OMB APPROVAL

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Page 1 of 33 SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 Form 19b-4 Form 19b-4 File No. SR - 2010 - 032						
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		19(b)(3)(A) Rule	Section 19(b)(3)(B)
Pilot 🗸	Extension of Time Period for Commission Action	Date Expires		<ul><li>19b-4(f)(1</li><li>19b-4(f)(2</li><li>19b-4(f)(3</li></ul>	2) 📵 19b-4(f)(5)	
Exhibit 2 S	Sent As Paper Document	Exhibit 3 Sent As Pap	er Document			
Propose	Description  Provide a brief description of the proposed rule change (limit 250 characters).  Proposed Rule Change to Amend FINRA Rule 11892 regarding Clearly Erroneous Transactions in Exchange-Listed Securities					
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 Na Title		Racquel Last Name Russell				
E-mail	racquel.russell@finra.	Assistant General Counsel				
Telepho						
Signature Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,  has duly caused this filling to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized officer.  Date 06/17/2010						
Ву	Stephanie Dumont		Senior Vice President and Director of Capital Markets			
L	(Name)		Policy			
		l		(Title)		
this form.	icking the button at right will digit A digital signature is as legally b	oinding as a physical		Stephanie Dumont,	,	
signature,	, and once signed, this form canno	of 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 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. Text of Proposed Rule Change

(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") is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") a proposed rule change to amend FINRA Rule 11892 (Clearly Erroneous Transactions in Exchange-Listed Securities).

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

\* \* \* \* \*

11000. UNIFORM PRACTICE CODE

11800. CLOSE-OUT PROCEDURES

11890. Clearly Erroneous Transactions

\* \* \* \* \*

#### 11892. Clearly Erroneous Transactions in Exchange-Listed Securities

#### (a) Procedures for Reviewing Transactions

[(1) In the event of a determination by a national securities exchange to nullify and void one or more transactions in a security traded on such national securities exchange, where a similarly situated transaction(s) in such security is also reported through a trade reporting system owned or operated by FINRA or its subsidiaries and authorized by the Commission, an Executive Vice President of FINRA's Market Regulation Department or Transparency Services Department, or any officer designated by such Executive Vice President, may, on his or her

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

own motion, review any transaction reported through any such trade reporting system. A FINRA officer acting pursuant to this paragraph may declare any such transaction null and void if the officer determines that (A) the transaction is clearly erroneous, or (B) such actions are necessary for the maintenance of a fair and orderly market or the protection of investors and the public interest. Absent extraordinary circumstances, the officer shall take action pursuant to this paragraph generally within 30 minutes after becoming aware of the transaction. When extraordinary circumstances exist, any such action of the officer must be taken no later than the start of trading on the day following the date of execution(s) under review.]

[(2)](1) An Executive Vice President of FINRA's Market Regulation
Department or Transparency Services Department, or any officer designated by
such Executive Vice President, may, on his or her own motion, review any overthe-counter transaction involving an exchange-listed security arising out of or
reported through a trade reporting system owned or operated by FINRA or its
subsidiaries and authorized by the Commission, provided that [there is no
similarly situated transaction in such security on a national securities exchange
and] the transaction meets the thresholds set forth in paragraph (b). A FINRA
officer acting pursuant to this subparagraph may declare any such transaction null
and void if the officer determines that (A) the transaction is clearly erroneous, or
(B) such actions are necessary for the maintenance of a fair and orderly market or
the protection of investors and the public interest, consistent with the thresholds
set forth in paragraph (b). Absent extraordinary circumstances, the officer shall

take action pursuant to this paragraph generally within 30 minutes after becoming aware of the transaction. When extraordinary circumstances exist, any such action of the officer must be taken no later than the start of trading on the day following the date of execution(s) under review.

[(3)](2) If a FINRA officer acting pursuant to this paragraph declares any transaction null and void, each party involved in the transaction shall be notified as soon as practicable by FINRA, and the party aggrieved by the action may appeal such action in accordance with Rule 11894, unless the officer making the determination also determines that the number of the affected transactions is such that immediate finality is necessary to maintain a fair and orderly market and to protect investors and the public interest, and further provided that rulings made by FINRA in conjunction with one or more market centers are not appealable.

#### (b) Thresholds

Determinations of a clearly erroneous execution pursuant to paragraph (a)[(2)](1) will be <u>made as follows</u> [based on all relevant factors on a case by case basis including, but not limited to, the following]:

#### (1) Numerical Guidelines

Subject to the provisions of paragraph (b)(3) below, a [A] transaction [may] shall be found to be clearly erroneous [only] if the price of the transaction is away from the Reference Price by an amount that equals or exceeds the Numerical Guidelines set forth below. The Reference Price will be equal to the consolidated last sale immediately prior to the execution(s) under review except for: (A) Multi-Stock Events involving twenty or more securities, [unusual

circumstances] as described in paragraph (b)(2) below; (B) transactions not involving a Multi-Stock Event as described in paragraph (b)(2) that trigger a trading pause and subsequent transactions, as described in paragraph (b)(4) below, in which case the Reference Price shall be determined in accordance with that paragraph (b)(4); and (C) in other circumstances, such as, for example, relevant news impacting a security or securities, periods of extreme market volatility, sustained illiquidity, or widespread system issues, where use of a different Reference Price is necessary for the maintenance of a fair and orderly market and the protection of investors and the public interest.

Reference Price:	Normal Market Hours	Outside Normal Market
[Consolidated Last Sale]	(9:30 a.m. Eastern	Hours Numerical
Circumstance or Product	Time	Guidelines (Subject
	to 4:00 p.m. Eastern	transaction's %
	Time) Numerical	difference from the
	Guidelines (Subject	[Consolidated Last Sale]
	transaction's %	Reference Price):
	difference from the	
	[Consolidated Last	
	Sale] Reference Price):	
Greater than \$0.00 up to	100/	2007
and including \$25.00	10%	20%
Greater than \$25.00 up to	5%	10%

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and including \$50.00		
Greater than \$50.00	3%	6%
Multi-Stock Event —		
[Filings] Events involving five or		
more, but less than twenty,		
securities whose executions		
occurred within a period of five	10%	10%
minutes or less [by the		
same member will be		
aggregated into a single		
filing]		
Multi-Stock Event —		30%, subject to the terms
Events involving twenty or	30%, subject to the terms	of paragraph (b)(2) below
more securities whose executions	of paragraph (b)(2)	
occurred within a period of five	below	
minutes or less		
	Normal Market Hours	Normal Market Hours
	Numerical Guidelines	Numerical Guidelines
Leveraged ETF/ETN securities	multiplied by the	multiplied by the leverage
	leverage	multiplier (i.e. 2x)
	multiplier (i.e. 2x)	

# (2) [Alternative Reference Prices] <u>Multi-Stock Events Involving</u> Twenty or More Securities

[In unusual circumstances, which may include periods of extreme market volatility, sustained illiquidity, or widespread systems issues, FINRA may, in its discretion and with a view toward maintaining a fair and orderly market and the protection of investors and the public interest, use a Reference Price other than the consolidated last sale. Other Reference Prices may include the consolidated inside price, the consolidated opening price, the consolidated prior close, or the consolidated last sale prior to a series of executions. It may also be necessary to use a higher Numerical Guideline if, after market participants have been alerted to the existence of erroneous activity, the price of the security returns toward its prior trading range but continues to trade beyond the price at which the trades would normally be broken.] During Multi-Stock Events involving twenty or more securities, the number of affected transactions may be such that immediate finality is necessary to maintain a fair and orderly market and to protect investors and the public interest. In such circumstances, FINRA may use a Reference Price other than the consolidated last sale. With the exception of those securities under review that are subject to an individual stock trading pause as described in paragraph (b)(4) below, and to ensure consistent application across the markets when this paragraph is invoked, FINRA will promptly coordinate with the market centers to determine the appropriate review period, which may be greater than the period of five minutes or less that triggered application of this paragraph, as well as select one or more specific points in time prior to the transactions in question

and use transaction prices at or immediately prior to the one or more specific points in time selected as the Reference Price. FINRA will nullify as clearly erroneous all transactions that are at prices equal to or greater than 30% away from the Reference Price in each affected security during the review period selected by FINRA and the markets consistent with this paragraph.

#### (3) Additional Factors

Except in the context of a Multi-Stock Event involving five or more securities and individual stock trading pauses as described in paragraph (b)(4) below, a [A] FINRA Officer may also consider additional factors to determine whether a transaction is clearly erroneous, including but not limited to, system malfunctions or disruptions; volume and volatility for the security; derivative securities products that correspond to greater than 100% in the direction of a tracking index; news released for the security; whether trading in the security was recently halted/resumed; whether the security is an IPO; whether the security was subject to a stock-split, reorganization, or other corporate action; overall market conditions; Opening and Late Session executions; validity of the consolidated tapes' trades and quotes; consideration of primary market indications; and executions inconsistent with the trading pattern in the stock. Each additional factor shall be considered with a view toward maintaining a fair and orderly market and the protection of investors and the public interest.

#### [(4) Numerical Guidelines Applicable to Volatile Market Opens]

[FINRA may expand the Numerical Guidelines applicable to transactions occurring between 9:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., Eastern Time, based on the disseminated value of the S&P 500 Futures at 9:15 a.m., Eastern Time.]

- [(A) When the S&P 500 Futures are up or down 3% up to but not including 5% at 9:15 a.m., Eastern Time, the Numerical Guidelines (calculated pursuant to paragraph (b)(1) above) are doubled for executions occurring between 9:30 a.m., Eastern Time, and 10:00 a.m., Eastern Time.]
- [(B) When the S&P 500 Futures are up or down 5% or greater at 9:15 a.m., Eastern Time, the Numerical Guidelines (calculated pursuant to paragraph (b)(1) above) are tripled for executions occurring between 9:30 a.m., Eastern Time, and 10:00 a.m., Eastern Time.]

#### (4) Individual Stock Trading Pauses

- (A) For purposes of this paragraph, the phrase "Trading Pause Trigger Price" shall mean the price that triggered a trading pause on a primary listing market under its rules. The Trading Pause Trigger Price reflects a price calculated by the primary listing market over a rolling five-minute period and may differ from the execution price of a transaction that triggered a trading pause.
- (B) In the event a primary listing market issues an individual stock trading pause, and regardless of whether the security at issue is part of a Multi-Stock Event involving five or more securities as described in paragraphs (b)(1) and (b)(2) above, FINRA shall utilize the Trading Pause

Trigger Price as the Reference Price for any transactions that trigger a trading pause and subsequent transactions occurring before the trading halt is in effect for transactions otherwise than on an exchange. In connection with the review of transactions pursuant to this paragraph, FINRA will apply the Numerical Guidelines set forth in paragraph (b)(1) above, other than the Numerical Guidelines applicable to Multi-Stock Events. Where a trading pause was triggered by a price decline (rise), FINRA shall deem as clearly erroneous all such transactions that occurred at a price lower (higher) than the Trading Pause Trigger Price. FINRA will rely on the primary listing market that issued an individual stock trading pause to determine and communicate the Trading Pause Trigger Price for such stock. Trades occurring while the trading halt is in effect are in violation of Rule 5260 and also will be deemed clearly erroneous.

- • Supplementary Material: -----
- **.01** No Change.
- .02 The amendments set forth in File No. SR-FINRA-2010-032 shall be in effect during a pilot period set to end on December 10, 2010. If the pilot is not extended or approved as permanent by December 10, 2010, the prior version of this Rule shall be in effect.

\* \* \* \* \*

- (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 requested that the Commission approve the proposed rule change on an accelerated basis, so that it may become operative as soon as possible based on the fact that the proposed trading pause rules adopted by FINRA and several national securities exchanges have now become fully operative subject to the initial pilot program.

### 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 is proposing modifications to its Rule 11892, entitled Clearly Erroneous Transactions in Exchange-Listed Securities ("the Rule"). First, FINRA proposes replacing existing paragraph (b)(2) of the Rule, entitled "Alternative Reference Prices" with a new paragraph, entitled "Multi-Stock Events Involving Twenty or More Securities." Second, FINRA is replacing existing paragraph (b)(4) of the Rule, entitled "Numerical Guidelines Applicable to Volatile Market Opens" with a new paragraph, entitled "Individual Stock Trading Pauses." Third, FINRA is combining paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) into one paragraph to provide that paragraph (b) governs the review of all transactions reported to a FINRA trade reporting system, whether or not there are similarly situated transactions in the security on a national securities exchange. Finally, FINRA proposes modifications to paragraphs (b)(1) and (b)(3) of the Rule consistent with the proposed changes to paragraphs (b)(2) and (b)(4). The provisions of this proposed rule change shall be in effect during a pilot period set to end on December 10, 2010, the

prior version of this Rule shall be in effect.

FINRA is proposing the rule changes described herein in consultation with other self-regulatory organizations ("SROs") and Commission staff to provide for uniform treatment: (1) of clearly erroneous execution reviews in Multi-Stock Events involving twenty or more securities; and (2) in the event transactions occur that result in the issuance of an individual stock trading pause by the primary listing market and subsequent transactions that occur before the trading pause is in effect for transactions otherwise than on an exchange. FINRA also has proposed additional changes to the Rule that reduce the ability of FINRA to deviate from the objective standards set forth in the Rule. The proposed changes are described in further detail below.

### Revised Paragraph (b)(2) Related to Multi-Stock Events Involving Twenty or More Securities

FINRA proposes to eliminate the text of existing paragraph (b)(2), which provides flexibility to FINRA to use different Numerical Guidelines or Reference Prices in various "Unusual Circumstances." FINRA proposes to replace the text of this paragraph with new language that would apply to Multi-Stock Events involving twenty or more securities whose executions occurred within a period of five minutes or less. The revised paragraph would provide that during Multi-Stock Events involving twenty or more securities the number of affected transactions may be such that immediate finality is necessary to maintain a fair and orderly market and to protect investors and the public interest. Accordingly, as set forth in paragraph (a)(2), in such circumstances, decisions made by FINRA in consultation with the markets could not be appealed. Further, as proposed, in connection with reviews of Multi-Stock Events involving twenty or more securities, FINRA may use a Reference Price other than consolidated last sale in its

review of potentially clearly erroneous executions. With the exception of those securities under review that are subject to an individual stock trading pause as described in proposed paragraph (b)(4), and to ensure consistent application across market centers when proposed paragraph (b)(2) is invoked, FINRA will promptly coordinate with the other market centers to determine the appropriate review period, which may be greater than the period of five minutes or less that triggered application of proposed paragraph (b)(2), as well as select one or more specific points in time prior to the transactions in question and use transaction prices at or immediately prior to the one or more specific points in time selected as the Reference Price. FINRA will nullify as clearly erroneous all transactions that are at prices equal to or greater than 30% away from the Reference Price in each affected security during the review period selected by FINRA and the markets consistent with the proposed paragraph (b)(2).

Because FINRA and the market centers are adopting a different threshold and standards to handle large-scale market events, which would include events occurring during times of high volatility at the beginning of regular trading hours, FINRA proposes deletion of paragraph (b)(4) ("Numerical Guidelines Applicable to Volatile Market Opens") of the existing rule. FINRA believes that this provision is no longer necessary, and if maintained, could result in extremely high Numerical Guidelines (up to 90%) in certain circumstances.

#### Revised Paragraph (b)(4) Related to Individual Stock Trading Pauses

Several SROs recently amended their rules so that they may, from time to time, issue a trading pause for an individual security if the price of such security moves 10% or more from a sale in a preceding five-minute period. In this regard, the SEC recently

approved a proposed rule change by FINRA to halt trading in an individual stock when the primary listing market for such stock issues a trading pause in any security under its rules.<sup>2</sup> As described above, FINRA is proposing to eliminate existing paragraph (b)(4) ("Numerical Guidelines Applicable to Volatile Market Opens"). FINRA proposes adopting a provision, numbered as paragraph (b)(4) following such elimination, which will provide for uniform treatment of clearly erroneous execution reviews in the event transactions occur that result in the issuance of an individual stock trading pause by the primary listing market and subsequent transactions that occur before the trading pause is in effect for transactions otherwise than on an exchange. The proposed rule change is necessary to provide greater certainty of the clearly erroneous Reference Price for transactions that trigger a trading pause (the "Trigger Trade") and subsequent transactions occurring between the time of the Trigger Trade and the time the trading pause message is received by FINRA from the single plan processor responsible for consolidation and dissemination of information for the security and put into effect by FINRA for transactions otherwise than on an exchange, especially under highly volatile and active market conditions.

FINRA proposes to use the price that triggered a trading pause in an individual stock (the "Trading Pause Trigger Price") as the Reference Price for clearly erroneous execution reviews of a Trigger Trade and transactions that occur immediately after a Trigger Trade but before a trading halt is in effect for transactions otherwise than on an exchange. As proposed, the phrase "Trading Pause Trigger Price" shall mean the price that triggered a trading pause on a primary listing market. The Trading Pause Trigger

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 62251 (June 10, 2010), 75 FR 34183 (June 16, 2010) (Order Approving File No. SR-FINRA-2010-025).

Price reflects a price calculated by the primary listing market over a rolling five-minute period and may differ from the execution price of a transaction that triggered a trading pause. FINRA will rely on the primary listing market that issued an individual stock trading pause to determine and communicate the Trading Pause Trigger Price for such stock. FINRA proposes to make clear in the text that the proposed standards in paragraph (b)(4) apply regardless of whether the security at issue is part of a Multi-Stock Event involving five or more securities as described in proposed paragraphs (b)(1) and (b)(2).

As proposed, the Numerical Guidelines set forth in paragraph (b)(1) of the Rule, other than those Numerical Guidelines applicable to Multi-Stock Events, would apply to reviews of Trigger Trades and subsequent transactions. FINRA proposes to review all transactions that trigger a trading pause and subsequent transactions occurring before the trading pause is in effect for transactions otherwise than on an exchange. Where a trading pause was triggered by a price decline (rise), FINRA shall deem as clearly erroneous all such transactions that occurred at a price lower (higher) than the Trading Pause Trigger Price. Because the proposed rules for trading pauses would only apply within Regular Trading Hours, an execution would be reviewed and nullified as clearly erroneous as follows:

Reference Price or Product	Numerical Guidelines (Subject
	transaction's % difference from
	the Trading Pause Trigger Price):
Greater than \$0.00 up to and	10%
including \$25.00	
Greater than \$25.00 up to and	5%

including \$50.00	
Greater than \$50.00	3%
I averaged ETE/ETN accounts	Decaylor Trading House Name of ad
Leveraged ETF/ETN securities	Regular Trading Hours Numerical
	Guidelines multiplied by the
	leverage multiplier (i.e. 2x)

Trades occurring after a trading halt is in effect may be deemed in violation of FINRA Rule 5260 (Prohibition on Transactions, Publication of Quotations, or Publication of Indications of Interest During Trading Halts) and will be deemed clearly erroneous.

FINRA reminds members that they must have policies and procedures in place that are reasonably designed to ensure that, among other things, members promptly cease effecting transactions during a halt as required by FINRA Rule 5260.

#### Additional Conforming Revisions to Paragraphs (b)(1) and (b)(3)

Based on proposed paragraph (b)(2), FINRA has proposed certain conforming changes to paragraphs (b)(1) and (b)(3) of the existing Rule, as described below.

Under current FINRA Rule 11892, a transaction may be found to be clearly erroneous only if the price of the transaction to buy (sell) that is the subject of the complaint is greater than (less than) the Reference Price by an amount that equals or exceeds the Numerical Guidelines set forth in paragraph (b)(1) of the Rule. The "Reference Price" is currently defined as the consolidated last sale immediately prior to the execution(s) under review except for in Unusual Circumstances as described in paragraph (b)(2) of the Rule. FINRA proposes modifying paragraph (b)(1) consistent with the changes described above such that FINRA shall use the consolidated last sale

immediately prior to the execution(s) under review as the Reference Price except for: (A) Multi-Stock Events involving twenty or more securities, as described in proposed paragraph (b)(2); (B) transactions not involving a Multi-Stock Event as described in proposed paragraph (b)(2) that trigger a trading pause and subsequent transactions, as described in proposed paragraph (b)(4), in which case the Reference Price shall be determined in accordance with that paragraph (b)(4); and (C) in other circumstances, such as, for example, relevant news impacting a security or securities, periods of extreme market volatility, sustained illiquidity, or widespread system issues, where use of a different Reference Price is necessary for the maintenance of a fair and orderly market and the protection of investors and the public interest. FINRA also proposes modifying paragraph (b)(1) to reduce uncertainty as to the applicability of the Numerical Guidelines, by requiring a finding that an execution was clearly erroneous if such execution exceeds the Numerical Guidelines, subject only to the Additional Factors included in paragraph (b)(3). Moreover, FINRA proposes revising the existing description for Multi-Stock Events that is contained on the Numerical Guidelines chart to make clear that different Numerical Guidelines apply for Multi-Stock Events involving five or more, but less than twenty, securities whose executions occurred within a period of five minutes or less. In addition, FINRA proposes adding to the Numerical Guidelines chart a row that contains the Numerical Guidelines (30%) for Multi-Stock Events involving twenty or more securities whose executions occurred within a period of five minutes or less.

FINRA proposes clarifying paragraph (b)(3) to make clear that the additional factors set forth in that paragraph are not intended to provide any discretion to a FINRA official to deviate from the guidelines that apply to Multi-Stock Events or to transactions

in securities subject to individual stock trading pauses. FINRA also is combining paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) into one paragraph to provide that paragraph (b) governs the review of all transactions reported to a FINRA trade reporting system, whether or not there are similarly situated transactions in the security on a national securities exchange. Existing paragraph (a)(3) of the Rule will be renumbered as (a)(2).

Consistent with the exchanges, FINRA is proposing that the provisions of this proposed rule change shall be in effect during a pilot period set to end on December 10, 2010. If the pilot is not extended or approved as permanent by December 10, 2010, the prior version of this Rule shall be in effect.

As noted in Item 2 of this filing, FINRA has requested that the Commission approve the proposed rule change on an accelerated basis, so that it may become operative as soon as possible based on the fact that the proposed trading pause rules adopted by FINRA and several national securities exchanges have now become fully operative subject to the initial pilot program.

#### (b) Statutory Basis

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act,<sup>3</sup> 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 believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the clearly erroneous rules of other SROs and will promote the goal of transparency and uniformity across markets concerning reviews of potentially clearly erroneous executions in various

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

contexts, including reviews in the context of a Multi-Stock Event involving twenty or more securities and reviews resulting from a Trigger Trade and any executions occurring immediately after a Trigger Trade but before a trading halt is in effect for transactions otherwise than on an exchange. Further, FINRA believes that the proposed changes enhance the objectivity of decisions made by FINRA with respect to clearly erroneous executions.

#### 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> Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

#### 6. Extension of Time Period for Commission Action

FINRA does not consent at this time to an extension of the time period for Commission action specified in Section 19(b)(2) of the Act.<sup>4</sup>

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

FINRA requests that the Commission approve the proposed rule change on an accelerated basis pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act<sup>5</sup> so that it may become operative on a pilot basis as soon as possible based on the fact that the proposed trading pause rules are now fully operative subject to the initial trading pause pilot for individual stocks.

<sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

Because similar rule filings are being proposed by SROs, FINRA believes that this amendment will increase transparency and uniformity regarding clearly erroneous execution reviews of Multi-Stock Events involving twenty or more securities or following trading pauses issued by the primary listing markets. In particular, FINRA is proposing to adopt this rule filing to address the impact of sudden price declines that the market experienced on the afternoon of May 6, 2010. As such, FINRA does not believe that the proposal should be delayed, pending a brief implementation period for the markets, so that it may become operative on an accelerated basis.

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

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-2010-032)

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change to Amend FINRA Rule 11892 (Clearly Erroneous Transactions in Exchange-Listed Securities)

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on June 17, 2010, 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. 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 11892 (Clearly Erroneous Transactions in Exchange-Listed Securities).

The text of the proposed rule change is available on FINRA's Web site at <a href="http://www.finra.org">http://www.finra.org</a>, at the principal office of FINRA and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

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

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

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 is proposing modifications to its Rule 11892, entitled Clearly Erroneous Transactions in Exchange-Listed Securities ("the Rule"). First, FINRA proposes replacing existing paragraph (b)(2) of the Rule, entitled "Alternative Reference Prices" with a new paragraph, entitled "Multi-Stock Events Involving Twenty or More Securities." Second, FINRA is replacing existing paragraph (b)(4) of the Rule, entitled "Numerical Guidelines Applicable to Volatile Market Opens" with a new paragraph, entitled "Individual Stock Trading Pauses." Third, FINRA is combining paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) into one paragraph to provide that paragraph (b) governs the review of all transactions reported to a FINRA trade reporting system, whether or not there are similarly situated transactions in the security on a national securities exchange. Finally, FINRA proposes modifications to paragraphs (b)(1) and (b)(3) of the Rule consistent with the proposed changes to paragraphs (b)(2) and (b)(4). The provisions of this proposed rule change shall be in effect during a pilot period set to end on December 10, 2010, the

prior version of this Rule shall be in effect.

FINRA is proposing the rule changes described herein in consultation with other self-regulatory organizations ("SROs") and Commission staff to provide for uniform treatment: (1) of clearly erroneous execution reviews in Multi-Stock Events involving twenty or more securities; and (2) in the event transactions occur that result in the issuance of an individual stock trading pause by the primary listing market and subsequent transactions that occur before the trading pause is in effect for transactions otherwise than on an exchange. FINRA also has proposed additional changes to the Rule that reduce the ability of FINRA to deviate from the objective standards set forth in the Rule. The proposed changes are described in further detail below.

### Revised Paragraph (b)(2) Related to Multi-Stock Events Involving Twenty or More Securities

FINRA proposes to eliminate the text of existing paragraph (b)(2), which provides flexibility to FINRA to use different Numerical Guidelines or Reference Prices in various "Unusual Circumstances." FINRA proposes to replace the text of this paragraph with new language that would apply to Multi-Stock Events involving twenty or more securities whose executions occurred within a period of five minutes or less. The revised paragraph would provide that during Multi-Stock Events involving twenty or more securities the number of affected transactions may be such that immediate finality is necessary to maintain a fair and orderly market and to protect investors and the public interest. Accordingly, as set forth in paragraph (a)(2), in such circumstances, decisions made by FINRA in consultation with the markets could not be appealed. Further, as proposed, in connection with reviews of Multi-Stock Events involving twenty or more securities, FINRA may use a Reference Price other than consolidated last sale in its

review of potentially clearly erroneous executions. With the exception of those securities under review that are subject to an individual stock trading pause as described in proposed paragraph (b)(4), and to ensure consistent application across market centers when proposed paragraph (b)(2) is invoked, FINRA will promptly coordinate with the other market centers to determine the appropriate review period, which may be greater than the period of five minutes or less that triggered application of proposed paragraph (b)(2), as well as select one or more specific points in time prior to the transactions in question and use transaction prices at or immediately prior to the one or more specific points in time selected as the Reference Price. FINRA will nullify as clearly erroneous all transactions that are at prices equal to or greater than 30% away from the Reference Price in each affected security during the review period selected by FINRA and the markets consistent with the proposed paragraph (b)(2).

Because FINRA and the market centers are adopting a different threshold and standards to handle large-scale market events, which would include events occurring during times of high volatility at the beginning of regular trading hours, FINRA proposes deletion of paragraph (b)(4) ("Numerical Guidelines Applicable to Volatile Market Opens") of the existing rule. FINRA believes that this provision is no longer necessary, and if maintained, could result in extremely high Numerical Guidelines (up to 90%) in certain circumstances.

#### Revised Paragraph (b)(4) Related to Individual Stock Trading Pauses

Several SROs recently amended their rules so that they may, from time to time, issue a trading pause for an individual security if the price of such security moves 10% or more from a sale in a preceding five-minute period. In this regard, the SEC recently

approved a proposed rule change by FINRA to halt trading in an individual stock when the primary listing market for such stock issues a trading pause in any security under its rules.<sup>3</sup> As described above, FINRA is proposing to eliminate existing paragraph (b)(4) ("Numerical Guidelines Applicable to Volatile Market Opens"). FINRA proposes adopting a provision, numbered as paragraph (b)(4) following such elimination, which will provide for uniform treatment of clearly erroneous execution reviews in the event transactions occur that result in the issuance of an individual stock trading pause by the primary listing market and subsequent transactions that occur before the trading pause is in effect for transactions otherwise than on an exchange. The proposed rule change is necessary to provide greater certainty of the clearly erroneous Reference Price for transactions that trigger a trading pause (the "Trigger Trade") and subsequent transactions occurring between the time of the Trigger Trade and the time the trading pause message is received by FINRA from the single plan processor responsible for consolidation and dissemination of information for the security and put into effect by FINRA for transactions otherwise than on an exchange, especially under highly volatile and active market conditions.

FINRA proposes to use the price that triggered a trading pause in an individual stock (the "Trading Pause Trigger Price") as the Reference Price for clearly erroneous execution reviews of a Trigger Trade and transactions that occur immediately after a Trigger Trade but before a trading halt is in effect for transactions otherwise than on an exchange. As proposed, the phrase "Trading Pause Trigger Price" shall mean the price that triggered a trading pause on a primary listing market. The Trading Pause Trigger

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 62251 (June 10, 2010), 75 FR 34183 (June 16, 2010) (Order Approving File No. SR-FINRA-2010-025).

Price reflects a price calculated by the primary listing market over a rolling five-minute period and may differ from the execution price of a transaction that triggered a trading pause. FINRA will rely on the primary listing market that issued an individual stock trading pause to determine and communicate the Trading Pause Trigger Price for such stock. FINRA proposes to make clear in the text that the proposed standards in paragraph (b)(4) apply regardless of whether the security at issue is part of a Multi-Stock Event involving five or more securities as described in proposed paragraphs (b)(1) and (b)(2).

As proposed, the Numerical Guidelines set forth in paragraph (b)(1) of the Rule, other than those Numerical Guidelines applicable to Multi-Stock Events, would apply to reviews of Trigger Trades and subsequent transactions. FINRA proposes to review all transactions that trigger a trading pause and subsequent transactions occurring before the trading pause is in effect for transactions otherwise than on an exchange. Where a trading pause was triggered by a price decline (rise), FINRA shall deem as clearly erroneous all such transactions that occurred at a price lower (higher) than the Trading Pause Trigger Price. Because the proposed rules for trading pauses would only apply within Regular Trading Hours, an execution would be reviewed and nullified as clearly erroneous as follows:

Reference Price or Product	Numerical Guidelines (Subject
	transaction's % difference from
	the Trading Pause Trigger Price):
Greater than \$0.00 up to and	10%
including \$25.00	
Greater than \$25.00 up to and	5%

including \$50.00	
Greater than \$50.00	3%
Leveraged ETF/ETN securities	Regular Trading Hours Numerical
	Guidelines multiplied by the
	leverage multiplier (i.e. 2x)

Trades occurring after a trading halt is in effect may be deemed in violation of FINRA Rule 5260 (Prohibition on Transactions, Publication of Quotations, or Publication of Indications of Interest During Trading Halts) and will be deemed clearly erroneous.

FINRA reminds members that they must have policies and procedures in place that are reasonably designed to ensure that, among other things, members promptly cease effecting transactions during a halt as required by FINRA Rule 5260.

#### Additional Conforming Revisions to Paragraphs (b)(1) and (b)(3)

Based on proposed paragraph (b)(2), FINRA has proposed certain conforming changes to paragraphs (b)(1) and (b)(3) of the existing Rule, as described below.

Under current FINRA Rule 11892, a transaction may be found to be clearly erroneous only if the price of the transaction to buy (sell) that is the subject of the complaint is greater than (less than) the Reference Price by an amount that equals or exceeds the Numerical Guidelines set forth in paragraph (b)(1) of the Rule. The "Reference Price" is currently defined as the consolidated last sale immediately prior to the execution(s) under review except for in Unusual Circumstances as described in paragraph (b)(2) of the Rule. FINRA proposes modifying paragraph (b)(1) consistent with the changes described above such that FINRA shall use the consolidated last sale

immediately prior to the execution(s) under review as the Reference Price except for: (A) Multi-Stock Events involving twenty or more securities, as described in proposed paragraph (b)(2); (B) transactions not involving a Multi-Stock Event as described in proposed paragraph (b)(2) that trigger a trading pause and subsequent transactions, as described in proposed paragraph (b)(4), in which case the Reference Price shall be determined in accordance with that paragraph (b)(4); and (C) in other circumstances, such as, for example, relevant news impacting a security or securities, periods of extreme market volatility, sustained illiquidity, or widespread system issues, where use of a different Reference Price is necessary for the maintenance of a fair and orderly market and the protection of investors and the public interest. FINRA also proposes modifying paragraph (b)(1) to reduce uncertainty as to the applicability of the Numerical Guidelines, by requiring a finding that an execution was clearly erroneous if such execution exceeds the Numerical Guidelines, subject only to the Additional Factors included in paragraph (b)(3). Moreover, FINRA proposes revising the existing description for Multi-Stock Events that is contained on the Numerical Guidelines chart to make clear that different Numerical Guidelines apply for Multi-Stock Events involving five or more, but less than twenty, securities whose executions occurred within a period of five minutes or less. In addition, FINRA proposes adding to the Numerical Guidelines chart a row that contains the Numerical Guidelines (30%) for Multi-Stock Events involving twenty or more securities whose executions occurred within a period of five minutes or less.

FINRA proposes clarifying paragraph (b)(3) to make clear that the additional factors set forth in that paragraph are not intended to provide any discretion to a FINRA official to deviate from the guidelines that apply to Multi-Stock Events or to transactions

in securities subject to individual stock trading pauses. FINRA also is combining paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) into one paragraph to provide that paragraph (b) governs the review of all transactions reported to a FINRA trade reporting system, whether or not there are similarly situated transactions in the security on a national securities exchange. Existing paragraph (a)(3) of the Rule will be renumbered as (a)(2).

Consistent with the exchanges, FINRA is proposing that the provisions of this proposed rule change shall be in effect during a pilot period set to end on December 10, 2010. If the pilot is not extended or approved as permanent by December 10, 2010, the prior version of this Rule shall be in effect.

FINRA has requested that the Commission approve the proposed rule change on an accelerated basis, so that it may become operative as soon as possible based on the fact that the proposed trading pause rules adopted by FINRA and several national securities exchanges have now become fully operative subject to the initial pilot program.

#### 2. Statutory Basis

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act,<sup>4</sup> 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 believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the clearly erroneous rules of other SROs and will promote the goal of transparency and uniformity across markets concerning reviews of potentially clearly erroneous executions in various contexts, including reviews in the context of a Multi-Stock Event involving twenty or

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. 780–3(b)(6).

more securities and reviews resulting from a Trigger Trade and any executions occurring immediately after a Trigger Trade but before a trading halt is in effect for transactions otherwise than on an exchange. Further, FINRA believes that the proposed changes enhance the objectivity of decisions made by FINRA with respect to clearly erroneous executions.

- 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 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

Within 35 days of the date of publication of this notice in the <u>Federal Register</u> or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

- (A) by order approve such proposed rule change, or
- (B) institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be 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 <a href="mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov">rule-comments@sec.gov</a>. Please include File Number SR-FINRA-2010-032 on the subject line.

#### Paper Comments:

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

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FINRA-2010-032. 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 Web site 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

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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-2010-032 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>5</sup>

Florence E. Harmon

**Deputy Secretary** 

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).