OMB APPROVAL

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| WASHIN   |  |   | D EXCHANGE COMMISSION GTON, D.C. 20549 Form 19b-4  File No. SR - 2008 006  Amendment No. |                              |                               |
|--|--|---|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Proposed Rule Change by Financial Industry Regulatory Authority  |  |   |  |                              |                               |
| Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934   |  |   |  |                              |                               |
| Initial<br>✓   | Amendment                                      | Withdrawal  | Section 19(b)(2)   | Section 19(b)(3)(A)  ✓  Rule | Section 19(b)(3)(B)           |
| Pilot  | Extension of Time Period for Commission Action | Date Expires  |  | 19b-4(f)(1) 19b-             | 4(f)(4)<br>4(f)(5)<br>4(f)(6) |
| 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 to Establish Minimum Quarterly Threshold for Securities Transaction Credit Under NASD Rule 7001C                                       |  |   |  |                              |                               |
| 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 C                            | ounsel  |  | 94                           |                               |
| E-mail   | E-mail lisa.horrigan@finra.org                 |   |  |                              |                               |
| Telepho  | one (202) 728-8190                             | Fax (202) 728-826   | 4  |                              |                               |
| 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 02/28/2008  |  |   |  |                              |                               |
| Ву   | Stephanie Dumont                               | nanie Dumont Vice President and Associate General Counsel |  |                              |                               |
| (Name)   |  |   |  |                              |                               |
|  |  |   | (Title)  |                              |                               |
| NOTE: Clicking the button at right will digitally sign and lock this form. A digital signature is as legally binding as a physical   |  |   | Stephanie Dumont,  |                              |                               |
|  | e, and once signed, this form can              |   |  |                              |                               |

#### 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"), <sup>1</sup> 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 to establish a minimum quarterly threshold for FINRA members that report transactions to the NASD/NSX Trade Reporting Facility (the "NASD/NSX TRF")<sup>2</sup> to be eligible to receive the securities transaction credit under NASD Rule 7001C (Securities Transaction Credit). In addition, FINRA is proposing a technical change to clarify an ambiguity relating to the definition of "Tape B" in Rule 7001C. Below is the text of the proposed rule change. Proposed new language is underlined; proposed deletions are in brackets.

\* \* \* \* \*

# 7000C. CHARGES FOR NASD/NSX TRADE REPORTING FACILITY SERVICES

### 7001C. Securities Transaction Credit

(a) NASD members that trade securities listed on the NYSE ("Tape A"),

Amex <u>and regional exchanges</u> ("Tape B"), or Nasdaq ("Tape C") in over-the-counter

transactions reported to the NASD/NSX Trade Reporting Facility may receive from the

NASD/NSX Trade Reporting Facility transaction credits based on the transactions

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

Effective July 30, 2007, FINRA was formed through the consolidation of NASD and the member regulatory functions of NYSE Regulation. Accordingly, the NASD/NSX TRF is now doing business as the FINRA/NSX TRF. FINRA will file a separate proposed rule change to reflect the formal name change of each FINRA Trade Reporting Facility in the Manual.

attributed to them. A transaction is attributed to a member if the member is identified as the executing party in a trade report submitted to the NASD/NSX Trade Reporting Facility that the NASD/NSX Trade Reporting Facility submits to the Consolidated Tape Association or the Nasdaq Securities Information Processor. An NASD member may earn credits from any of three pools maintained by the NASD/NSX Trade Reporting Facility. The Tape A, Tape B, and Tape C pools represent 50% of the gross revenue paid by the Consolidated Tape Association or the Nasdaq Securities Information Processor with respect to the NASD/NSX Trade Reporting Facility for Tape A, Tape B, and Tape C transactions. Subject to paragraph (b) below, a[A]n NASD member may earn credits from the pools according to the pro rata share of revenue attributable to over-the-counter transactions reported to the NASD/NSX Trade Reporting Facility by the member in Tape A, Tape B, and Tape C for each calendar quarter. To the extent that Tape A, Tape B or Tape C revenue is subject to any adjustment, credits provided may be adjusted accordingly.

(b) No NASD member shall be eligible to receive a securities transaction credit under Rule 7001C(a) for any calendar quarter in which the total transaction credit payable to such member is less than \$250.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

## 2. Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization

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.

FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness. FINRA proposes that the proposed rule change be operative on April 1, 2008.

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

### (a) Purpose

### Background

On November 6, 2006, the Commission approved the establishment of the NASD/NSX TRF,<sup>3</sup> and on November 27, 2006, the NASD/NSX TRF commenced operation. The NASD/NSX TRF provides FINRA members with another mechanism for reporting locked-in transactions in NMS stocks, as defined in Rule 600(b)(47) of Regulation NMS under the Act, effected otherwise than on an exchange.

In connection with the establishment of the NASD/NSX TRF, FINRA and National Stock Exchange, Inc. ("NSX") entered into a Limited Liability Company Agreement for NASD/NSX Trade Reporting Facility LLC (the "NASD/NSX TRF LLC Agreement"), a copy of which appears in the NASD Manual. Under the NASD/NSX TRF LLC Agreement, FINRA, the "SRO Member," has sole regulatory responsibility for the NASD/NSX TRF. NSX, the "Business Member," is primarily responsible for the management of the NASD/NSX TRF's business affairs, including establishing pricing for use of the NASD/NSX TRF, to the extent those affairs are not inconsistent with the regulatory and oversight functions of FINRA. Additionally, the Business Member is

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 54715 (November 6, 2006), 71 FR 66354 (November 14, 2006) (order approving SR-NASD-2006-108).

obligated to pay the cost of regulation and is entitled to the profits and losses, if any, derived from the operation of the NASD/NSX TRF.

Pursuant to NASD Rule 7001C, FINRA members reporting trades in Tape A, Tape B and Tape C securities to the NASD/NSX TRF currently receive a 50% *pro rata* credit on gross market data revenue earned by the NASD/NSX TRF. "Gross revenue" is the revenue received by the NASD/NSX TRF from the three tape associations after the tape associations deduct allocated support costs and unincorporated business costs.

### Proposed Amendments to Rule 7001C

FINRA is proposing to establish a minimum quarterly threshold for FINRA members that report transactions to the NASD/NSX TRF to be eligible to receive the securities transaction credit under Rule 7001C. Specifically, FINRA is proposing to adopt new paragraph (b) of Rule 7001C, which provides that no FINRA member shall be eligible to receive a securities transaction credit under Rule 7001C for any calendar quarter in which the total transaction credit payable to such member is less than \$250. Thus, pursuant to the proposed rule, a member's securities transaction credit totaling less than \$250 for any given calendar quarter would be forfeited. NSX, as the Business Member, believes that establishing this \$250 threshold is beneficial because it eliminates the administrative and clerical burden of having to process such *de minimis* payments.

FINRA also is proposing a technical amendment to clarify an ambiguity in current Rule 7001C. Rule 7001C refers to "Amex" and "Tape B" as synonymous, but in fact the Tape B revenue sharing program is interpreted to include stocks listed on regional exchanges, such as NYSE Arca, because transactions in such stocks are reported

to Tape B.4

As noted in Item 2 of this filing, FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness. FINRA proposes that the proposed rule change be operative on April 1, 2008.

### (b) Statutory Basis

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A of the Act,<sup>5</sup> in general, and with Section 15A(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>6</sup> in particular, which requires, among other things, that FINRA rules provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility or system that FINRA operates or controls. FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is a reasonable and equitable credit structure in that it will be applied uniformly to all FINRA members that report trades to the NASD/NSX TRF.

### 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.

FINRA recently proposed an identical change to NASD Rule 7001B relating to the NASD/Nasdaq TRF. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 57164 (January 17, 2008), 73 FR 4295 (January 24, 2008) (notice of filing of SR-FINRA-2007-041).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 780-3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 780–3(b)(5).

### 6. 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)</u>

The proposed rule change is effective upon filing pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>7</sup> and paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>8</sup> 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 is identical to the market data revenue rebate threshold that was recently adopted by NSX.<sup>9</sup> In accordance with Rule 19b-4,<sup>10</sup> 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.

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

The proposed rule change is identical to the market data revenue rebate threshold

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 57316 (February 12, 2008), 73 FR 9379 (February 20, 2008) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of SR-NSX-2008-01).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

that was recently adopted by NSX.11

# 9. Exhibits

Exhibit 1. Completed notice of proposed rule change for publication in the <a href="Federal Register">Federal Register</a>.

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 57316 (February 12, 2008), 73 FR 9379 (February 20, 2008) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of SR-NSX-2008-01).

#### **EXHIBIT 1**

### SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

(Release No. 34- ; File No. SR-FINRA-2008-006)

Self-Regulatory Organizations: Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Establish Minimum Quarterly Threshold for Securities Transaction Credit Under NASD Rule 7001C

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on , 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,<sup>3</sup> 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 establish a minimum quarterly threshold for FINRA members that report transactions to the NASD/NSX Trade Reporting Facility (the "NASD/NSX TRF")<sup>4</sup> to be eligible to receive the securities transaction credit under

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

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Effective July 30, 2007, FINRA was formed through the consolidation of NASD

NASD Rule 7001C (Securities Transaction Credit). In addition, FINRA is proposing a technical change to clarify an ambiguity relating to the definition of "Tape B" in Rule 7001C. Below is the text of the proposed rule change. Proposed new language is in italics; proposed deletions are in brackets.

\* \* \* \* \*

# 7000C. CHARGES FOR NASD/NSX TRADE REPORTING FACILITY SERVICES

#### 7001C. Securities Transaction Credit

(a) NASD members that trade securities listed on the NYSE ("Tape A"),
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Facility that the NASD/NSX Trade Reporting Facility submits to the Consolidated Tape
Association or the Nasdaq Securities Information Processor. An NASD member may
earn credits from any of three pools maintained by the NASD/NSX Trade Reporting
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by the Consolidated Tape Association or the Nasdaq Securities Information Processor
with respect to the NASD/NSX Trade Reporting Facility for Tape A, Tape B, and Tape C
transactions. Subject to paragraph (b) below, a[A]n NASD member may earn credits

and the member regulatory functions of NYSE Regulation. Accordingly, the NASD/NSX TRF is now doing business as the FINRA/NSX TRF. FINRA will file a proposed rule change to reflect the formal name change of each FINRA Trade Reporting Facility in the Manual.

from the pools according to the pro rata share of revenue attributable to over-the-counter transactions reported to the NASD/NSX Trade Reporting Facility by the member in Tape A, Tape B, and Tape C for each calendar quarter. To the extent that Tape A, Tape B or Tape C revenue is subject to any adjustment, credits provided may be adjusted accordingly.

(b) No NASD member shall be eligible to receive a securities transaction credit under Rule 7001C(a) for any calendar quarter in which the total transaction credit payable to such member is less than \$250.

\* \* \* \* \*

# II. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory</u> 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

### Background

On November 6, 2006, the Commission approved the establishment of the NASD/NSX TRF,<sup>5</sup> and on November 27, 2006, the NASD/NSX TRF commenced operation. The NASD/NSX TRF provides FINRA members with another mechanism for

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 54715 (November 6, 2006), 71 FR 66354 (November 14, 2006) (order approving SR-NASD-2006-108).

reporting locked-in transactions in NMS stocks, as defined in Rule 600(b)(47) of Regulation NMS under the Act, effected otherwise than on an exchange.

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Pursuant to NASD Rule 7001C, FINRA members reporting trades in Tape A, Tape B and Tape C securities to the NASD/NSX TRF currently receive a 50% *pro rata* credit on gross market data revenue earned by the NASD/NSX TRF. "Gross revenue" is the revenue received by the NASD/NSX TRF from the three tape associations after the tape associations deduct allocated support costs and unincorporated business costs.

### Proposed Amendments to Rule 7001C

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FINRA also is proposing a technical amendment to clarify an ambiguity in current Rule 7001C. Rule 7001C refers to "Amex" and "Tape B" as synonymous, but in fact the Tape B revenue sharing program is interpreted to include stocks listed on regional exchanges, such as NYSE Arca, because transactions in such stocks are reported to Tape B.<sup>6</sup>

FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness. FINRA proposes that the proposed rule change be operative on April 1, 2008.

### 2. Statutory Basis

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A of the Act,<sup>7</sup> in general, and with Section 15A(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>8</sup> in particular, which requires, among other things, that FINRA rules provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility or system that FINRA operates or controls. FINRA believes that the

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 780-3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 780–3(b)(5).

proposed rule change is a reasonable and equitable credit structure in that it will be applied uniformly to all FINRA members that report trades to the NASD/NSX TRF.

## B. <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.

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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

## III. <u>Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for</u> 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 Act<sup>9</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder. FINRA believes that the filing is appropriately designated as "non-controversial" because the proposed rule change is identical to the market data revenue rebate threshold that was recently adopted by NSX. In accordance with Rule 19b-4, FINRA submitted written notice of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 57316 (February 12, 2008), 73 FR 9379 (February 20, 2008) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of SR-NSX-2008-01).

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

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
   (<u>http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</u>); or
- Send an e-mail to <a href="mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov">rule-comments@sec.gov</a>. Please include File Number SR-FINRA-2008-006 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-2008-006. 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

(<a href="http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml">http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</a>). 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-2008-006 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. <sup>13</sup>

Nancy M. Morris

Secretary

<sup>13</sup>