OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0045 Expires: June 30, 2010 Estimated average burden hours per response......38

Page 1 of 16		SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 Form 19b-4				File No. SR - 2007 - 034 Amendment No.	
Proposed Rule Change by Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934							
Initial ✓	Amendment	Withdrawal	Section 19(t		Section 19(b)(3)(A) Rule	Section 7	19(b)(3)(B)
Pilot	Extension of Time Period for Commission Action	Date Expires		19	9b-4(f)(1)	f)(5)	
Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document							
Description Provide a brief description of the proposed rule change (limit 250 characters). Proposed Rule Change Relating to Dissemination of Trade Reports for OTC Equity Securities Transactions of Fewer Than 100 Shares							
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 proposed rule change.							
First Name Lisa			Last Name Horrigan				
Title	Associate General Counsel						
	E-mail lisa.horrigan@finra.org						
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 officer. Date 12/19/2007							
Ву	Stephanie Dumont	phanie Dumont Vice President and Associate General Counsel					
(Name) (Title)							
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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 Remove proposal 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 **Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change** 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 Add Remove (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) Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such Exhibit 2 - Notices, Written Comments. documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall **Transcripts, Other Communications** be filed in accordance with Instruction G. Add Remove View Exhibit Sent As Paper Document 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 the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which Add Remove View it has been working. The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed **Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text** 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 Add Remove View considered part 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 View 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 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") (f/k/a National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD")) is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") a proposed rule change relating to the dissemination of last sale information for transactions of fewer than 100 shares in OTC Equity Securities. ² Specifically, FINRA is proposing that for OTC Equity Securities that traded at or above \$175.00 per share during the fourth calendar quarter of 2007, FINRA will change the "unit of trade" from 100 shares to one share (such that transactions in these securities will no longer be considered "odd-lot transactions" for dissemination purposes) and will disseminate last sale information for all reported transactions of one or more shares in these securities. The proposed rule change amends FINRA's trade report dissemination policy only and does not require amendments to any rules.
 - (b) Not applicable.
 - (c) Not applicable.

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

The proposed rule change has been approved by senior management of FINRA pursuant to delegated authority. No other action by FINRA is necessary for the filing of the proposed rule change.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

NASD Rule 6610(d) defines OTC Equity Security as "any non-exchange-listed security and certain exchange-listed securities that do not otherwise qualify for real-time trade reporting."

FINRA is filing the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness. FINRA will publish a *Notice* announcing the operative date of the new dissemination policy, which date will be at least 30 days after the date of filing.

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

(a) Purpose

Pursuant to FINRA's dissemination protocols, only reports of transactions that meet the "unit of trade" test are publicly disseminated. As a general matter, OTC Equity Securities have a unit of trade of 100 shares, and while transactions of fewer than 100 shares (commonly referred to as "odd-lot transactions") in such securities are reported to FINRA, they are not publicly disseminated. FINRA believes that, consistent with the dissemination protocols for NMS stocks, disseminating last sale information for odd-lot transactions would provide minimal market value, particularly with respect to low-priced OTC Equity Securities. However, with respect to high-priced OTC Equity Securities, many (if not all) transactions may be for fewer than the standard unit of trade of 100 shares. Thus, information regarding trades at these levels is more valuable to the market and investors, and in fact, trading data for such securities could effectively be unavailable to market participants if only trades of 100 or more shares were disseminated.

Accordingly, FINRA disseminates last sale information for transactions of fewer than 100 shares in a limited number of high-priced OTC Equity Securities today. For these OTC Equity Securities, the unit of trade has been designated as one share, such that any transaction of one or more shares will meet the unit of trade test for that security and

See NASD Rule 6620.

be disseminated. For example, if OTC Equity Security ABCD has a unit of trade of one share, a transaction of 25 shares of ABCD would meet the unit of trade test for that security and last sale information for the transaction would be disseminated. Under past practice, the unit of trade of OTC Equity Securities was changed on a case-by-case basis upon request from a market participant (e.g., a market maker or issuer) to facilitate the dissemination of trades of fewer than 100 shares. Typically, such changes were made in connection with securities trading above \$200.00 per share.

FINRA is proposing to adopt a more uniform policy regarding the dissemination of OTC Equity Securities and will publish a *Notice* informing members, investors and other interested parties of the new policy. Specifically, for all OTC Equity Securities that traded at or above \$175.00 per share during the fourth calendar quarter of 2007, FINRA will designate the unit of trade as one (such that transactions in these securities will no longer be considered odd-lot transactions for dissemination purposes) and will disseminate last sale information for all transactions of one or more shares in such securities. FINRA will publish a list of the OTC Equity Securities that meet the stated dissemination criteria in the proposed *Notice* and will also make this list available on the OTC Bulletin Board website (www.otcbb.com). FINRA staff anticipates that the unit of trade for the vast majority of OTC Equity Securities will remain 100 shares.

With the exception of NASD Rule 6250, which applies to dissemination of transaction information for TRACE-eligible securities, dissemination of trade reports is typically not governed by FINRA's rules, but rather by its protocols. Thus, FINRA is not proposing to amend any rules to effectuate the change discussed herein.

FINRA notes that all OTC Equity Securities for which the unit of trade is currently designated as one will be included in this list and will remain on this list regardless of whether they meet the stated dissemination criteria.

Additionally, using the above criteria, FINRA will update the list of OTC Equity Securities at the end of each calendar quarter based on that quarter's trading activity. While OTC Equity Securities may be added to the list, they generally will not be removed.⁶ FINRA staff believes that retaining OTC Equity Securities on the list, rather than re-evaluating each security's eligibility every calendar quarter, will achieve greater transparency and consistency with respect to trade data dissemination.

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change will enhance transparency and the amount of information available to market participants with respect to transactions in OTC Equity Securities.

As noted in Item 2 of this filing, FINRA is filing the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness. FINRA will publish a *Notice* announcing the operative date of the new dissemination policy, which date will be at least 30 days after the date of filing.

(b) Statutory Basis

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act,⁷ which requires, among other things, that FINRA rules 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 believes that the proposed rule change will enhance transparency and the amount of information available to market participants with respect to transactions in OTC

FINRA may determine that an OTC Equity Security should be removed from the list if, e.g., there has been a significant corporate action, such as a stock split, that has changed the pricing in the security such that a unit of trade of one is no longer appropriate, or if the trade(s) that qualified the OTC Equity Security for dissemination were later determined to have been reported at inaccurate prices.

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 780-3(b)(6).

Equity Securities.

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.

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)

The proposed rule change is effective upon filing pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act⁸ and paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder,⁹ in that the proposed rule change does not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; does not impose any significant burden on competition; and does not become operative for 30 days after filing. FINRA believes that the filing is appropriately designated as "non-controversial" because the proposed rule change does not impose any new reporting obligations on members, but rather revises FINRA's policy with respect to dissemination of transactions that are already required to be reported by members. In accordance with Rule 19b-4, ¹⁰ FINRA submitted written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁹ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹⁰ 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

change, along with a brief description and text of the proposed rule change, at least five business days prior to the date of filing.

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

Not applicable.

9. Exhibits

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

EXHIBIT 1

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

(Release No. 34- ; File No. SR-FINRA-2007-034)

Self-Regulatory Organizations: Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Relating to Dissemination of Trade Reports for OTC Equity Securities Transactions of Fewer Than 100 Shares

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") (f/k/a National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD")) 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's proposed rule change relates to the dissemination of last sale information for transactions of fewer than 100 shares in OTC Equity Securities.⁴

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

NASD Rule 6610(d) defines OTC Equity Security as "any non-exchange-listed security and certain exchange-listed securities that do not otherwise qualify for real-time trade reporting."

Specifically, FINRA is proposing that for OTC Equity Securities that traded at or above \$175.00 per share during the fourth calendar quarter of 2007, FINRA will change the "unit of trade" from 100 shares to one share (such that transactions in these securities will no longer be considered "odd-lot transactions" for dissemination purposes) and will disseminate last sale information for all reported transactions of one or more shares in these securities. The proposed rule change amends FINRA's trade report dissemination policy only and does not require amendments to any rules.

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

1. Purpose

Pursuant to FINRA's dissemination protocols, only reports of transactions that meet the "unit of trade" test are publicly disseminated. As a general matter, OTC Equity Securities have a unit of trade of 100 shares, and while transactions of fewer than 100 shares (commonly referred to as "odd-lot transactions") in such securities are reported to FINRA, they are not publicly disseminated. FINRA believes that, consistent with the dissemination protocols for NMS stocks, disseminating last sale information for odd-lot

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See NASD Rule 6620.

OTC Equity Securities. However, with respect to high-priced OTC Equity Securities, many (if not all) transactions may be for fewer than the standard unit of trade of 100 shares. Thus, information regarding trades at these levels is more valuable to the market and investors, and in fact, trading data for such securities could effectively be unavailable to market participants if only trades of 100 or more shares were disseminated.

Accordingly, FINRA disseminates last sale information for transactions of fewer than 100 shares in a limited number of high-priced OTC Equity Securities today. For these OTC Equity Securities, the unit of trade has been designated as one share, such that any transaction of one or more shares will meet the unit of trade test for that security and be disseminated. For example, if OTC Equity Security ABCD has a unit of trade of one share, a transaction of 25 shares of ABCD would meet the unit of trade test for that security and last sale information for the transaction would be disseminated. Under past practice, the unit of trade of OTC Equity Securities was changed on a case-by-case basis upon request from a market participant (e.g., a market maker or issuer) to facilitate the dissemination of trades of fewer than 100 shares. Typically, such changes were made in connection with securities trading above \$200.00 per share.

FINRA is proposing to adopt a more uniform policy regarding the dissemination of OTC Equity Securities and will publish a *Notice* informing members, investors and other interested parties of the new policy.⁶ Specifically, for all OTC Equity Securities

With the exception of NASD Rule 6250, which applies to dissemination of transaction information for TRACE-eligible securities, dissemination of trade reports is typically not governed by FINRA's rules, but rather by its protocols. Thus, FINRA is not proposing to amend any rules to effectuate the change discussed herein.

that traded at or above \$175.00 per share during the fourth calendar quarter of 2007, FINRA will designate the unit of trade as one (such that transactions in these securities will no longer be considered odd-lot transactions for dissemination purposes) and will disseminate last sale information for all transactions of one or more shares in such securities. FINRA will publish a list of the OTC Equity Securities that meet the stated dissemination criteria in the proposed *Notice* and will also make this list available on the OTC Bulletin Board website (www.otcbb.com). FINRA staff anticipates that the unit of trade for the vast majority of OTC Equity Securities will remain 100 shares.

Additionally, using the above criteria, FINRA will update the list of OTC Equity Securities at the end of each calendar quarter based on that quarter's trading activity. While OTC Equity Securities may be added to the list, they generally will not be removed. FINRA staff believes that retaining OTC Equity Securities on the list, rather than re-evaluating each security's eligibility every calendar quarter, will achieve greater transparency and consistency with respect to trade data dissemination.

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change will enhance transparency and the amount of information available to market participants with respect to transactions in OTC Equity Securities.

FINRA notes that all OTC Equity Securities for which the unit of trade is currently designated as one will be included in this list and will remain on this list regardless of whether they meet the stated dissemination criteria.

FINRA may determine that an OTC Equity Security should be removed from the list if, e.g., there has been a significant corporate action, such as a stock split, that has changed the pricing in the security such that a unit of trade of one is no longer appropriate, or if the trade(s) that qualified the OTC Equity Security for dissemination were later determined to have been reported at inaccurate prices.

FINRA is filing the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness. FINRA will publish a *Notice* announcing the operative date of the new dissemination policy, which date will be at least 30 days after the date of filing.

2. 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 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 believes that the proposed rule change will enhance transparency and the amount of information available to market participants with respect to transactions in OTC Equity Securities.

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</u> <u>Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or</u> <u>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

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 780-3(b)(6).

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 Act¹⁰ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.¹¹ FINRA believes that the filing is appropriately designated as "non-controversial" because the proposed rule change does not impose any new reporting obligations on members, but rather revises FINRA's policy with respect to dissemination of transactions that are already required to be reported by members. In accordance with Rule 19b-4, ¹² FINRA submitted 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.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate 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.

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

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹¹ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹⁷ CFR 240.19b-4.

Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number
 SR-FINRA-2007-034 on the subject line.

Paper Comments:

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

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FINRA-2007-034. 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 inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room. 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-2007-034 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority. 13

Nancy M. Morris

Secretary

¹⁷ CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).