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OMB APPROVAL

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Page 1 of * 3	2		EXCHANGE CO STON, D.C. 205 orm 19b-4	49	File No.*	SR - 2016 - * 035 Amendments *)
Filing by Financial Industry Regulatory Authority						
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934						
Initial *	Amendment *	Withdrawal	Section 19(b)(2) * Sect	ion 19(b)(3)(A) *	Section 19(b)(3)(B) *
1 1101	tension of Time Period Commission Action *	Date Expires *		☐ 19b-4 ☐ 19b-4 ☐ 19b-4	(f)(2) 19b-4(f)(5)	
Notice of pr	oposed change pursuant	to the Payment, Cleari Section 806(e)(2) *	ng, and Settleme	nt Act of 2010	Security-Based Swa to the Securities Excl	-
Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document						
Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked *). Proposed Rule Change to Amend FINRA Rule 6191 Relating to the Data Collection Requirements of the Regulation NMS Plan to Implement A Tick Size Pilot Program						
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	* Racquel		Last Name * R	ussell		
Title *	Associate General Co	ounsel				
E-mail *	racquel.russell@finra.	org				
Telephone * (202) 728-8363 Fax (202) 728-8264						
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 08/26/2016 Senior Vice President and Director of Capital Markets						
	26/2016		Senior Vice Pres Policy	sident and Dire	ctor of Capital Markets	
By Step	phanie M. Dumont					
(Name *) NOTE: Clicking the button at right will digitally sign and lock this form. A digital signature is as legally binding as a physical signature, and once signed, this form cannot be changed.						

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website. The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a Form 19b-4 Information * clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal Remove is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act. The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change * in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Add Remove View Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO] -xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3) The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication **Exhibit 1A- Notice of Proposed Rule** in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers or Advance Notice by Clearing Agencies * guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO] -xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change, security-based swap submission, or advance notice being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3) Exhibit 2 - Notices, Written Comments, Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such Transcripts, Other Communications documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G. Remove View Add Exhibit Sent As Paper Document П Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is Add Remove View referred to by the proposed rule change. Exhibit Sent As Paper Document The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and **Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies** deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit Add Remove View the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which it has been working. **Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text** The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed changes to rule text in place of providing it in Item I and which may otherwise be more easily readable if provided separately from Form 19b-4. Exhibit 5 shall be considered part Add Remove View of the proposed rule change. If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy **Partial Amendment** proposed rule change, it may, with the Commission's permission, file only those portions of the text of the proposed rule change in which changes are being made if the filing (i.e. partial amendment) is clearly understandable on its face. Such partial

amendment shall be clearly identified and marked to show deletions and additions.

1. Text of the Proposed Rule Change

(a) Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"), ¹ Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA") is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") a proposed rule change to amend FINRA Rule 6191 to modify certain data collection requirements of the Regulation NMS Plan to Implement a Tick Size Pilot Program (Plan).

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

At its meeting on July 9, 2014, the FINRA Board of Governors authorized the filing of the proposed rule change with the SEC. No other action by FINRA is necessary for the filing of the proposed rule change.

FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness. FINRA has requested that the SEC waive the 30-day operative period so that the proposed rule change can become operative on August 30, 2016.

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

(a) Purpose

On August 25, 2014, FINRA, and several other self-regulatory organizations (the "Participants") filed with the Commission, pursuant to Section 11A of the Act² and Rule

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 15 U.S.C. 78k-1.

608 of Regulation NMS thereunder,³ the Plan to Implement a Tick Size Pilot Program (the "Plan").⁴ The Participants filed the Plan to comply with an order issued by the Commission on June 24, 2014.⁵ The Plan was published for comment in the <u>Federal</u> Register on November 7, 2014, and approved by the Commission, as modified, on May 6, 2015.⁶

The Plan is designed to allow the Commission, market participants, and the public to study and assess the impact of increment conventions on the liquidity and trading of the common stock of small-capitalization companies. Each Participant is required to comply, and to enforce compliance by its member organizations, as applicable, with the provisions of the Plan.

The Plan provides for the creation of a group of Pilot Securities, which shall be placed in a control group and three separate test groups, with each subject to varying quoting and trading increments. Pilot Securities in the control group will be quoted at the current tick size increment of \$0.01 per share and will trade at the currently permitted increments. Pilot Securities in the first test group will be quoted in \$0.05 minimum increments but will continue to trade at any price increment that is currently permitted. Pilot Securities in the second test group ("Test Group Two") will be quoted in \$0.05

³ 17 CFR 242.608.

See Letter from Brendon J. Weiss, Vice President, Intercontinental Exchange, Inc., to Secretary, Commission, dated August 25, 2014.

See Securities Exchange Act Release No 72460 (June 24, 2014), 79 FR 36840 (June 30, 2014).

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 74892 (May 6, 2015), 80 FR 27513 (May 13, 2015) ("Approval Order").

⁷ See Section VI(B) of the Plan.

minimum increments and will trade at \$0.05 minimum increments subject to a midpoint exception, a retail investor order exception, and a negotiated trade exception. Pilot Securities in the third test group ("Test Group Three") will be subject to the same quoting and trading increments as Test Group Two, and also will be subject to the "Trade-at" requirement to prevent price matching by a market participant that is not displaying at the price of a Trading Center's "Best Protected Bid" or "Best Protected Offer," unless an enumerated exception applies. In addition to the exceptions provided under Test Group Two, an exception for Block Size orders and exceptions that mirror those under Rule 611 of Regulation NMS¹⁰ will apply to the Trade-at requirement.

The Plan also requires a Trading Center¹¹ or a Market Maker¹² to collect and transmit certain data to its designated examining authority ("DEA"), and requires DEAs to transmit this data to the Commission. Participants that operate a Trading Center also are required under the Plan to collect certain data, which is then transmitted directly to the Commission. With respect to Trading Centers, Appendix B.I to the Plan (Market

⁸ See Section VI(C) of the Plan.

⁹ <u>See Section VI(D) of the Plan.</u>

¹⁰ 17 CFR 242.611.

The Plan incorporates the definition of a "Trading Center" from Rule 600(b)(78) of Regulation NMS. Regulation NMS defines a "Trading Center" as "a national securities exchange or national securities association that operates an SRO trading facility, an alternative trading system, an exchange market maker, an OTC market maker, or any other broker or dealer that executes orders internally by trading as principal or crossing orders as agent." See 17 CFR 242.600(b).

The Plan defines a Market Maker as "a dealer registered with any self-regulatory organization, in accordance with the rules thereof, as (i) a market maker or (ii) a liquidity provider with an obligation to maintain continuous, two-sided trading interest."

Quality Statistics) requires a Trading Center to submit to the Participant that is its DEA a variety of market quality statistics. Appendix B.II to the Plan (Market and Marketable Limit Order Data) requires a Trading Center to submit information to its DEA relating to market orders and marketable limit orders, including the time of order receipt, order type, the order size, and the National Best Bid or National Best Offer ("NBBO") quoted price.

With respect to Market Makers, Appendix B.III requires a Participant that is a national securities exchange to collect daily Market Maker Registration statistics.

Appendix B.IV requires a Participant to collect data related to Market Maker participation with respect to each Market Maker engaging in trading activity on a Trading Center operated by the Participant. Appendix C.I requires a Participant to collect data related to Market Maker profitability from each Market Maker for which it is the DEA. Appendix C.II requires the Participant, as DEA, to aggregate the Appendix C.I data, and to transmit this data to the Commission.

The Commission approved the Pilot on a two-year basis, with implementation to begin no later than May 6, 2016. On November 6, 2015, the SEC exempted the Participants from implementing the pilot until October 3, 2016. As set forth in Appendices B and C to the Plan, data that is reported pursuant to the appendices shall be provided for dates starting six months prior to the Pilot Period through six months after the end of the Pilot Period. Under the revised Pilot implementation date, the Pre-Pilot data collection period commenced on April 4, 2016.

See Approval Order at 27533 and 27545.

 <u>See</u> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 76382 (November 6, 2015), 80 FR 70284 (November 13, 2015) (File No. 4-657).

On November 13, 2015, FINRA filed with the Commission a proposed rule change to adopt FINRA Rule 6191(b) and amend FINRA Rule 7440 to implement the data collection requirements of the Plan. On December 9, 2015, FINRA submitted an exemptive request to the Commission, seeking an exemption from certain data collection and reporting requirements set forth in the Plan. On February 17, 2016, the Commission approved FINRA's rule change, as amended, to implement the data collection requirements of the Plan, and also granted exemptive relief from complying with certain data collection and reporting requirements in the Plan.

FINRA now proposes to further amend Rule 6191 to modify additional data collection and reporting requirements.¹⁸ First, Appendix B.I.a(21) through B.I.a(27) currently requires that Trading Centers report the cumulative number of shares of

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 76484 (November 19, 2015), 80 FR 73858 (November 25, 2015) (Notice of Filing of File No. SR-FINRA-2015-048).
 FINRA also submitted a proposed rule change to implement the quoting and trading requirements of the Plan. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 76483 (November 19, 2015), 80 FR 73853 (November 25, 2015) (Notice of Filing of File No. SR-FINRA-2015-047). The Commission approved that proposal on February 23, 2016. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 77218 (February 23, 2016), 81 FR 10290 (February 29, 2016) (Order Approving File No. SR-FINRA-2015-047).

See Letter from Marcia E. Asquith, Senior Vice President and Corporate Secretary, FINRA, to Robert W. Errett, Deputy Secretary, Commission, dated December 9, 2015 ("Exemptive Request").

See Securities Exchange Act No. 77164 (February 17, 2016), 81 FR 9043 (February 23, 2016) (Order Approving File No. SR-FINRA-2015-048); see letter from David S. Shillman, Associate Director, Division of Trading and Markets, Commission, to Marcia E. Asquith, Senior Vice President and Corporate Secretary, FINRA, dated February 17, 2016.

FINRA notes that, in connection with this proposed rule change, FINRA intends to file an exemptive request seeking relief from certain of the Plan's data collection requirements.

cancelled orders during a specified duration of time after receipt of the order that was cancelled. FINRA and the other Participants believe that, for purposes of reporting cancelled orders, it is appropriate to categorize unexecuted Immediate or Cancel orders separately as one bucket irrespective of the duration of time after order receipt, i.e., without a time increment, to better differentiate orders cancelled subsequent to entry from those where the customer's intent prior to order entry was to cancel the order if no execution could be immediately obtained. FINRA, therefore, proposes to modify Supplementary Material .05 to provide that unexecuted Immediate or Cancel orders shall be categorized separately for purposes of Appendix B.I.a(21) through B.I.a(27).

The second change relates to the reporting of daily market quality statistics pursuant to Appendix B.I. Currently, Appendix B.I sets forth categories of orders, including market orders, marketable limit orders, and inside-the-quote resting limit orders, for which daily market quality statistics must be reported. FINRA and the other Participants have determined that it is appropriate to include an order type for limit orders priced more than \$0.10 away from the NBBO for purposes of Appendix B reporting. FINRA therefore proposes to amend Supplementary Material .09 to provide that limit orders priced more than \$0.10 away from the NBBO shall be included as an order type for purposes of Appendix B reporting, and shall be assigned the number (22). These orders are not currently required to be reported pursuant to Appendix B, and FINRA and the other Participants believe that requiring the reporting of such orders will produce a more comprehensive data set.

The third change relates to the reporting of market quality statistics pursuant to Appendix B.I for a variety of order types, including inside-the-quote resting limit orders

(12), at-the-quote resting limit orders (13), and near-the-quote resting limit orders (within \$0.10 of the NBBO) (14). FINRA and the other Participants believe that it is appropriate to require Trading Centers to report all orders that fall within these categories, and not just those orders that are "resting." FINRA, therefore, proposes to amend Supplementary Material .09 to make this change.

In the fourth change, FINRA proposes to add new Supplementary Material .11 to modify the manner in which market maker participation statistics are calculated. Currently, Appendix B.IV provides that market maker participation statistics shall be calculated based on share participation, trade participation, cross-quote share (trade) participation, inside-the-quote share (trade) participation, at-the-quote share (trade) participation, and outside-the-quote share (trade) participation. FINRA and the other Participants have determined that it is appropriate to add the count of the number of Market Makers used in the calculation of share (trade) participation to each category. FINRA is therefore proposing this change as part of Supplementary Material .11. In addition, Appendix B.IV(b) and (c) currently require that, when aggregating across Market Makers, share participation and trade participation shall be calculated using the share-weighted average and trade-weighted average, respectively. FINRA and the other Participants believe that it is more appropriate to calculate share and trade participation by providing the total count of shares or trades, as applicable, rather than weighted averages, and FINRA is therefore proposing this change as part of Supplementary Material .11.

The fifth change relates to the NBBO that a Trading Center is required to use when performing certain quote-related calculations. When calculating cross-quote share

(trade) participation pursuant to Appendix B.IV(d) and inside-the-quote share (trade) participation pursuant to Appendix B.IV(e), the Plan requires the Trading Center to utilize the NBBO at the time of the trade for both share and trade participation calculations. When calculating at-the-quote share (trade) participation and outside-the-quote share (trade) participation pursuant to Appendix B.IV(f) and (g), the Plan allows the Trading Center to utilize the NBBO at the time of or immediately before the trade for both share and trade participation calculations. FINRA and the other Participants believe that it is appropriate to calculate all quote participation (cross-quote share (trade) participation, inside-the-quote share (trade) participation, at-the-quote share (trade) participation and outside-the-quote share (trade) participation) solely by reference to the NBBO in effect immediately prior to the trade. FINRA therefore proposes to make this change as part of Supplementary Material .11.

Finally, FINRA proposes to change the end date until which the Pre-Pilot Data Collection Securities shall be used to fulfill the Plan's data collection requirements.

Currently, Supplementary Material .13 provides that Pre-Pilot Data Collection Securities are the securities designated by the Participants for purposes of the data collection requirements described in Items I, II and IV of Appendix B and Item I of Appendix C to the Plan for the period beginning six months prior to the Pilot Period and ending on the trading day immediately preceding the Pilot Period. FINRA and the other Participants believe that it is appropriate to use the Pilot Securities to satisfy the Plan's data collection requirements prior to the commencement of the Pilot. According, FINRA is revising Supplementary Material .13 (which will be re-numbered as Supplementary Material .14) to provide that the Pre-Pilot Data Collection Securities shall be used to satisfy the Plan's

data collection requirements through thirty-one days prior to the Pilot Period, after which time the Pilot Securities shall be used for purposes of the data collection requirements.¹⁹

As noted in Item 2 of this filing, FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness. FINRA has requested that the SEC waive the 30-day operative period so that the proposed rule change can become operative on August 30, 2016.

(b) Statutory Basis

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act,²⁰ which requires, among other things, that FINRA rules must be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest, and Section 15A(b)(9) of the Act,²¹ which requires that FINRA rules not impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate.

FINRA believes that this proposal is consistent with the Act because it implements and clarifies the provisions of the Plan, and is designed to assist FINRA in meeting its regulatory obligations pursuant to the Plan. In approving the Plan, the SEC

After regular trading hours on September 2, 2016, the national securities exchanges will establish which securities will be included as Pilot Securities for purposes of the Plan. FINRA and the other Participants have determined that members should use the Pilot Securities list for data collection purposes once it becomes available. Thus, the proposed rule change requires that, beginning thirty days prior to the first day of the Pilot Period – i.e., September 3, 2016 – FINRA and FINRA members will comply with the data collection obligations of the Plan by collecting data on the Pilot Securities. As a result, beginning on September 3, 2016, members must migrate from using FINRA's published Pre-Pilot Data Collection Security list and begin using the Pilot Securities list. September 2, 2016 will be the last day that members use the Pre-Pilot Data Collection Security list.

²⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78<u>o</u>-3(b)(6).

²¹ 15 U.S.C. 78<u>o</u>-3(b)(9).

noted that the Pilot was an appropriate, data-driven test that was designed to evaluate the impact of a wider tick size on trading, liquidity, and the market quality of securities of smaller capitalization companies, and was therefore in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. FINRA believes that this proposal is in furtherance of the objectives of the Plan, as identified by the SEC, and is therefore consistent with the Act because the proposal implements and clarifies the requirements of the Plan.

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

FINRA notes that the proposed rule change implements the provisions of the Plan, and is designed to assist FINRA in meeting its regulatory obligations pursuant to the Plan. FINRA also notes that, other than the change to require use of the Pilot Securities beginning thirty days prior to the beginning of the Pilot Period, the proposed changes will not affect the data collection and reporting requirements for members that operate Trading Centers; the proposed changes will only affect how FINRA and Participants that operate Trading Centers collect and report data. FINRA notes that, with respect to the change to require the use of the Pilot Securities beginning thirty days prior to the start of the Pilot Period, the proposed change reduces the number of securities on which affected members otherwise would have been required to collect data pursuant to the Plan and FINRA Rule 6191. In addition, the proposed rule change applies equally to all similarly situated members. Therefore, FINRA 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.

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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

Extension of Time Period for Commission Action

Not applicable.

7. <u>Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) or Section 19(b)(7)(D)</u>

The proposed rule change is effective upon filing pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act²² and paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder,²³ in that the proposed rule change: (1) does not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest, (2) does not impose any significant burden on competition, and (3) and does not become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate. FINRA requests that the Commission waive the five-day pre-filing requirement and the 30-day period for the proposed rule change to become operative, as set forth in Rule 19b-4(f)(6),²⁴ so that the proposed rule change can become operative on August 30, 2016.

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

Not applicable.

9. <u>Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act</u> Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

²² 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

²³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

²⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

11. Exhibits

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

Federal Register.

Exhibit 5. Text of the proposed rule change.

EXHIBIT 1

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

(Release No. 34- ; File No. SR-FINRA-2016-035)

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change to Amend FINRA Rule 6191 Relating to the Data Collection Requirements of the Regulation NMS Plan to Implement A Tick Size Pilot Program

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on , Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA") 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 FINRA. FINRA has designated the proposed rule change as constituting a "non-controversial" rule change under paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 under the Act,³ which renders the proposal effective upon receipt of this filing by the Commission. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change</u>

FINRA is proposing to amend FINRA Rule 6191 to modify certain data collection requirements of the Regulation NMS Plan to Implement a Tick Size Pilot Program (Plan).

The text of the proposed rule change is available on FINRA's website at http://www.finra.org, at the principal office of FINRA and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

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

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

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

On August 25, 2014, FINRA, and several other self-regulatory organizations (the "Participants") filed with the Commission, pursuant to Section 11A of the Act⁴ and Rule 608 of Regulation NMS thereunder,⁵ the Plan to Implement a Tick Size Pilot Program (the "Plan").⁶ The Participants filed the Plan to comply with an order issued by the Commission on June 24, 2014.⁷ The Plan was published for comment in the <u>Federal</u> Register on November 7, 2014, and approved by the Commission, as modified, on May 6, 2015.⁸

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78k-1.

⁵ 17 CFR 242.608.

See Letter from Brendon J. Weiss, Vice President, Intercontinental Exchange, Inc., to Secretary, Commission, dated August 25, 2014.

See Securities Exchange Act Release No 72460 (June 24, 2014), 79 FR 36840 (June 30, 2014).

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 74892 (May 6, 2015), 80 FR 27513 (May 13, 2015) ("Approval Order").

The Plan is designed to allow the Commission, market participants, and the public to study and assess the impact of increment conventions on the liquidity and trading of the common stock of small-capitalization companies. Each Participant is required to comply, and to enforce compliance by its member organizations, as applicable, with the provisions of the Plan.

The Plan provides for the creation of a group of Pilot Securities, which shall be placed in a control group and three separate test groups, with each subject to varying quoting and trading increments. Pilot Securities in the control group will be quoted at the current tick size increment of \$0.01 per share and will trade at the currently permitted increments. Pilot Securities in the first test group will be quoted in \$0.05 minimum increments but will continue to trade at any price increment that is currently permitted. Pilot Securities in the second test group ("Test Group Two") will be quoted in \$0.05 minimum increments and will trade at \$0.05 minimum increments subject to a midpoint exception, a retail investor order exception, and a negotiated trade exception. Pilot Securities in the third test group ("Test Group Three") will be subject to the same quoting and trading increments as Test Group Two, and also will be subject to the "Trade-at" requirement to prevent price matching by a market participant that is not displaying at the price of a Trading Center's "Best Protected Bid" or "Best Protected Offer," unless an enumerated exception applies. In addition to the exceptions provided under Test Group

⁹ See Section VI(B) of the Plan.

See Section VI(C) of the Plan.

See Section VI(D) of the Plan.

Two, an exception for Block Size orders and exceptions that mirror those under Rule 611 of Regulation NMS¹² will apply to the Trade-at requirement.

The Plan also requires a Trading Center¹³ or a Market Maker¹⁴ to collect and transmit certain data to its designated examining authority ("DEA"), and requires DEAs to transmit this data to the Commission. Participants that operate a Trading Center also are required under the Plan to collect certain data, which is then transmitted directly to the Commission. With respect to Trading Centers, Appendix B.I to the Plan (Market Quality Statistics) requires a Trading Center to submit to the Participant that is its DEA a variety of market quality statistics. Appendix B.II to the Plan (Market and Marketable Limit Order Data) requires a Trading Center to submit information to its DEA relating to market orders and marketable limit orders, including the time of order receipt, order type, the order size, and the National Best Bid or National Best Offer ("NBBO") quoted price.

With respect to Market Makers, Appendix B.III requires a Participant that is a national securities exchange to collect daily Market Maker Registration statistics.

Appendix B.IV requires a Participant to collect data related to Market Maker participation with respect to each Market Maker engaging in trading activity on a Trading

¹² 17 CFR 242.611.

The Plan incorporates the definition of a "Trading Center" from Rule 600(b)(78) of Regulation NMS. Regulation NMS defines a "Trading Center" as "a national securities exchange or national securities association that operates an SRO trading facility, an alternative trading system, an exchange market maker, an OTC market maker, or any other broker or dealer that executes orders internally by trading as principal or crossing orders as agent." See 17 CFR 242.600(b).

The Plan defines a Market Maker as "a dealer registered with any self-regulatory organization, in accordance with the rules thereof, as (i) a market maker or (ii) a liquidity provider with an obligation to maintain continuous, two-sided trading interest."

Center operated by the Participant. Appendix C.I requires a Participant to collect data related to Market Maker profitability from each Market Maker for which it is the DEA. Appendix C.II requires the Participant, as DEA, to aggregate the Appendix C.I data, and to transmit this data to the Commission.

The Commission approved the Pilot on a two-year basis, with implementation to begin no later than May 6, 2016.¹⁵ On November 6, 2015, the SEC exempted the Participants from implementing the pilot until October 3, 2016.¹⁶ As set forth in Appendices B and C to the Plan, data that is reported pursuant to the appendices shall be provided for dates starting six months prior to the Pilot Period through six months after the end of the Pilot Period. Under the revised Pilot implementation date, the Pre-Pilot data collection period commenced on April 4, 2016.

On November 13, 2015, FINRA filed with the Commission a proposed rule change to adopt FINRA Rule 6191(b) and amend FINRA Rule 7440 to implement the data collection requirements of the Plan.¹⁷ On December 9, 2015, FINRA submitted an exemptive request to the Commission, seeking an exemption from certain data collection

See Approval Order at 27533 and 27545.

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 76382 (November 6, 2015), 80 FR 70284 (November 13, 2015) (File No. 4-657).

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 76484 (November 19, 2015), 80 FR 73858 (November 25, 2015) (Notice of Filing of File No. SR-FINRA-2015-048).
 FINRA also submitted a proposed rule change to implement the quoting and trading requirements of the Plan. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 76483 (November 19, 2015), 80 FR 73853 (November 25, 2015) (Notice of Filing of File No. SR-FINRA-2015-047). The Commission approved that proposal on February 23, 2016. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 77218 (February 23, 2016), 81 FR 10290 (February 29, 2016) (Order Approving File No. SR-FINRA-2015-047).

and reporting requirements set forth in the Plan. On February 17, 2016, the Commission approved FINRA's rule change, as amended, to implement the data collection requirements of the Plan, and also granted exemptive relief from complying with certain data collection and reporting requirements in the Plan.

FINRA now proposes to further amend Rule 6191 to modify additional data collection and reporting requirements.²⁰ First, Appendix B.I.a(21) through B.I.a(27) currently requires that Trading Centers report the cumulative number of shares of cancelled orders during a specified duration of time after receipt of the order that was cancelled. FINRA and the other Participants believe that, for purposes of reporting cancelled orders, it is appropriate to categorize unexecuted Immediate or Cancel orders separately as one bucket irrespective of the duration of time after order receipt, i.e., without a time increment, to better differentiate orders cancelled subsequent to entry from those where the customer's intent prior to order entry was to cancel the order if no execution could be immediately obtained. FINRA, therefore, proposes to modify Supplementary Material .05 to provide that unexecuted Immediate or Cancel orders shall be categorized separately for purposes of Appendix B.I.a(21) through B.I.a(27).

See Letter from Marcia E. Asquith, Senior Vice President and Corporate Secretary, FINRA, to Robert W. Errett, Deputy Secretary, Commission, dated December 9, 2015 ("Exemptive Request").

See Securities Exchange Act No. 77164 (February 17, 2016), 81 FR 9043 (February 23, 2016) (Order Approving File No. SR-FINRA-2015-048); see letter from David S. Shillman, Associate Director, Division of Trading and Markets, Commission, to Marcia E. Asquith, Senior Vice President and Corporate Secretary, FINRA, dated February 17, 2016.

FINRA notes that, in connection with this proposed rule change, FINRA intends to file an exemptive request seeking relief from certain of the Plan's data collection requirements.

The second change relates to the reporting of daily market quality statistics pursuant to Appendix B.I. Currently, Appendix B.I sets forth categories of orders, including market orders, marketable limit orders, and inside-the-quote resting limit orders, for which daily market quality statistics must be reported. FINRA and the other Participants have determined that it is appropriate to include an order type for limit orders priced more than \$0.10 away from the NBBO for purposes of Appendix B reporting. FINRA therefore proposes to amend Supplementary Material .09 to provide that limit orders priced more than \$0.10 away from the NBBO shall be included as an order type for purposes of Appendix B reporting, and shall be assigned the number (22). These orders are not currently required to be reported pursuant to Appendix B, and FINRA and the other Participants believe that requiring the reporting of such orders will produce a more comprehensive data set.

The third change relates to the reporting of market quality statistics pursuant to Appendix B.I for a variety of order types, including inside-the-quote resting limit orders (12), at-the-quote resting limit orders (13), and near-the-quote resting limit orders (within \$0.10 of the NBBO) (14). FINRA and the other Participants believe that it is appropriate to require Trading Centers to report all orders that fall within these categories, and not just those orders that are "resting." FINRA, therefore, proposes to amend Supplementary Material .09 to make this change.

In the fourth change, FINRA proposes to add new Supplementary Material .11 to modify the manner in which market maker participation statistics are calculated.

Currently, Appendix B.IV provides that market maker participation statistics shall be calculated based on share participation, trade participation, cross-quote share (trade)

participation, inside-the-quote share (trade) participation, at-the-quote share (trade) participation, and outside-the-quote share (trade) participation. FINRA and the other Participants have determined that it is appropriate to add the count of the number of Market Makers used in the calculation of share (trade) participation to each category. FINRA is therefore proposing this change as part of Supplementary Material .11. In addition, Appendix B.IV(b) and (c) currently require that, when aggregating across Market Makers, share participation and trade participation shall be calculated using the share-weighted average and trade-weighted average, respectively. FINRA and the other Participants believe that it is more appropriate to calculate share and trade participation by providing the total count of shares or trades, as applicable, rather than weighted averages, and FINRA is therefore proposing this change as part of Supplementary Material .11.

The fifth change relates to the NBBO that a Trading Center is required to use when performing certain quote-related calculations. When calculating cross-quote share (trade) participation pursuant to Appendix B.IV(d) and inside-the-quote share (trade) participation pursuant to Appendix B.IV(e), the Plan requires the Trading Center to utilize the NBBO at the time of the trade for both share and trade participation calculations. When calculating at-the-quote share (trade) participation and outside-the-quote share (trade) participation pursuant to Appendix B.IV(f) and (g), the Plan allows the Trading Center to utilize the NBBO at the time of or immediately before the trade for both share and trade participation calculations. FINRA and the other Participants believe that it is appropriate to calculate all quote participation (cross-quote share (trade) participation, inside-the-quote share (trade) participation, at-the-quote share (trade)

participation and outside-the-quote share (trade) participation) solely by reference to the NBBO in effect immediately prior to the trade. FINRA therefore proposes to make this change as part of Supplementary Material .11.

Finally, FINRA proposes to change the end date until which the Pre-Pilot Data Collection Securities shall be used to fulfill the Plan's data collection requirements. Currently, Supplementary Material .13 provides that Pre-Pilot Data Collection Securities are the securities designated by the Participants for purposes of the data collection requirements described in Items I, II and IV of Appendix B and Item I of Appendix C to the Plan for the period beginning six months prior to the Pilot Period and ending on the trading day immediately preceding the Pilot Period. FINRA and the other Participants believe that it is appropriate to use the Pilot Securities to satisfy the Plan's data collection requirements prior to the commencement of the Pilot. According, FINRA is revising Supplementary Material .13 (which will be re-numbered as Supplementary Material .14) to provide that the Pre-Pilot Data Collection Securities shall be used to satisfy the Plan's data collection requirements through thirty-one days prior to the Pilot Period, after which time the Pilot Securities shall be used for purposes of the data collection requirements.²¹

²¹ After regular trading hours on September 2, 2016, the national securities exchanges will establish which securities will be included as Pilot Securities for purposes of the Plan. FINRA and the other Participants have determined that members should use the Pilot Securities list for data collection purposes once it becomes available. Thus, the proposed rule change requires that, beginning thirty days prior to the first day of the Pilot Period – i.e., September 3, 2016 – FINRA and FINRA members will comply with the data collection obligations of the Plan by collecting data on the Pilot Securities. As a result, beginning on September 3, 2016, members must migrate from using FINRA's published Pre-Pilot Data Collection Security list and begin using the Pilot Securities list. September 2, 2016 will be the last day that members use the Pre-Pilot Data Collection Security list.

FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness. FINRA has requested that the SEC waive the 30-day operative period so that the proposed rule change can become operative on August 30, 2016.

2. Statutory Basis

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act,²² which requires, among other things, that FINRA rules must be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest, and Section 15A(b)(9) of the Act,²³ which requires that FINRA rules not impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate.

FINRA believes that this proposal is consistent with the Act because it implements and clarifies the provisions of the Plan, and is designed to assist FINRA in meeting its regulatory obligations pursuant to the Plan. In approving the Plan, the SEC noted that the Pilot was an appropriate, data-driven test that was designed to evaluate the impact of a wider tick size on trading, liquidity, and the market quality of securities of smaller capitalization companies, and was therefore in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. FINRA believes that this proposal is in furtherance of the objectives of the Plan, as identified by the SEC, and is therefore consistent with the Act because the proposal implements and clarifies the requirements of the Plan.

²² 15 U.S.C. 78<u>o</u>-3(b)(6).

²³ 15 U.S.C. 78<u>o</u>-3(b)(9).

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

FINRA notes that the proposed rule change implements the provisions of the Plan, and is designed to assist FINRA in meeting its regulatory obligations pursuant to the Plan. FINRA also notes that, other than the change to require use of the Pilot Securities beginning thirty days prior to the beginning of the Pilot Period, the proposed changes will not affect the data collection and reporting requirements for members that operate Trading Centers; the proposed changes will only affect how FINRA and Participants that operate Trading Centers collect and report data. FINRA notes that, with respect to the change to require the use of the Pilot Securities beginning thirty days prior to the start of the Pilot Period, the proposed change reduces the number of securities on which affected members otherwise would have been required to collect data pursuant to the Plan and FINRA Rule 6191. In addition, the proposed rule change applies equally to all similarly situated members. Therefore, FINRA 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.

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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

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

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) of the Act²⁴ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.²⁵

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 <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number
 SR-FINRA-2016-035 on the subject line.

Paper Comments:

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

²⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

²⁵ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FINRA-2016-035. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet website (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of FINRA. 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-FINRA-2016-035 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.²⁶

Robert W. Errett Deputy Secretary

²⁶

EXHIBIT 5

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

* * * * *

6100. QUOTING AND TRADING IN NMS STOCKS

* * * * *

6191. Compliance with Regulation NMS Plan to Implement a Tick Size Pilot Program

- (a) No Change.
- (b) Compliance with Data Collection Requirements
 - (1) No Change.
 - (2) Trading Center Data Requirements
 - (A) Trading Center Data Collection and Submission Requirements
 - (i) A member that operates a Trading Center subject to the Tick Size Pilot Program and for which FINRA is the Designated Examining Authority ("DEA") shall collect and transmit to FINRA the data described in Items I and II of Appendix B to the Plan with respect to:
 - a. Each Pre-Pilot Data Collection Security for the period beginning six months prior to the Pilot Period through [the trading day immediately preceding] thirty-one days prior to the first day of the Pilot Period; and

- b. Each Pilot Security for the period beginning [on] thirty days prior to the first day of the Pilot Period through six months after the end of the Pilot Period.
- (ii) through (iv) No Change.
- (B) No Change.

(3) Daily Market Maker Participation Statistics Requirement

- (A) A member that is a Market Maker for which FINRA is the DEA shall collect and transmit to FINRA data relating to Item IV of Appendix B to the Plan, with respect to activity conducted on any Trading Center in furtherance of its status as a Market Maker, including a Trading Center that executes trades otherwise than on a national securities exchange, for transactions that have settled or reached settlement date.

 Market Makers shall transmit such data in a pipe delimited format by 12:00 p.m. EST on T+4:
 - (i) For transactions in each Pre-Pilot Data Collection

 Security for the period beginning six months prior to the Pilot

 Period through [the trading day immediately preceding] thirty-one days prior to the first day of the Pilot Period; and
 - (ii) For transactions in each Pilot Security for the period beginning [on] thirty days prior to the first day of the Pilot Period through six months after the end of the Pilot Period.
 - (B) through (C) No Change.

(4) Market Maker Profitability

- (A) A member that is a Market Maker, and for which FINRA is the DEA, shall collect and transmit to FINRA the data described in Item I of Appendix C to the Plan, as modified by paragraph (b)(5) below, with respect to executions on any Trading Center that have settled or reached settlement date. Market Makers shall transmit such data in a pipe delimited format by 12:00 p.m. EST on T+4:
 - (i) For executions during and outside of Regular Trading

 Hours in each Pre-Pilot Data Collection Security for the period

 beginning six months prior to the Pilot Period through [the trading
 day immediately preceding] thirty-one days prior to the first day of
 the Pilot Period; and
 - (ii) For executions during and outside of Regular Trading Hours in each Pilot Security for the period beginning [on] thirty days prior to the first day of the Pilot Period through six months after the end of the Pilot Period.
 - (B) No Change.
- (5) No Change.
- • Supplementary Material: -----
- **.01** through **.04** No Change.
- .05 (a) For purposes of Appendix B.I.a(14), B.I.a(15), B.I.a(21) and B.I.a(22), the time ranges shall be changed as follows:
 - (a) through (d) Renumbered as (1) through (4).

- (b) For purposes of Appendix B.I.a(21) through B.I.a(27), unexecuted Immediate or Cancel orders shall be categorized separately irrespective of the duration of time after order receipt.
- **.06** through **.08** No change.
- .09 For purposes of Appendix B, the following order types and numbers shall be included and assigned the following numbers: "not held" orders (18); clean cross orders (19); auction orders (20); [and] orders that cannot otherwise be classified, including orders received when the NBBO is crossed (21)[.]; and limit orders priced more than \$0.10 away from the NBBO (22). For purposes of order types 12-14 in Appendix B, such order types shall include all orders and not solely "resting" orders.
- .10 No Change.
- the calculation of share (trade) participation shall be added to each category. For purposes of Appendix B.IV(b) and (c), share participation and trade participation shall be calculated by using a total count instead of a share-weighted average or a trade-weighted average. For purposes of Appendix B, B.IV(d) (cross-quote share (trade) participation), (e) (inside-the-quote share (trade) participation), (f) (at-the-quote share (trade) participation), and (g) (outside-the-quote share (trade) participation), shall be calculated by reference to the National Best Bid or National Best Offer in effect immediately prior to the trade.
- .11 Renumbered as .12.
- .12 Renumbered as .13.

Alignor and the closing price thresholds shall be applied to the last day of the Pre-Pilot measurement period, and the CADV threshold shall be applied to the duration of the Pre-Pilot measurement period. The Pre-Pilot Data Collection Securities are selected. The Pre-Pilot Data Collection Securities shall be selected thirty days prior to the Pre-Pilot Data Collection Securities by selecting shall be selected thirty days prior to the Pre-Pilot Data Collection Securities by selecting all NMS stocks with a market capitalization of \$5 billion or less, a Consolidated Average Daily Volume (CADV) of 2 million shares or less and a closing price of \$1 per share or more. The market capitalization and the closing price thresholds shall be applied to the last day of the Pre-Pilot measurement period, and the CADV threshold shall be applied to the duration of the Pre-Pilot measurement period. The Pre-Pilot Data Collection Securities are selected. The Pre-Pilot Data Collection Securities shall be selected thirty days prior to the commencement of the six-month Pre-Pilot Period.

.14 Renumbered as .15.

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