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Initial 🔽	*	Amendment *	Withdrawal	Section 19(b)(2) *	Sectio	n 19(b)(3)(A) * Rule	Section 19(b)(3)(B) *	
Pilot		nsion of Time Period Commission Action *	Date Expires *			19b-4(f) 19b-4(f) 19b-4(f)	(2) 19b-4(f)(5)		
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Exhibit	2 Sent A	-	xhibit 3 Sent As Paper D	ocument					
Provic	Description Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked *). Proposed Rule Change to Extend the Tier Size Pilot of Rule 6433 (Minimum Quotation Size Requirements for OTC Equity Securities)								
Provid	le the na	prmation ame, telephone number aspond to questions and			n the staf	f of the self-	regulatory organizat	ion	
First I	Name *	Racquel		Last Name *	Russell				
Title *		Associate General Co	ounsel						
E-mai	il *	racquel.russell@finra.	org						
	hone *	(202) 728-8363	Fax (202) 728-8264	1					
	ant to th		_		nereunto	duly authoriz	zed.		
			requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized. (Title *) 016 Senior Vice President and Director of Capital Markets						
Date	11/23/	/2016		Senior Vice P	resident	and Directo	or of Capital Marke	ts	
Ву	Steph	anie M. Dumont]	Policy					
(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.									

OMB APPROVAL

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549							
For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website.							
Form 19b-4 Information * Add Remove View	The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act.						
Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change * Add Remove View	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 * Add Remove View	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 Add Remove View 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 Add Remove View 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 CopiesAddRemoveView	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.						
Add Remove View	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 Add Remove View	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. <u>Text of the Proposed Rule Change</u>

(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 6433 (Minimum Quotation Size Requirements for OTC Equity Securities) to extend the Tier Size Pilot, which currently is scheduled to expire on December 9, 2016, until June 9, 2017.

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

2. <u>Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization</u>

At its meeting on December 7, 2010, 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. The operative date of the proposed rule change will be December 9, 2016.

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

(a) Purpose

FINRA proposes to amend FINRA Rule 6433 (Minimum Quotation Size

Requirements for OTC Equity Securities) (the "Rule") to extend, until June 9, 2017, the

amendments set forth in File No. SR-FINRA-2011-058 ("Tier Size Pilot" or "Pilot"),

15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

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which currently are scheduled to expire on December 9, 2016.²

The Tier Size Pilot was filed with the SEC on October 6, 2011,³ to amend the minimum quotation sizes (or "tier sizes") for OTC Equity Securities.⁴ The goals of the Pilot were to simplify the tier structure, facilitate the display of customer limit orders, and expand the scope of the Rule to apply to additional quoting participants. During the course of the Pilot, FINRA collected and provided to the SEC specified data with which to assess the impact of the Pilot tiers on market quality and limit order display.⁵ On September 13, 2013, FINRA provided to the Commission an assessment on the operation of the Tier Size Pilot utilizing data covering the period from November 12, 2012 through June 30, 2013.⁶ As noted in the 2013 Assessment, FINRA believed that the analysis of the data generally showed that the Tier Size Pilot had a neutral to positive impact on OTC market quality for the majority of OTC Equity Securities and tiers; and that there was an overall increase of 13% in the number of customer limit orders that met the minimum

 <u>See</u> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 77923 (May 26, 2016), 81 FR 35432 (June 2, 2016) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of File No. SR-FINRA-2016-016) ("June 2016 Extension").

³ <u>See</u> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 65568 (October 14, 2011), 76 FR 65307 (October 20, 2011) (Notice of Filing of File No. SR-FINRA-2011-058).

⁴ "OTC Equity Security" means any equity security that is not an "NMS stock" as that term is defined in Rule 600(b)(47) of SEC Regulation NMS; provided, however, that the term OTC Equity Security shall not include any Restricted Equity Security. <u>See</u> FINRA Rule 6420.

⁵ FINRA ceased collecting Pilot data for submission to the Commission on February 13, 2015.

⁶ The assessment is part of the SEC's comment file for SR-FINRA-2011-058 and also is available on FINRA's website at: http://www.finra.org/Industry/Regulation/RuleFilings/2011/P124615 ("Pilot Assessment").

quotation sizes to be eligible for display under the Pilot tiers. In the 2013 Assessment, FINRA recommended adopting the tiers as permanent, but extended the Pilot period to allow more time to gather and analyze data after the November 12, 2012 through June 30, 2013 assessment period.⁷ The purpose of this filing is to further extend the operation of the Tier Size Pilot until June 9, 2017, to provide additional time to finalize a permanent proposal with regard to the Tier Size Pilot.⁸

As noted in Item 2 of this filing, FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness. The operative date of the proposed rule change will be December 9, 2016.

(b) Statutory Basis

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act,⁹ 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. FINRA also believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(11) of the Act.¹⁰ Section 15A(b)(11) requires that FINRA rules include provisions governing the form and content of quotations relating to

 ⁷ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 70839 (November 8, 2013), 78 FR 68893 (November 15, 2013) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of File No. SR-FINRA-2013-049).

⁸ FINRA reviewed the post-June 30, 2013 data, and stated that the impact described in the 2013 Assessment continued to hold (and improved in certain areas). <u>See</u> June 2016 Extension.

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78<u>0</u>-3(b)(6).

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78<u>o</u>-3(b)(11).

securities sold otherwise than on a national securities exchange which may be distributed or published by any member or person associated with a member, and the persons to whom such quotations may be supplied.

FINRA believes that the extension of the Tier Size Pilot until June 9, 2017, is consistent with the Act in that it would provide the Commission and FINRA with additional time to finalize a proposal with regard to the Tier Size Pilot.

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

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.

6. <u>Extension of Time Period for Commission Action</u>

Not applicable.

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

FINRA has designated this rule filing as non-controversial under Section

19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹¹ and paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.¹² FINRA asserts that the proposed rule change: (1) will not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest, (2) will not impose any significant burden on competition, and (3) and will not become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹² 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

shorter time as the Commission may designate. In addition, FINRA provided the Commission with written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change, along with a brief description and text of the proposed rule change, at least five business days prior to the date of filing, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission.¹³ FINRA notes further that, because all over-the-counter quotations on an inter-dealer quotation system are currently subject to Rule 6433, the proposal to extend the Pilot maintains the status quo. Accordingly, FINRA has designated this rule filing as non-controversial under Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹⁴ and paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.¹⁵

FINRA requests that the Commission waive the 30-day operative waiting period contained in Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) under the Act.¹⁶ FINRA requests this waiver so that the proposal may become effective and operative upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹⁷ and paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.¹⁸ Waiver of the 30-day operative delay will allow FINRA to extend the Pilot by its expiration on December 9, 2016. Waiver of the operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest for the reasons described above.

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

- ¹⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).
- ¹⁵ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).
- ¹⁶ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).
- ¹⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).
- ¹⁸ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

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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.

8. <u>Proposed Rule Change Based on Rule of Another Self-Regulatory</u> <u>Organization or of the Commission</u>

Not applicable.

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

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

Not applicable.

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-2016-044)

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change to Extend the Tier Size Pilot of Rule 6433 (Minimum Quotation Size Requirements for OTC Equity Securities)

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</u> <u>Proposed Rule Change</u>

FINRA is proposing to amend FINRA Rule 6433 (Minimum Quotation Size Requirements for OTC Equity Securities) to extend the Tier Size Pilot, which currently is scheduled to expire on December 9, 2016, until June 9, 2017.

³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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

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

In its filing with the Commission, 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

FINRA proposes to amend FINRA Rule 6433 (Minimum Quotation Size

Requirements for OTC Equity Securities) (the "Rule") to extend, until June 9, 2017, the

amendments set forth in File No. SR-FINRA-2011-058 ("Tier Size Pilot" or "Pilot"),

which currently are scheduled to expire on December 9, 2016.⁴

The Tier Size Pilot was filed with the SEC on October 6, 2011,⁵ to amend the minimum quotation sizes (or "tier sizes") for OTC Equity Securities.⁶ The goals of the

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 77923 (May 26, 2016), 81 FR 35432 (June 2, 2016) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of File No. SR-FINRA-2016-016) ("June 2016 Extension").

 ⁵ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 65568 (October 14, 2011), 76 FR 65307 (October 20, 2011) (Notice of Filing of File No. SR-FINRA-2011-058).

⁶ "OTC Equity Security" means any equity security that is not an "NMS stock" as that term is defined in Rule 600(b)(47) of SEC Regulation NMS; provided,

Pilot were to simplify the tier structure, facilitate the display of customer limit orders, and expand the scope of the Rule to apply to additional quoting participants. During the course of the Pilot, FINRA collected and provided to the SEC specified data with which to assess the impact of the Pilot tiers on market quality and limit order display.⁷ On September 13, 2013, FINRA provided to the Commission an assessment on the operation of the Tier Size Pilot utilizing data covering the period from November 12, 2012 through June 30, 2013.⁸ As noted in the 2013 Assessment, FINRA believed that the analysis of the data generally showed that the Tier Size Pilot had a neutral to positive impact on OTC market quality for the majority of OTC Equity Securities and tiers; and that there was an overall increase of 13% in the number of customer limit orders that met the minimum quotation sizes to be eligible for display under the Pilot tiers. In the 2013 Assessment, FINRA recommended adopting the tiers as permanent, but extended the Pilot period to allow more time to gather and analyze data after the November 12, 2012 through June 30, 2013 assessment period.⁹ The purpose of this filing is to further extend the operation of

however, that the term OTC Equity Security shall not include any Restricted Equity Security. <u>See</u> FINRA Rule 6420.

⁷ FINRA ceased collecting Pilot data for submission to the Commission on February 13, 2015.

⁸ The assessment is part of the SEC's comment file for SR-FINRA-2011-058 and also is available on FINRA's website at: http://www.finra.org/Industry/Regulation/RuleFilings/2011/P124615 ("Pilot Assessment").

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 70839 (November 8, 2013), 78 FR 68893 (November 15, 2013) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of File No. SR-FINRA-2013-049).

the Tier Size Pilot until June 9, 2017, to provide additional time to finalize a permanent proposal with regard to the Tier Size Pilot.¹⁰

FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness. The operative date of the proposed rule change will be December 9, 2016.

2. Statutory Basis

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act,¹¹ 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. FINRA also believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(11) of the Act.¹² Section 15A(b)(11) requires that FINRA rules include provisions governing the form and content of quotations relating to securities sold otherwise than on a national securities exchange which may be distributed or published by any member or person associated with a member, and the persons to whom such quotations may be supplied.

FINRA believes that the extension of the Tier Size Pilot until June 9, 2017, is consistent with the Act in that it would provide the Commission and FINRA with additional time to finalize a proposal with regard to the Tier Size Pilot.

¹⁰ FINRA reviewed the post-June 30, 2013 data, and stated that the impact described in the 2013 Assessment continued to hold (and improved in certain areas). <u>See</u> June 2016 Extension.

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78<u>o</u>-3(b)(6).

¹² 15 U.S.C. 78<u>o</u>-3(b)(11).

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

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

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not: (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.¹⁴

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.

¹³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

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-2016-044 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.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FINRA-2016-044. 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 (<u>http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</u>). 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-2016-044 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.¹⁵

Robert W. Errett Deputy Secretary

¹⁵ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

EXHIBIT 5

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

* * * * *

6000. QUOTATION AND TRANSACTION REPORTING FACILITIES

* * * * *

6400. QUOTING AND TRADING IN OTC EQUITY SECURITIES

* * * * *

6430. OTC Equity Quotation Requirements

* * * * *

6433. Minimum Quotation Size Requirements For OTC Equity Securities

Every member entering quotations in any inter-dealer quotation system that permits quotation updates on a real-time basis must enter and honor those quotations for at least the minimum size defined in the table below. In this regard, it is the member's responsibility to determine the minimum size requirement applicable to its quotation. Depending on the price level of the quotation, a different minimum size can apply to each side of the market being quoted by the member in a given security.

Price (Bid or Offer)	Minimum Quote Size
0.0001-0.0999	10,000
0.10-0.1999	5,000
0.20-0.5099	2,500
0.51–0.9999	1,000
1.00–174.99	100
175.00+	1

••• Supplementary Material: ------

.01 The amendments set forth in File No. SR-FINRA-2011-058 shall be in effect until [December 9, 2016] June 9, 2017. If the pilot is not extended or approved as permanent by this date, the version of this Rule prior to SR-FINRA-2011-058 shall be in effect.

* * * * *