanism, the order would execute against the remaining interest at \$1.40 and \$5.00, resulting in potential harm to investors.

To bolster the normal resilience and market behavior that persistently produces robust reference prices, PHLX is proposing to create a level of protection that prevents the market from moving beyond set thresholds. The thresholds consist of a Reference Price plus (minus) set dollar amounts based on the nature of the option and the premium of the option. PHLX is not introducing a new concept. In fact, the NASDAQ Options Market and NASDAQ OMX BX, Inc.’s options market have an Acceptable Trade Range feature.<sup>3</sup>

***System Operation.*** The proposed Acceptable Trade Range would work as follows: prior to executing orders received by PHLX, an Acceptable Trade Range is

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<sup>3</sup> See NOM Rules, Chapter VI, Section 10(7) and BX Options Rules, Chapter VI, Section 10(7).

calculated to determine the range of prices at which orders may be executed.<sup>4</sup> When an order is initially received, the threshold is calculated by adding (for buy orders) or subtracting (for sell orders) a value,<sup>5</sup> as discussed below, to the National Best Offer for buy orders or the National Best Bid for sell orders to determine the range of prices that are valid for execution. A buy (sell) order will be allowed to execute up (down) to and including the maximum (minimum) price within the Acceptable Trade Range.

If an order reaches the outer limit of the Acceptable Trade Range (the "Threshold Price") without being fully executed, it will be posted at the Threshold Price for a brief period, not to exceed one second ("Posting Period"), to allow the market to refresh and to determine whether or not more liquidity will become available (on PHLX or any other exchange if the order is designated as routable), unless a Quote Exhaust has occurred, in which case the Quote Exhaust process in Rule 1082(a)(ii)(B)(3) will ensue,<sup>6</sup> triggering a new Reference Price.

Upon posting, either the current Threshold Price of the order or an updated NBB for buy orders or the NBO for sell orders (whichever is higher for a buy order/lower for a

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<sup>4</sup> The Acceptable Trade Range will not be available for All-or-none orders, as defined in Rule 1066(c)(4). The Exchange has determined that it would be difficult, from a technical standpoint, to apply this feature to those orders because their particular contingency makes it difficult to automate their handling. All-or-none orders are often treated differently than other orders. See Options Floor Procedure Advice A-9.

<sup>5</sup> The value that is to be added to/subtracted from the Reference Price will be set by PHLX and posted on its website: <http://www.nasdaqtrader.com>.

<sup>6</sup> The Quote Exhaust process occurs when the Exchange's disseminated market at a particular price level includes a quote, and such market is exhausted by an inbound contra-side quote or order, and following such exhaustion, contracts remain to be executed from such quote or order through the initial execution price.



sell order) then becomes the Reference Price for calculating a new Acceptable Trade Range. If the order remains unexecuted, a new Acceptable Trade Range will be calculated and the order will execute, route, or post up to the new Acceptable Trade Range Threshold Price, unless a member organization has requested that their orders be returned if posted at the outer limit of the Acceptable Trade Range (in which case, the order will be returned). This process will repeat until either i) the order/quote is executed, cancelled, or posted at its limit price or ii) the order/quote has been subject to a configurable number of instances of the Acceptable Trade Range as determined by the Exchange.<sup>7</sup> Once the maximum number of instances has been reached, the order is returned.

During the Posting Period, any eligible contra-side interest that is received can trade. If, however a more aggressively-priced same side order is received during the Posting Period, the Posting Period ends, because there is no need to wait for the market to refresh and attract interest to the original order. Such new same side order indicates that the market is moving in that direction so the original order will trade at the current Acceptable Trade Range, with the Acceptable Trade Range recalculated for both orders.

During the Posting Period, PHLX will disseminate the Threshold Price on one side of the market and the best available price on the opposite side of the market using a “non-firm” indicator.<sup>8</sup> This allows the order setting the Acceptable Trade Range

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<sup>7</sup> Member organizations can request that the Acceptable Trade Range not apply to their orders, in which case, the order would be cancelled back to the member organization.

<sup>8</sup> Non-firm quote indication values are described on page 18 of the specifications disseminated by the Options Price Regulatory Authority (“OPRA”). See [http://www.opradata.com/specs/participant\\_interface\\_specification.pdf](http://www.opradata.com/specs/participant_interface_specification.pdf). This will be disseminated both to OPRA and over the Exchange’s own data feeds.

Threshold Price to retain priority in the PHLX book and also prevents any later-entered order from accessing liquidity ahead of it. If PHLX were to display trading interest available on the opposite side of the market, that trading interest would be automatically accessible to later-entered orders during the period when the order triggering the Acceptable Trade Range is paused. Following the Posting Period, the Exchange will return to a normal trading state and disseminate its best bid and offer.

PHLX believes that disseminating a non-firm quotation message as described above is consistent with its obligations under the SEC Quote Rule.<sup>9</sup> The fact that PHLX is experiencing volatility that is strong enough to trigger the Acceptable Trade Range mechanism qualifies as an unusual market condition. PHLX expects such situations to be rare, and, as described below, PHLX will set the parameters of the mechanism at levels that will ensure that it is triggered quite infrequently. In addition, the Acceptable Trade Range mechanism will cause the market to pause for no more than one second, the same pause that currently exists on NOM and BX Options. Importantly, the brief pause only occurs after the Exchange has already executed transactions - potentially at multiple price levels – rather than pausing before executing any transactions in the hopes of attracting initial liquidity.

Importantly, the Acceptable Trade Range is neutral with respect to away markets. Consistent with the routing provisions in Rule 1080(m), an order may route to other destinations to access liquidity priced within the Acceptable Trade Range provided the order is designated as routable. If the order still remains unexecuted, this process will

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<sup>9</sup> 17 CFR 242.602.

repeat<sup>10</sup> until the order is executed, cancelled, or posted at its limit price, consistent with PHLX routing rules.<sup>11</sup>

For example, assume that the Acceptable Trade Range is set for \$0.05 and the following quotations are posted in all markets:

Away Exchange Quotes:

Exchange	Bid Size	Bid Price	Offer Price	Offer Size
ISE	10	\$0.75	\$0.90	10
NYSE MKT	10	\$0.75	\$0.92	10
NOM	10	\$0.75	\$0.94	10

PHLX Price Levels:

Exchange	Bid Size	Bid Price	Offer Price	Offer Size
PHLX orders	10	\$0.75	\$0.90	10
PHLX order			\$0.95	10
PHLX order			\$0.97	10
PHLX order			\$1.00	20

<sup>10</sup> PHLX will establish a maximum number of Acceptable Trade Range iterations, until the order is cancelled

<sup>11</sup> See PHLX Rule 1080(m). If after an order is routed to the full size of an away exchange and additional size remains available, the remaining contracts will be posted on PHLX at a price that assumes the away market has executed the routed order. This practice of routing and then posting is consistent with the national market system plan governing trading and routing of options orders and the PHLX policies and procedures that implement that plan. See Options Order Protection and Locked/Crossed Markets Plan; Securities Exchange Act Release No. 60405 (July 30, 2009), 74 FR 39362 (August 6, 2009); NOM Rules Chapter VI, Section 7(b)(3)(C).

PHLX receives a routable order to buy 70 contracts at \$1.10. The Acceptable Trade Range is \$0.05 and the Reference Price is the National Best Offer - \$0.90. The Threshold Price is then  $\$0.90 + \$0.05 = \$0.95$ . The order is allowed to execute up to and including \$0.95. The System then pauses for a brief period not to exceed one second (the Posting Period) to allow the market (including other exchanges) to refresh and to determine whether additional liquidity will become available within the order's posted price. If additional liquidity becomes available on PHLX or any away market, that liquidity will be accessed and executed.

- 10 contracts will be executed at \$0.90 against PHLX
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$0.90 against ISE
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$0.92 against NYSE MKT
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$0.94 against NOM
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$0.95 against PHLX
- Then, after executing at multiple price levels, the order is posted at \$0.95 for a brief period not to exceed one second to determine whether additional liquidity will become available.
- A new Acceptable Trade Range Threshold Price of \$1.00 is determined (new Reference Price of  $\$0.95 + \$0.05 = \$1.00$ )
- If, during the Posting Period, no liquidity becomes available within the order's posted price of \$0.95, the System will then execute 10 contracts at \$0.97, and 10 contracts at \$1.00<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> The brief pause described above will not disadvantage customers seeking the best price in any market. For example, if in the example above an NYSE ARCA quote

Similarly, if a new order is received when a previous order has reached the Acceptable Trade Range threshold, the Threshold Price will be used as the Reference Price for the new Acceptable Trade Range threshold. Both orders would then be allowed to execute up (down) to the new Threshold Price.

For example:

Away Exchange Quotes:

Exchange	Bid Size	Bid Price	Offer Price	Offer Size
ISE	10	\$0.75	\$0.90	10
NYSE MKT	10	\$0.75	\$0.92	10
NOM	10	\$0.75	\$0.94	10

PHLX Price Levels:

Exchange	Bid Size	Bid Price	Offer Price	Offer Size
PHLX orders	10	\$0.75	\$0.90	10
PHLX order			\$0.95	10
PHLX order			\$1.05	20

- PHLX receives a routable order to buy 60 contracts at \$1.10. The Acceptable Trade Range is \$0.05 and the Reference Price is the National Best Offer - \$0.90. The Acceptable Trade Range threshold is then  $\$0.90 + \$0.05 = \$0.95$ . The order is allowed to execute up to and including \$0.95.
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$0.90 against PHLX
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$0.90 against ISE

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of \$0.75 x \$0.96 with size of 10 x 10 is received, a routable order would first route to NYSE ARCA at \$0.96, then execute against PHLX at \$0.97.

- 10 contracts will be executed at \$0.92 against NYSE MKT
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$0.94 against NOM
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$0.95 against PHLX
- Then, after executing at multiple price levels, the order is posted at \$0.95 for a brief period not to exceed one second to determine whether additional liquidity will become available.
- A new Acceptable Trade Range Threshold Price of \$1.00 is determined (new Reference Price of  $\$0.95 + \$0.05 = \$1.00$ )
- If, during the brief period not to exceed one second, a second order is received to buy 10 contracts at \$1.25, the two orders would then post at the new Acceptable Trade Range Threshold price of \$1.00 for a brief period not to exceed one second to determine whether additional liquidity will become available.
- A new Acceptable Trade Range threshold of \$1.05 will be calculated.
- If no additional liquidity becomes available within the posted price of the orders (\$1.00) during the brief period not to exceed one second, the orders would execute 10 contracts each against the order on the PHLX book at \$1.05

In addition, an order/quote which triggers a Quote Exhaust process, as explained above, will also be protected by the Acceptable Trade Range. When an order/quote triggers Quote Exhaust, the price at which the order/quote is posted becomes the Reference Price and the order/quote would then be allowed to execute up (down) to the new Threshold Price.

For example:

## Away Exchange Quotes:

Exchange	Bid Size	Bid Price	Offer Price	Offer Size
ISE	10	\$0.75	\$0.90	10
NYSE MKT	10	\$0.75	\$0.98	10
NOM	10	\$0.75	\$0.98	10

## PHLX Price Levels:

Exchange	Bid Size	Bid Price	Offer Price	Offer Size
PHLX MM Quote	10	\$0.75	\$0.92	10
PHLX order			\$0.99	20

- PHLX receives a routable order to buy 60 contracts at \$1.10. The Acceptable Trade Range is \$0.05 and the Reference Price is the National Best Offer - \$0.90. The Acceptable Trade Range threshold is then  $\$0.90 + \$0.05 = \$0.95$ . The order is allowed to execute up to and including \$0.95.
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$0.90 against ISE
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$0.92 against PHLX MM Quote, triggering Quote Exhaust. At the end of the Quote Exhaust Timer, based on the Quote Exhaust Acceptable Range table, the order will be posted at a price of \$0.97 (assuming a \$0.05 Acceptable Range). The Acceptable Trade Range threshold becomes  $\$0.97 + \$0.05 = \$1.02$ . The order is allowed to execute up to and including \$1.02.
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$0.98 against NYSE Amex
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$0.98 against NOM
- 20 contracts will be executed at \$0.99 against PHLX

The Exchange is also proposing to amend Rule 1082, Firm Quotations to address that the Quote Exhaust process will culminate with the application of the Acceptable Trade Range under proposed Rule 1080(p), rather than either cancelling or re-entering the remaining size of the order. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to amend Rule 1082(a)(ii)(B)(3)(g)(vi) to provide that the Acceptable Range Price becomes the Reference Price and the Acceptable Trade Range (pursuant to Rule 1080(p)) is applied to the remaining size of the order. This would occur after the brief time period (of no more than ten seconds) when the order is posted at the Acceptable Range Price, which is part of the Quote Exhaust process. Because the Acceptable Trade Range, under this proposal, will now protect the remainder of the order, the Exchange does not believe that it needs to cancel the order or offer the alternative that member organizations provide instructions if they would prefer the remainder to be re-entered. The Exchange is not otherwise changing the Quote Exhaust process.

***Setting Acceptable Trade Range Values.*** The options premium will be the dominant factor in determining the Acceptable Trade Range. Generally, options with lower premiums tend to be more liquid and have tighter bid/ask spreads; options with higher premiums have wider spreads and less liquidity. Accordingly, a table consisting of several steps based on the premium of the option will be used to determine how far the market for a given option will be allowed to move. This table or tables would be listed on the NASDAQTrader.com website and any periodic updates to the table would be announced via an Options Trader Alert.

For example, looking at some SPY May 2013 Call options on May 1st of 2013:

Bid/Offer of SPY May 160 Call (at or near-the-money): \$1.23 x \$1.24 (several hundred contracts on bid and offer)



Bid/Offer of SPY May 105 Call (deep in-the-money): \$54.10 x \$54.26 (11 contracts on each side)

The deep in-the-money calls (May 105 calls) have a wider spread ( $\$54.10 - \$54.26 = \$0.16$ ) compared to a spread of \$0.01 for the at-the-money calls (May 160 calls).

Therefore, it is appropriate to have different thresholds for the two options. For instance, it may make sense to have a \$0.05 threshold for the at-the-money strikes (Premium < \$2) and a \$0.50 threshold for the deep in-the-money strikes (Premium > \$10).

To consider another example, the May 2013 ORCL put options on May 1st of 2013:

Bid/Offer of ORCL 33 May Put (at or near-the-money): \$0.33 x \$0.34 (100x500)

Bid/Offer of ORCL 44 May Put (deep in-the-money): \$10.40 x \$10.55 (50 x 200)

Even though ORCL has a much lower share price than SPY, and is a different type of security (it is a common stock of a technology company whereas SPY is an ETF based on the S&P 500 Index), the pattern is the same. The option with the lower premium has a very narrow spread of \$0.01 with significant size displayed whereas the higher premium option has a wide spread (\$0.15) and less size displayed.

The Acceptable Trade Range settings will be tied to the option premium. However, other factors will be considered when determining the exact settings. For example, Acceptable Ranges may change if market-wide volatility is as high as it was during the financial crisis in 2008 and 2009, or if overall liquidity is low based on historical trends. These different market conditions may present the need to adjust the threshold amounts from time to time to ensure a well-functioning market. Without adjustments, the market may become too constrained or conversely, prone to wide price swings. As stated above, the Exchange would publish the Acceptable Trade Range table

or tables on the NASDAQTrader.com website. The Exchange does not foresee updating the table(s) often or intraday, although the exchange may determine to do so in extreme circumstances. The Exchange will provide sufficient advanced notice of changes to the Acceptable Trade Range table, generally the prior day, to its membership via Options Trader Alerts.

The Acceptable Trade Range settings would generally be the same across all options traded on PHLX, although PHLX proposes to maintain flexibility to set them separately based on characteristics of the underlying security. For instance, Google is a stock with a high share price (\$824.57 closing price on April 30th). Google options therefore may require special settings due to the risk involved in actively quoting options on such a high-priced stock. Option spreads on Google are wider and the size available at the best bid and offer is smaller. Google could potentially need a wider threshold setting compared to other lower-priced stocks. There are other options that fit into this category (e.g. AAPL) which makes it necessary to have threshold settings that have flexibility based on the underlying security. Additionally, it is generally observed that options subject to the Penny Pilot program quote with tighter spreads than options not subject to the Penny Pilot. Currently, PHLX expects to set Acceptable Trade Ranges for three categories of options: Standard Penny Pilot, Special Penny Pilot (IWM, QQQQ, SPY), and Non-Penny Pilot.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> The Acceptable Range Test in Rule 1082(a)(ii)(B)(3)(f) currently provides for this flexibility, in addition to the comparable provisions in NOM and BX Options rules. See NOM Rules, Chapter VI, Section 10(7) and BX Options Rules, Chapter VI, Section 10(7).

b. Statutory Basis

PHLX believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 6 of the Act,<sup>14</sup> in general and with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>15</sup> in particular, which requires that the rules of an exchange be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, promote just and equitable principles of trade, foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in securities, remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, protect investors and the public interest. The proposed rule change is consistent with these requirements in that it will reduce the negative impacts of sudden, unanticipated volatility in individual PHLX options, and serve to preserve an orderly market in a transparent and uniform manner, enhance the price-discovery process, increase overall market confidence, and promote fair and orderly markets and the protection of investors. Specifically, the Exchange believes that the NBBO is a fair representation of then-available prices and accordingly the proposal helps to avoid executions at prices that are significantly worse than the NBBO. Also, this proposal is consistent with existing rules that allow, when the underlying security is subject to a “Limit State” or “Straddle State,” as defined in the Limit Up-Limit Down Plan, for the breaking of options trades meeting the definition of an obvious error as well as rejecting market orders.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f.

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

<sup>16</sup> See PHLX Rule 1047(f).

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

PHLX does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended. Specifically, the proposal does not impose an intra-market burden on competition, because it will apply to the orders and quotes of all Options Participants. Nor will the proposal impose a burden on competition among the options exchanges, because of the vigorous competition for order flow among the options exchanges. PHLX competes with many other options exchanges, all of which offer electronic trading of options and certain routing services. In this highly competitive market, market participants can easily and readily direct order flow to competing venues.

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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

6. Extension of Time Period for Commission Action

Not applicable.

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

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>17</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)<sup>18</sup> thereunder, PHLX has designated this proposal as one that 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

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<sup>17</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>18</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. PHLX believes that the proposal is non-controversial, because it has been previously addressed by the Commission and does not raise novel regulatory issues.

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. PHLX has satisfied this requirement. Furthermore, a proposed rule change filed pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f)(6) under the Act<sup>19</sup> normally does not become operative for 30 days after the date of its filing. However, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)<sup>20</sup> 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 noted operative delay so that the Exchange may, as soon as possible, implement the protections proposed by this filing. Such waiver would benefit investors and market participants by providing additional protection from certain executions under all market conditions, but particularly in volatile market conditions. Immediate operability will permit the Exchange to protect orders/quotes in the same manner that its affiliated options exchanges, NOM and BX Options, currently provide this protection.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is: (i) necessary or appropriate in the public interest; (ii) for the protection of investors; or (iii) otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If

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<sup>19</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>20</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

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

The proposal is substantially similar to NOM and BX,<sup>21</sup> except: (i) it takes into consideration PHLX's Quote Exhaust process, which NOM and BX do not have; (ii) it excludes All-or-none orders, which BX and NOM only permit as Immediate-or-Cancel; and (iii) PHLX proposes a configurable number of iterations before an order is returned, while NOM and BX allow an indefinite number. PHLX does not believe that this is a significant difference, because member organizations can re-enter the order afterwards if they so choose. In the equities markets, The NASDAQ Stock Market, NASDAQ OMX PSX, and NASDAQ OMX BX all place a limit on the prices at which market orders will be allowed to execute.<sup>22</sup>

9. Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act

Not applicable.

10. Advanced Notices Filed Pursuant to Section 806(e) of the Payment, Clearing and Settlement Supervision Act

Not applicable.

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<sup>21</sup> See NOM Rules, Chapter VI, Section 10(7) and BX Options Rules, Chapter VI, Section 10(7). See also SR-BATS-2013-023.

<sup>22</sup> PHLX believes that the proposed Acceptable Trade Range mechanism is superior to the market collar orders currently used in equity markets because the Acceptable Trade Range will apply to all orders and quotes rather than just unpriced orders. Additionally, rather than immediately cancelling the order, the market would continue to work the order for execution. See NASDAQ Stock Market Rule 4751(f)(13), NASDAQ OMX BX Rule 4751(f)(10), and NASDAQ OMX PSX Rule 3301(f)(9).

11. Exhibits

1. Completed notice of proposed rule change for publication in the Federal Register.

**EXHIBIT 1**

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
(Release No. \_\_\_\_\_ ; File No. SR-Phlx-2013-69)

June \_\_, 2013

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NASDAQ OMX PHLX LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Establish an Acceptable Trade Range for Orders and Quotes on PHLX XL

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 June 18, 2013, NASDAQ OMX PHLX LLC (“Phlx” 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 establish an Acceptable Trade Range for orders and quotes on PHLX XL. The Acceptable Trade Range functionality is intended to dampen volatility when necessary in rare cases of unusual market conditions by allowing orders to execute within a succession of price-range steps. At the end of each price-range step, the process allows the market a brief time-period to refresh itself before moving on with the execution process, as described further below. Similar mechanisms operate on other options exchanges.

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

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



The text of the proposed rule change is below; proposed new language is underlined; proposed deletions are in brackets.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Rule 1080 Phlx XL and Phlx XL II**

\* \* \* \* \*

**(p) Acceptable Trade Range.**

- (A)** After the opening, the System will calculate an Acceptable Trade Range to limit the range of prices at which an order or quote (except an All-or-none order) will be allowed to execute. The Acceptable Trade Range is calculated by taking the Reference Price, plus or minus a value to be determined by the Exchange. (i.e., the Reference Price - (x) for sell orders/quotes and the Reference Price + (x) for buy orders/quotes). Upon receipt of a new order/quote, the Reference Price is the National Best Bid ("NBB") for sell orders and the National Best Offer ("NBO") for buy orders/quotes or the last price at which the order/quote is posted whichever is higher for a buy order/quote or lower for a sell order/quote.
- (B)** If an order/quote reaches the outer limit of the Acceptable Trade Range (the "Threshold Price") without being fully executed, it will be posted at the Threshold Price for a brief period, not to exceed one second ("Posting Period"), to allow more liquidity to be collected, unless a Quote Exhaust has occurred, in which case the Quote Exhaust process in Rule 1082(a)(ii)(B)(3) will ensue, triggering a new Reference Price. Upon posting, either the current Threshold Price of the order or an updated NBB for buy orders or the NBO for sell orders (whichever is higher for a buy order/lower for a sell order) then becomes the

Reference Price for calculating a new Acceptable Trade Range. If the order/quote remains unexecuted, a New Acceptable Trade Range will be calculated and the order/quote will execute, route, or post up to the new Acceptable Trade Range Threshold Price, unless a member organization has requested that their orders be returned if posted at the outer limit of the Acceptable Trade Range (in which case, the order will be returned). This process will repeat until either i) the order/quote is executed, cancelled, or posted at its limit price or ii) the order has been subject to a configurable number of instances of the Acceptable Trade Range as determined by the Exchange (in which case it will be returned).

(C) During the Posting Period, the Exchange will disseminate as a quotation: (i) the Threshold Price for the remaining size of the order triggering the Acceptable Trade Range and (ii) on the opposite side of the market, the best price will be displayed using the "non-firm" indicator message in accordance with the specifications of the network processor. Following the Posting Period, the Exchange will return to a normal trading state and disseminate its best bid and offer.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Rule 1082 Firm Quotations**

(a)(i) – (ii)(B)(3)(g)(v) No change.

(vi) If, after trading at the Phlx and/or routing, there is a remainder of the initiating order, and such remainder is still marketable, the entire process of evaluating the Best Phlx price and the ABBO will be repeated until: (A) the order size is exhausted, or (B) the order reaches

its limit price. If there still remain unexecuted contracts after routing but the order has reached its limit price, the remainder will be posted at the order's limit price, except that, when the limit price crosses the Acceptable Range Price, the remainder will be posted at the Acceptable Range Price for a period of time not to exceed ten seconds [and then cancelled after such period of time has elapsed, unless the member that submitted the original order has instructed the Exchange in writing to re-enter the remaining size, in which case the remaining size will be automatically submitted as a new order]. During this up to ten second period, the Phlx XL II system will disseminate on the opposite side of the market from remaining unexecuted contracts: (i) a non-firm bid for the price and size of the next available bid(s) on the Exchange if the remaining size is a seller, or (ii) a non-firm offer for the price and size of the next available offer(s) on the Exchange if the remaining size is a buyer. After such time period, the Acceptable Range Price becomes the Reference Price and Acceptable Trade Range (pursuant to Rule 1080(p)) is applied to the remaining size of the order.

(4) No change.

(C) No change.

(iii) – (iv) No change.

(b) – (d) No change.

**Commentary:**

**.01 - .03** No change.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

PHLX is proposing to adopt a mechanism that will prevent the PHLX trading System, Phlx XL, (“System”) from experiencing dramatic price swings. This circumstance can exist if, for example, a market order or aggressively priced limit order/quote is entered that is larger than the total volume of contracts quoted at the top-of-book across all U.S. options exchanges. Currently, without any protections in place, this could result in options executing at prices that have little or no relation to the theoretical price of the option.

For example, in a thinly traded option:

Away Exchange Quotes:

Exchange	Bid Size	Bid Price	Offer Price	Offer Size
NOM	10	\$1.00	\$1.05	10
NYSE Arca	10	\$1.00	\$1.05	10
NYSE MKT	10	\$1.00	\$1.10	10
BOX	10	\$1.00	\$1.15	10

## PHLX Price Levels:

Exchange	Bid Size	Bid Price	Offer Price	Offer Size
PHLX orders	10	\$1.00	\$1.05	10
PHLX orders			\$1.10	10
PHLX orders			\$1.40	10
PHLX orders			\$5.00	10

If PHLX receives a routable market order to buy 80 contracts, the System will respond as described below:

- 10 contracts will be executed at \$1.05 against NOM
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$1.05 against PHLX
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$1.05 against NYSE Arca.
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$1.10 against PHLX
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$1.10 against NYSE MKT
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$1.15 against BOX

After these executions, there are no other known valid away exchange quotes. The National Best Bid/Offer (“NBBO”) is therefore comprised of the remaining interest on the PHLX book, specifically 10 contracts at \$1.40 and 10 contracts at \$5.00. In the absence of an Acceptable Trade Range mechanism, the order would execute against the remaining interest at \$1.40 and \$5.00, resulting in potential harm to investors.

To bolster the normal resilience and market behavior that persistently produces robust reference prices, PHLX is proposing to create a level of protection that prevents the market from moving beyond set thresholds. The thresholds consist of a Reference

Price plus (minus) set dollar amounts based on the nature of the option and the premium of the option. PHLX is not introducing a new concept. In fact, the NASDAQ Options Market and NASDAQ OMX BX, Inc.'s options market have an Acceptable Trade Range feature.<sup>3</sup>

*System Operation.* The proposed Acceptable Trade Range would work as follows: prior to executing orders received by PHLX, an Acceptable Trade Range is calculated to determine the range of prices at which orders may be executed.<sup>4</sup> When an order is initially received, the threshold is calculated by adding (for buy orders) or subtracting (for sell orders) a value,<sup>5</sup> as discussed below, to the National Best Offer for buy orders or the National Best Bid for sell orders to determine the range of prices that are valid for execution. A buy (sell) order will be allowed to execute up (down) to and including the maximum (minimum) price within the Acceptable Trade Range.

If an order reaches the outer limit of the Acceptable Trade Range (the "Threshold Price") without being fully executed, it will be posted at the Threshold Price for a brief period, not to exceed one second ("Posting Period"), to allow the market to refresh and to determine whether or not more liquidity will become available (on PHLX or any other exchange if the order is designated as routable), unless a Quote Exhaust has occurred, in

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<sup>3</sup> See NOM Rules, Chapter VI, Section 10(7) and BX Options Rules, Chapter VI, Section 10(7).

<sup>4</sup> The Acceptable Trade Range will not be available for All-or-none orders, as defined in Rule 1066(c)(4). The Exchange has determined that it would be difficult, from a technical standpoint, to apply this feature to those orders because their particular contingency makes it difficult to automate their handling. All-or-none orders are often treated differently than other orders. See Options Floor Procedure Advice A-9.

<sup>5</sup> The value that is to be added to/subtracted from the Reference Price will be set by PHLX and posted on its website: <http://www.nasdaqtrader.com>.

which case the Quote Exhaust process in Rule 1082(a)(ii)(B)(3) will ensue,<sup>6</sup> triggering a new Reference Price.

Upon posting, either the current Threshold Price of the order or an updated NBB for buy orders or the NBO for sell orders (whichever is higher for a buy order/lower for a sell order) then becomes the Reference Price for calculating a new Acceptable Trade Range. If the order remains unexecuted, a new Acceptable Trade Range will be calculated and the order will execute, route, or post up to the new Acceptable Trade Range Threshold Price, unless a member organization has requested that their orders be returned if posted at the outer limit of the Acceptable Trade Range (in which case, the order will be returned). This process will repeat until either i) the order/quote is executed, cancelled, or posted at its limit price or ii) the order/quote has been subject to a configurable number of instances of the Acceptable Trade Range as determined by the Exchange.<sup>7</sup> Once the maximum number of instances has been reached, the order is returned.

During the Posting Period, any eligible contra-side interest that is received can trade. If, however a more aggressively-priced same side order is received during the Posting Period, the Posting Period ends, because there is no need to wait for the market to refresh and attract interest to the original order. Such new same side order indicates that

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<sup>6</sup> The Quote Exhaust process occurs when the Exchange's disseminated market at a particular price level includes a quote, and such market is exhausted by an inbound contra-side quote or order, and following such exhaustion, contracts remain to be executed from such quote or order through the initial execution price.

<sup>7</sup> Member organizations can request that the Acceptable Trade Range not apply to their orders, in which case, the order would be cancelled back to the member organization.

the market is moving in that direction so the original order will trade at the current Acceptable Trade Range, with the Acceptable Trade Range recalculated for both orders.

During the Posting Period, PHLX will disseminate the Threshold Price on one side of the market and the best available price on the opposite side of the market using a “non-firm” indicator.<sup>8</sup> This allows the order setting the Acceptable Trade Range Threshold Price to retain priority in the PHLX book and also prevents any later-entered order from accessing liquidity ahead of it. If PHLX were to display trading interest available on the opposite side of the market, that trading interest would be automatically accessible to later-entered orders during the period when the order triggering the Acceptable Trade Range is paused. Following the Posting Period, the Exchange will return to a normal trading state and disseminate its best bid and offer.

PHLX believes that disseminating a non-firm quotation message as described above is consistent with its obligations under the SEC Quote Rule.<sup>9</sup> The fact that PHLX is experiencing volatility that is strong enough to trigger the Acceptable Trade Range mechanism qualifies as an unusual market condition. PHLX expects such situations to be rare, and, as described below, PHLX will set the parameters of the mechanism at levels that will ensure that it is triggered quite infrequently. In addition, the Acceptable Trade Range mechanism will cause the market to pause for no more than one second, the same pause that currently exists on NOM and BX Options. Importantly, the brief pause only occurs after the Exchange has already executed transactions - potentially at multiple price

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<sup>8</sup> Non-firm quote indication values are described on page 18 of the specifications disseminated by the Options Price Regulatory Authority (“OPRA”). See [http://www.opradata.com/specs/participant\\_interface\\_specification.pdf](http://www.opradata.com/specs/participant_interface_specification.pdf). This will be disseminated both to OPRA and over the Exchange’s own data feeds.

<sup>9</sup> 17 CFR 242.602.



levels – rather than pausing before executing any transactions in the hopes of attracting initial liquidity.

Importantly, the Acceptable Trade Range is neutral with respect to away markets. Consistent with the routing provisions in Rule 1080(m), an order may route to other destinations to access liquidity priced within the Acceptable Trade Range provided the order is designated as routable. If the order still remains unexecuted, this process will repeat<sup>10</sup> until the order is executed, cancelled, or posted at its limit price, consistent with PHLX routing rules.<sup>11</sup>

For example, assume that the Acceptable Trade Range is set for \$0.05 and the following quotations are posted in all markets:

Away Exchange Quotes:

Exchange	Bid Size	Bid Price	Offer Price	Offer Size
ISE	10	\$0.75	\$0.90	10
NYSE MKT	10	\$0.75	\$0.92	10
NOM	10	\$0.75	\$0.94	10

PHLX Price Levels:

<sup>10</sup> PHLX will establish a maximum number of Acceptable Trade Range iterations, until the order is cancelled

<sup>11</sup> See PHLX Rule 1080(m). If after an order is routed to the full size of an away exchange and additional size remains available, the remaining contracts will be posted on PHLX at a price that assumes the away market has executed the routed order. This practice of routing and then posting is consistent with the national market system plan governing trading and routing of options orders and the PHLX policies and procedures that implement that plan. See Options Order Protection and Locked/Crossed Markets Plan; Securities Exchange Act Release No. 60405 (July 30, 2009), 74 FR 39362 (August 6, 2009); NOM Rules Chapter VI, Section 7(b)(3)(C).

Exchange	Bid Size	Bid Price	Offer Price	Offer Size
PHLX orders	10	\$0.75	\$0.90	10
PHLX order			\$0.95	10
PHLX order			\$0.97	10
PHLX order			\$1.00	20

PHLX receives a routable order to buy 70 contracts at \$1.10. The Acceptable Trade Range is \$0.05 and the Reference Price is the National Best Offer - \$0.90. The Threshold Price is then  $\$0.90 + \$0.05 = \$0.95$ . The order is allowed to execute up to and including \$0.95. The System then pauses for a brief period not to exceed one second (the Posting Period) to allow the market (including other exchanges) to refresh and to determine whether additional liquidity will become available within the order's posted price. If additional liquidity becomes available on PHLX or any away market, that liquidity will be accessed and executed.

- 10 contracts will be executed at \$0.90 against PHLX
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$0.90 against ISE
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$0.92 against NYSE MKT
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$0.94 against NOM
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$0.95 against PHLX
- Then, after executing at multiple price levels, the order is posted at \$0.95 for a brief period not to exceed one second to determine whether additional liquidity will become available.
- A new Acceptable Trade Range Threshold Price of \$1.00 is determined (new Reference Price of  $\$0.95 + \$0.05 = \$1.00$ )

- If, during the Posting Period, no liquidity becomes available within the order's posted price of \$0.95, the System will then execute 10 contracts at \$0.97, and 10 contracts at \$1.00<sup>12</sup>

Similarly, if a new order is received when a previous order has reached the Acceptable Trade Range threshold, the Threshold Price will be used as the Reference Price for the new Acceptable Trade Range threshold. Both orders would then be allowed to execute up (down) to the new Threshold Price.

For example:

Away Exchange Quotes:

Exchange	Bid Size	Bid Price	Offer Price	Offer Size
ISE	10	\$0.75	\$0.90	10
NYSE MKT	10	\$0.75	\$0.92	10
NOM	10	\$0.75	\$0.94	10

PHLX Price Levels:

Exchange	Bid Size	Bid Price	Offer Price	Offer Size
PHLX orders	10	\$0.75	\$0.90	10
PHLX order			\$0.95	10
PHLX order			\$1.05	20

- PHLX receives a routable order to buy 60 contracts at \$1.10. The Acceptable Trade Range is \$0.05 and the Reference Price is the National Best Offer -

<sup>12</sup> The brief pause described above will not disadvantage customers seeking the best price in any market. For example, if in the example above an NYSE ARCA quote of \$0.75 x \$0.96 with size of 10 x 10 is received, a routable order would first route to NYSE ARCA at \$0.96, then execute against PHLX at \$0.97.

\$0.90. The Acceptable Trade Range threshold is then  $\$0.90 + \$0.05 = \$0.95$ .

The order is allowed to execute up to and including \$0.95.

- 10 contracts will be executed at \$0.90 against PHLX
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$0.90 against ISE
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$0.92 against NYSE MKT
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$0.94 against NOM
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$0.95 against PHLX
- Then, after executing at multiple price levels, the order is posted at \$0.95 for a brief period not to exceed one second to determine whether additional liquidity will become available.
- A new Acceptable Trade Range Threshold Price of \$1.00 is determined (new Reference Price of  $\$0.95 + \$0.05 = \$1.00$ )
- If, during the brief period not to exceed one second, a second order is received to buy 10 contracts at \$1.25, the two orders would then post at the new Acceptable Trade Range Threshold price of \$1.00 for a brief period not to exceed one second to determine whether additional liquidity will become available.
- A new Acceptable Trade Range threshold of \$1.05 will be calculated.
- If no additional liquidity becomes available within the posted price of the orders (\$1.00) during the brief period not to exceed one second, the orders would execute 10 contracts each against the order on the PHLX book at \$1.05

In addition, an order/quote which triggers a Quote Exhaust process, as explained above, will also be protected by the Acceptable Trade Range. When an order/quote triggers

Quote Exhaust, the price at which the order/quote is posted becomes the Reference Price and the order/quote would then be allowed to execute up (down) to the new Threshold Price.

For example:

Away Exchange Quotes:

Exchange	Bid Size	Bid Price	Offer Price	Offer Size
ISE	10	\$0.75	\$0.90	10
NYSE MKT	10	\$0.75	\$0.98	10
NOM	10	\$0.75	\$0.98	10

PHLX Price Levels:

Exchange	Bid Size	Bid Price	Offer Price	Offer Size
PHLX MM Quote	10	\$0.75	\$0.92	10
PHLX order			\$0.99	20

- PHLX receives a routable order to buy 60 contracts at \$1.10. The Acceptable Trade Range is \$0.05 and the Reference Price is the National Best Offer - \$0.90. The Acceptable Trade Range threshold is then  $\$0.90 + \$0.05 = \$0.95$ . The order is allowed to execute up to and including \$0.95.
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$0.90 against ISE
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$0.92 against PHLX MM Quote, triggering Quote Exhaust. At the end of the Quote Exhaust Timer, based on the Quote Exhaust Acceptable Range table, the order will be posted at a price of \$0.97 (assuming a \$0.05 Acceptable Range). The Acceptable Trade Range

threshold becomes  $\$0.97 + \$0.05 = \$1.02$ . The order is allowed to execute up to and including \$1.02.

- 10 contracts will be executed at \$0.98 against NYSE Amex
- 10 contracts will be executed at \$0.98 against NOM
- 20 contracts will be executed at \$0.99 against PHLX

The Exchange is also proposing to amend Rule 1082, Firm Quotations to address that the Quote Exhaust process will culminate with the application of the Acceptable Trade Range under proposed Rule 1080(p), rather than either cancelling or re-entering the remaining size of the order. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to amend Rule 1082(a)(ii)(B)(3)(g)(vi) to provide that the Acceptable Range Price becomes the Reference Price and the Acceptable Trade Range (pursuant to Rule 1080(p)) is applied to the remaining size of the order. This would occur after the brief time period (of no more than ten seconds) when the order is posted at the Acceptable Range Price, which is part of the Quote Exhaust process. Because the Acceptable Trade Range, under this proposal, will now protect the remainder of the order, the Exchange does not believe that it needs to cancel the order or offer the alternative that member organizations provide instructions if they would prefer the remainder to be re-entered. The Exchange is not otherwise changing the Quote Exhaust process.

***Setting Acceptable Trade Range Values.*** The options premium will be the dominant factor in determining the Acceptable Trade Range. Generally, options with lower premiums tend to be more liquid and have tighter bid/ask spreads; options with higher premiums have wider spreads and less liquidity. Accordingly, a table consisting of several steps based on the premium of the option will be used to determine how far the

market for a given option will be allowed to move. This table or tables would be listed on the NASDAQTrader.com website and any periodic updates to the table would be announced via an Options Trader Alert.

For example, looking at some SPY May 2013 Call options on May 1st of 2013:

Bid/Offer of SPY May 160 Call (at or near-the-money): \$1.23 x \$1.24 (several hundred contracts on bid and offer)

Bid/Offer of SPY May 105 Call (deep in-the-money): \$54.10 x \$54.26 (11 contracts on each side)

The deep in-the-money calls (May 105 calls) have a wider spread ( $\$54.10 - \$54.26 = \$0.16$ ) compared to a spread of \$0.01 for the at-the-money calls (May 160 calls).

Therefore, it is appropriate to have different thresholds for the two options. For instance, it may make sense to have a \$0.05 threshold for the at-the-money strikes (Premium < \$2) and a \$0.50 threshold for the deep in-the-money strikes (Premium > \$10).

To consider another example, the May 2013 ORCL put options on May 1st of 2013:

Bid/Offer of ORCL 33 May Put (at or near-the-money): \$0.33 x \$0.34 (100x500)

Bid/Offer of ORCL 44 May Put (deep in-the-money): \$10.40 x \$10.55 (50 x 200)

Even though ORCL has a much lower share price than SPY, and is a different type of security (it is a common stock of a technology company whereas SPY is an ETF based on the S&P 500 Index), the pattern is the same. The option with the lower premium has a very narrow spread of \$0.01 with significant size displayed whereas the higher premium option has a wide spread (\$0.15) and less size displayed.

The Acceptable Trade Range settings will be tied to the option premium. However, other factors will be considered when determining the exact settings. For example, Acceptable Ranges may change if market-wide volatility is as high as it was

during the financial crisis in 2008 and 2009, or if overall liquidity is low based on historical trends. These different market conditions may present the need to adjust the threshold amounts from time to time to ensure a well-functioning market. Without adjustments, the market may become too constrained or conversely, prone to wide price swings. As stated above, the Exchange would publish the Acceptable Trade Range table or tables on the NASDAQTrader.com website. The Exchange does not foresee updating the table(s) often or intraday, although the exchange may determine to do so in extreme circumstances. The Exchange will provide sufficient advanced notice of changes to the Acceptable Trade Range table, generally the prior day, to its membership via Options Trader Alerts.

The Acceptable Trade Range settings would generally be the same across all options traded on PHLX, although PHLX proposes to maintain flexibility to set them separately based on characteristics of the underlying security. For instance, Google is a stock with a high share price (\$824.57 closing price on April 30th). Google options therefore may require special settings due to the risk involved in actively quoting options on such a high-priced stock. Option spreads on Google are wider and the size available at the best bid and offer is smaller. Google could potentially need a wider threshold setting compared to other lower-priced stocks. There are other options that fit into this category (e.g. AAPL) which makes it necessary to have threshold settings that have flexibility based on the underlying security. Additionally, it is generally observed that options subject to the Penny Pilot program quote with tighter spreads than options not subject to the Penny Pilot. Currently, PHLX expects to set Acceptable Trade Ranges for



three categories of options: Standard Penny Pilot, Special Penny Pilot (IWM, QQQQ, SPY), and Non-Penny Pilot.<sup>13</sup>

## 2. Statutory Basis

PHLX believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 6 of the Act,<sup>14</sup> in general and with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>15</sup> in particular, which requires that the rules of an exchange be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, promote just and equitable principles of trade, foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in securities, remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, protect investors and the public interest. The proposed rule change is consistent with these requirements in that it will reduce the negative impacts of sudden, unanticipated volatility in individual PHLX options, and serve to preserve an orderly market in a transparent and uniform manner, enhance the price-discovery process, increase overall market confidence, and promote fair and orderly markets and the protection of investors. Specifically, the Exchange believes that the NBBO is a fair representation of then-available prices and accordingly the proposal helps to avoid executions at prices that are significantly worse than the NBBO. Also, this proposal is consistent with existing rules that allow, when the underlying security is

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<sup>13</sup> The Acceptable Range Test in Rule 1082(a)(ii)(B)(3)(f) currently provides for this flexibility, in addition to the comparable provisions in NOM and BX Options rules. See NOM Rules, Chapter VI, Section 10(7) and BX Options Rules, Chapter VI, Section 10(7).

<sup>14</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f.

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

subject to a “Limit State” or “Straddle State,” as defined in the Limit Up-Limit Down Plan, for the breaking of options trades meeting the definition of an obvious error as well as rejecting market orders.<sup>16</sup>

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

PHLX does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended. Specifically, the proposal does not impose an intra-market burden on competition, because it will apply to the orders and quotes of all Options Participants. Nor will the proposal impose a burden on competition among the options exchanges, because of the vigorous competition for order flow among the options exchanges. PHLX competes with many other options exchanges, all of which offer electronic trading of options and certain routing services. In this highly competitive market, market participants can easily and readily direct order flow to competing venues.

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

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<sup>16</sup> See PHLX Rule 1047(f).

to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act<sup>17</sup> and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.<sup>18</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: (i) necessary or appropriate in the public interest; (ii) for the protection of investors; or (iii) otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

#### IV. Solicitation of Comments

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

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-Phlx-2013-69 on the subject line.

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<sup>17</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(a)(ii).

<sup>18</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 Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-Phlx-2013-69. 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-Phlx-2013-69 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>19</sup>

Kevin M O'Neill  
Deputy Secretary

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<sup>19</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).