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

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

### 1. Text of the Proposed Rule Change

(a) Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC ("NASDAQ" or "Exchange") is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") a proposed rule change to modify Chapter XV, entitled "Options Pricing," at Section 2 governing pricing for NASDAQ members using the NASDAQ Options Market ("NOM"), NASDAQ's facility for executing and routing standardized equity and index options. Specifically, NOM proposes to amend certain NOM Market Maker<sup>3</sup> Rebates to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options.<sup>4</sup>

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

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

The term "NOM Market Maker" is a Participant that has registered as a Market Maker on NOM pursuant to Chapter VII, Section 2, and must also remain in good standing pursuant to Chapter VII, Section 4. In order to receive NOM Market Maker pricing in all securities, the Participant must be registered as a NOM Market Maker in at least one security.

<sup>4</sup> The Penny Pilot was established in March 2008 and in October 2009 was expanded and extended through December 31, 2013. See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 57579 (March 28, 2008), 73 FR 18587 (April 4, 2008) (SR-NASDAQ-2008-026) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness establishing Penny Pilot); 60874 (October 23, 2009), 74 FR 56682 (November 2, 2009)(SR-NASDAQ-2009-091) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness expanding and extending Penny Pilot); 60965 (November 9, 2009), 74 FR 59292 (November 17, 2009)(SR-NASDAQ-2009-097) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness adding seventy-five classes to Penny Pilot); 61455 (February 1, 2010), 75 FR 6239 (February 8, 2010) (SR-NASDAO-2010-013) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness adding seventy-five classes to Penny Pilot); 62029 (May 4, 2010), 75 FR 25895 (May 10, 2010) (SR-NASDAQ-2010-053) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness adding seventy-five classes to Penny Pilot); 65969 (December 15, 2011), 76 FR 79268 (December 21, 2011) (SR-NASDAQ-2011-169) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness extension and replacement of Penny Pilot); 67325 (June 29, 2012), 77 FR 40127 (July 6, 2012) (SR-NASDAO-2012-075) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness and extension and

A notice of the proposed rule change for publication in the <u>Federal Register</u> is attached hereto as <u>Exhibit 1</u> and a copy of the applicable portion of the rule text is attached hereto as <u>Exhibit 5</u>.

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

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

The proposed rule change was approved by senior management of NASDAQ pursuant to authority delegated by the Board of Directors of NASDAQ on July 17, 2013. NASDAQ staff will advise the Board of Directors of NASDAQ of any action taken pursuant to delegated authority. No other action by NASDAQ is necessary for the filing of the rule change.

Questions regarding this rule filing may be directed to Angela Saccomandi Dunn, Associate General Counsel, at (215) 496-5692.

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

#### a. Purpose

NASDAQ proposes to modify Chapter XV, entitled "Options Pricing," at Section 2(1) governing the rebates and fees assessed for option orders entered into NOM. The Exchange proposes to amend the NOM Market Maker Penny Pilot Options Rebates to Add Liquidity. The Exchange believes the amendments will attract greater liquidity to the Exchange.

replacement of Penny Pilot through December 31, 2012); 68519 (December 21, 2012), 78 FR 136 (January 2, 2013) (SR-NASDAQ-2012-143) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness and extension and replacement of Penny Pilot through June 30, 2013); and 69787 (June 18, 2013), 78 FR 37858 (June 24, 2013) (SR-NASDAQ-2013-082). See also NOM Rules, Chapter VI, Section 5.

Today, the Exchange offers a four-tiered Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options to NOM Market Makers as follows:

Monthly Volume		Rebate to Add Liquidity		
Tier 1	Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of up to 39,999 contracts per day in a month	\$0.25		
Tier 2	Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of 40,000 to 69,999 contracts per day in a month	\$0.30		
Tier 3	Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of 70,000 to 99,999 contracts per day in a month	\$0.32		
Tier 4	Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of 100,000 or more contracts per day in a month	\$0.32 or \$0.38 in the following symbols BAC, GLD, IWM, QQQ and VXX or \$0.40 in SPY		

The Exchange proposes to lower the volume requirements on all NOM Market Maker Rebate to Add Liquidity Penny Pilot Option tiers. Tier 1 currently pays a \$0.25 per contract rebate to Participants that add NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of up to 39,999 contracts per day in a month. With respect to Tier 1, the Exchange will continue to pay a \$0.25 per contract rebate to a Participant provided the Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of up to 29,999 contracts per day in a month. Tier 2 currently pays a \$0.30 per contract rebate to Participants that add NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of 40,000 to 69,999 contracts per day in a month. With respect to Tier 2, the Exchange will continue

to pay a \$0.30 per contract rebate to a Participant provided the Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of 30,000 to 59,999 contracts per day in a month. Tier 3 currently pays a \$0.32 per contract rebate to Participants that add NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of 70,000 to 99,999 contracts per day in a month. With respect to Tier 3, the Exchange will continue to pay a \$0.32 per contract rebate to a Participant provided the Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of 60,000 to 79,999 contracts per day in a month. Tier 4 currently pays a \$0.32 or \$0.38 per contract rebate in BAC, GLD, IWN, QQQ and VXX and a \$0.40 per contract in SPY to Participants that add NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of 100,000 or more contracts per day in a month. With respect to Tier 4, the Exchange will continue to pay a a \$0.32 or \$0.38 per contract rebate in BAC, GLD, IWN, QQQ and VXX and a \$0.40 per contract in SPY to a Participant provided the Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of 80,000 or more contracts per day in a month.

The Exchange believes that these amendments to the NOM Market Maker Rebate to Add Liquidity tiers will continue to incentivize NOM Market Makers to post liquidity on the Exchange.

#### b. Statutory Basis

NASDAQ believes that its proposal to amend its Pricing Schedule is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act<sup>5</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(4) and (b)(5) of the Act<sup>6</sup> in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>6 15</sup> U.S.C. 78f(b)(4), (5).

reasonable dues, fees and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility or system which NASDAQ operates or controls, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Exchange's proposal to lower the volume requirements on the NOM Market Maker Penny Pilot Options Rebates to Add Liquidity tiers is reasonable because it should incentivize NOM Market Makers to post liquidity on NOM. Also, the lower volume tiers should allow a greater number of Participants to qualify for NOM Market Maker rebates. The Exchange is lowering the volume on each of the rebate tiers so that Participants who currently qualify for certain NOM Market Maker rebate tiers may be able to qualify for higher rebates. In addition, Participants who did not qualify for a NOM Market Maker rebate may now be able to qualify for the Tier 1 rebate. The Exchange believes that offering NOM Market Makers the opportunity to earn higher rebates, by qualifying for higher rebate tiers, is reasonable because by incentivizing NOM Market Makers to post liquidity on NOM will also benefit participants through increased order interaction.

The Exchange's proposal to lower the volume requirements on the NOM Market Maker Penny Pilot Options Rebates to Add Liquidity tiers is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because this amendment will be applied to all Participants in a uniform matter. In addition, Participants should continue to qualify for the rebates that they currently receive and may earn increased rebates by qualifying for a higher volume tier. For example, a Participant that currently qualifies for a Tier 2 rebate by transacting 60,000 contracts per day in a month may now qualify for a Tier 3 rebate and earn the \$0.32 per contract rebate provided the Participant continues to transact that volume.

NOM Market Makers are valuable market participants that provide liquidity in the marketplace and incur costs unlike other market participants. The Exchange believes that NOM Market Makers should be offered the opportunity to earn higher rebates as compared to Non-NOM Market Makers, Firms and Broker Dealers because NOM Market Makers add value through continuous quoting<sup>7</sup> and the commitment of capital. The Exchange believes that encouraging NOM Market Makers to be more aggressive when posting liquidity benefits all market participants through increased liquidity. The Exchange also believes that lowering the volume on the various NOM Market Maker rebate tiers is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because it does not misalign the current rebate structure because NOM Market Makers will continue to earn higher rebates as compared to Firms, Non-NOM Market Makers and Broker-Dealers and will earn the same or lower rebates as compared to Customers and Professionals.<sup>8</sup>

The Exchange believes that continuing to offer NOM Market Makers the

Pursuant to Chapter VII (Market Participants), Section 5 (Obligations of Market Makers), in registering as a market maker, an Options Participant commits himself to various obligations. Transactions of a Market Maker in its market making capacity must constitute a course of dealings reasonably calculated to contribute to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market, and Market Makers should not make bids or offers or enter into transactions that are inconsistent with such course of dealings. Further, all Market Makers are designated as specialists on NOM for all purposes under the Act or rules thereunder. See Chapter VII, Section 5.

The Tier 1 NOM Market Maker Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options is the same rebate as the Tier 1 Customer and Professional rebate in Penny Pilot Options. The Exchange pays the highest Tier 1 Rebates to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of \$0.25 per contract to Customers, Professionals and NOM Market Makers for transacting one qualifying contract as compared to other market participants. Firms, Non-NOM Market Makers and Broker-Dealers receive a \$0.10 per contract Penny Pilot Option Rebate to Add Liquidity. In addition, Participant that adds Firm, Non-NOM Market Maker or Broker-Dealer liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options of 15,000 contracts per day or more in a given month will receive a Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of \$0.20 per contract.

opportunity to receive higher rebates as compared to Firms, Non-NOM Market Makers and Broker-Dealers is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because all NOM Market Makers may qualify for the NOM Market Maker rebate tiers and every NOM Market Maker is entitled to a rebate solely by adding one contract of NOM Market Maker liquidity on NOM. Also, as mentioned, the NOM Market Maker would receive the same rebate in Tier 1 as compared Customers and Professionals and a higher rebate in all other tiers as compared to a Firm, Non-NOM Market Maker or Broker-Dealer because of the obligations<sup>9</sup> borne by NOM Market Makers as compared to other market participants. Encouraging NOM Market Makers to add greater liquidity benefits all Participants in the quality of order interaction. The Exchange believes that Customers are entitled to higher rebates because Customer order flow brings unique benefits to the market through increased liquidity which benefits all market participants. The Exchange believes that offering Professionals the opportunity to earn the same rebates as Customers, as is the case today, and higher rebates as compared to Firms, Broker-Dealers and Non-NOM Market Makers, and in some cases NOM Market Makers, is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the Exchange does not believe that the amount of the rebate offered by the Exchange has a material impact on a Participant's ability to execute orders in Penny Pilot Options. By offering Professionals, as well as Customers, higher rebates, the Exchange hopes to simply remain competitive with other venues so that it remains a choice for market participants when posting orders and the result may be additional Professional order flow for the Exchange, in addition to increased Customer order flow. A Participant may not be able to gauge the exact rebate tier it would qualify for until the

See note 7.

end of the month because Professional volume would be commingled with Customer volume in calculating tier volume. A Professional could only otherwise presume the Tier 1 rebate would be achieved in a month when determining price. Further, the Exchange initially established Professional pricing in order to "...bring additional revenue to the Exchange." The Exchange noted in the Professional Filing that it believes "...that the increased revenue from the proposal would assist the Exchange to recoup fixed costs." The Exchange also noted in that filing that it believes that establishing separate pricing for a Professional, which ranges between that of a customer and market maker, accomplishes this objective. The Exchange does not believe that providing Professionals with the opportunity to obtain higher rebates equivalent to that of a

Customer and Professional volume is aggregated for purposes of determining which rebate tier a Participant qualifies for with respect to the Professional Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options.

A Professional would be unable to determine the exact rebate that would be paid on a transaction by transaction basis with certainty until the end of a given month when all Customer and Professional volume is aggregated for purposes of determining which tier the Participant qualified for in a given month.

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 64494 (May 13, 2011), 76 FR 29014 (May 19, 2011) (SR-NASDAQ-2011-066) ("Professional Filing"). In this filing, the Exchange addressed the perceived favorable pricing of Professionals who were assessed fees and paid rebates like a Customer prior to the filing. The Exchange noted in that filing that a Professional, unlike a retail Customer, has access to sophisticated trading systems that contain functionality not available to retail Customers.

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 64494 (May 13, 2011), 76 FR 29014 (May 19, 2011) (SR-NASDAQ-2011-066).

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 64494 (May 13, 2011), 76 FR 29014 (May 19, 2011) (SR-NASDAQ-2011-066). The Exchange noted in this filing that it believes the role of the retail customer in the marketplace is distinct from that of the professional and the Exchange's fee proposal at that time accounted for this distinction by pricing each market participant according to their roles and obligations.

Customer creates a competitive environment where Professionals would be necessarily advantaged on NOM as compared to NOM Market Makers, Firms, Broker-Dealers or Non-NOM Market Makers. Also, a Professional is assessed the same fees as other market participants, except Customers.<sup>15</sup> For these reasons, the Exchange believes that continuing to offer Professionals the same rebates as Customers is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory.

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

NASDAQ does not believe that the proposed rule changes will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended. The Exchange believes that incentivizing NOM Market Makers to post liquidity on NOM benefits market participants through increased order interaction. Also, NOM Market Makers have obligations to the market which are not borne by other market participants and therefore the Exchange believes that NOM Market Makers are entitled to such higher rebates. Lowering the volume requirements on the various NOM Market Maker rebate tiers in Penny Pilot Options should further encourage NOM Market Makers to post liquidity on NOM.

The proposed amendments does not misalign the current rebate structure because NOM Market Makers will continue to earn higher rebates as compared to Firms, Non-NOM Market Makers and Broker-Dealers and will earn the same or lower rebates as compared to Customers and Professionals. The Exchange believes the differing outcomes, rebates and fees created by the Exchange's proposed pricing incentives

The Fee for Removing Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options is \$0.48 per contract for all market participants, except Customers who are assessed \$0.45 per contract.

See note 7.

contributes to the overall health of the market place for the benefit of all Participants that willing choose to transact options on NOM. For the reasons specified herein, the Exchange does not believe this proposal creates an undue burden on competition.

The Exchange operates in a highly competitive market comprised of twelve U.S. options exchanges in which many sophisticated and knowledgeable market participants can readily and do send order flow to competing exchanges if they deem fee levels or rebate incentives at a particular exchange to be excessive or inadequate. These market forces support the Exchange belief that the proposed rebate structure and tiers proposed herein are competitive with rebates and tiers in place on other exchanges. The Exchange believes that this competitive marketplace continues to impact the rebates present on the Exchange today and substantially influences the proposals set forth above.

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

No written comments were either solicited or received.

- 6. <u>Extension of Time Period for Commission Action</u>
  - Not applicable.
- 7. <u>Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)</u>

The foregoing proposed rule change establishes or changes a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the self-regulatory organization on any person, whether or not the person is a member of the self-regulatory organization pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>15</sup> U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

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

Not applicable.

9. <u>Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act</u>

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

## 11. Exhibits

- 1. Notice of proposed rule for publication in the Federal Register.
- 5. Applicable portion of the Exchange's rule text.

#### Exhibit 1

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. ; File No. SR-NASDAQ-2013-141)

November \_\_\_, 2013

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Relating to NOM Market Maker Penny Pilot Options Rebate to Add Liquidity

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"), and Rule 19b-4 thereunder, notice is hereby given that on November 13, 2013, The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC ("NASDAQ" or "Exchange") 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 NASDAQ. 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>

NASDAQ proposes to modify Chapter XV, entitled "Options Pricing," at Section 2 governing pricing for NASDAQ members using the NASDAQ Options Market ("NOM"), NASDAQ's facility for executing and routing standardized equity and index options. Specifically, NOM proposes to amend certain NOM Market Maker<sup>3</sup> Rebates to

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

The term "NOM Market Maker" is a Participant that has registered as a

Market Maker on NOM pursuant to Chapter VII, Section 2, and must also remain in good standing pursuant to Chapter VII, Section 4. In order to receive NOM

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

Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options.<sup>4</sup>

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's Website at <a href="http://www.nasdaq.cchwallstreet.com">http://www.nasdaq.cchwallstreet.com</a>, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

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

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

Market Maker pricing in all securities, the Participant must be registered as a NOM Market Maker in at least one security.

4 The Penny Pilot was established in March 2008 and in October 2009 was expanded and extended through December 31, 2013. See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 57579 (March 28, 2008), 73 FR 18587 (April 4, 2008) (SR-NASDAQ-2008-026) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness establishing Penny Pilot); 60874 (October 23, 2009), 74 FR 56682 (November 2, 2009)(SR-NASDAQ-2009-091) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness expanding and extending Penny Pilot); 60965 (November 9, 2009), 74 FR 59292 (November 17, 2009)(SR-NASDAQ-2009-097) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness adding seventy-five classes to Penny Pilot); 61455 (February 1, 2010), 75 FR 6239 (February 8, 2010) (SR-NASDAQ-2010-013) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness adding seventy-five classes to Penny Pilot); 62029 (May 4, 2010), 75 FR 25895 (May 10, 2010) (SR-NASDAQ-2010-053) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness adding seventy-five classes to Penny Pilot); 65969 (December 15, 2011), 76 FR 79268 (December 21, 2011) (SR-NASDAQ-2011-169) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness extension and replacement of Penny Pilot); 67325 (June 29, 2012), 77 FR 40127 (July 6, 2012) (SR-NASDAQ-2012-075) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness and extension and replacement of Penny Pilot through December 31, 2012); 68519 (December 21, 2012), 78 FR 136 (January 2, 2013) (SR-NASDAQ-2012-143) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness and extension and replacement of Penny Pilot through June 30, 2013); and 69787 (June 18, 2013), 78 FR 37858 (June 24, 2013) (SR-NASDAQ-2013-082). See also NOM Rules, Chapter VI, Section 5.

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

#### 1. Purpose

NASDAQ proposes to modify Chapter XV, entitled "Options Pricing," at Section 2(1) governing the rebates and fees assessed for option orders entered into NOM. The Exchange proposes to amend the NOM Market Maker Penny Pilot Options Rebates to Add Liquidity. The Exchange believes the amendments will attract greater liquidity to the Exchange.

Today, the Exchange offers a four-tiered Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options to NOM Market Makers as follows:

Monthly Volume		Rebate to Add Liquidity	
Tier 1	Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of up to 39,999 contracts per day in a month	\$0.25	
Tier 2	Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of 40,000 to 69,999 contracts per day in a month	\$0.30	
Tier 3	Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of 70,000 to 99,999 contracts per day in a month	\$0.32	
Tier 4	Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of 100,000 or more contracts per day in a month	\$0.32 or \$0.38 in the following symbols BAC, GLD, IWM, QQQ and VXX or \$0.40 in SPY	

The Exchange proposes to lower the volume requirements on all NOM Market Maker Rebate to Add Liquidity Penny Pilot Option tiers. Tier 1 currently pays a \$0.25

per contract rebate to Participants that add NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of up to 39,999 contracts per day in a month. With respect to Tier 1, the Exchange will continue to pay a \$0.25 per contract rebate to a Participant provided the Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of up to 29,999 contracts per day in a month. Tier 2 currently pays a \$0.30 per contract rebate to Participants that add NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of 40,000 to 69,999 contracts per day in a month. With respect to Tier 2, the Exchange will continue to pay a \$0.30 per contract rebate to a Participant provided the Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of 30,000 to 59,999 contracts per day in a month. Tier 3 currently pays a \$0.32 per contract rebate to Participants that add NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of 70,000 to 99,999 contracts per day in a month. With respect to Tier 3, the Exchange will continue to pay a \$0.32 per contract rebate to a Participant provided the Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of 60,000 to 79,999 contracts per day in a month. Tier 4 currently pays a \$0.32 or \$0.38 per contract rebate in BAC, GLD, IWN, QQQ and VXX and a \$0.40 per contract in SPY to Participants that add NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of 100,000 or more contracts per day in a month. With respect to Tier 4, the Exchange will continue to pay a a \$0.32 or \$0.38 per contract rebate in BAC, GLD, IWN, QQQ and VXX and a \$0.40 per contract in SPY to a Participant provided the Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of 80,000 or more contracts per day in a month.

The Exchange believes that these amendments to the NOM Market Maker Rebate to Add Liquidity tiers will continue to incentivize NOM Market Makers to post liquidity on the Exchange.

#### 2. Statutory Basis

NASDAQ believes that its proposal to amend its Pricing Schedule is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act<sup>5</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(4) and (b)(5) of the Act<sup>6</sup> in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility or system which NASDAQ operates or controls, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Exchange's proposal to lower the volume requirements on the NOM Market Maker Penny Pilot Options Rebates to Add Liquidity tiers is reasonable because it should incentivize NOM Market Makers to post liquidity on NOM. Also, the lower volume tiers should allow a greater number of Participants to qualify for NOM Market Maker rebates. The Exchange is lowering the volume on each of the rebate tiers so that Participants who currently qualify for certain NOM Market Maker rebate tiers may be able to qualify for higher rebates. In addition, Participants who did not qualify for a NOM Market Maker rebate may now be able to qualify for the Tier 1 rebate. The Exchange believes that offering NOM Market Makers the opportunity to earn higher rebates, by qualifying for higher rebate tiers, is reasonable because by incentivizing NOM Market Makers to post liquidity on NOM will also benefit participants through increased

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4), (5).

Section 5.

order interaction.

The Exchange's proposal to lower the volume requirements on the NOM Market Maker Penny Pilot Options Rebates to Add Liquidity tiers is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because this amendment will be applied to all Participants in a uniform matter. In addition, Participants should continue to qualify for the rebates that they currently receive and may earn increased rebates by qualifying for a higher volume tier. For example, a Participant that currently qualifies for a Tier 2 rebate by transacting 60,000 contracts per day in a month may now qualify for a Tier 3 rebate and earn the \$0.32 per contract rebate provided the Participant continues to transact that volume. NOM Market Makers are valuable market participants that provide liquidity in the marketplace and incur costs unlike other market participants. The Exchange believes that NOM Market Makers should be offered the opportunity to earn higher rebates as compared to Non-NOM Market Makers, Firms and Broker Dealers because NOM Market Makers add value through continuous quoting<sup>7</sup> and the commitment of capital. The Exchange believes that encouraging NOM Market Makers to be more aggressive when posting liquidity benefits all market participants through increased liquidity. The Exchange also believes that lowering the volume on the various NOM Market Maker rebate tiers is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because it does not misalign the

Pursuant to Chapter VII (Market Participants), Section 5 (Obligations of Market Makers), in registering as a market maker, an Options Participant commits himself to various obligations. Transactions of a Market Maker in its market making capacity must constitute a course of dealings reasonably calculated to contribute to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market, and Market Makers should not make bids or offers or enter into transactions that are inconsistent with such course of dealings. Further, all Market Makers are designated as specialists on NOM for all purposes under the Act or rules thereunder. See Chapter VII,

current rebate structure because NOM Market Makers will continue to earn higher rebates as compared to Firms, Non-NOM Market Makers and Broker-Dealers and will earn the same or lower rebates as compared to Customers and Professionals.<sup>8</sup>

The Exchange believes that continuing to offer NOM Market Makers the opportunity to receive higher rebates as compared to Firms, Non-NOM Market Makers and Broker-Dealers is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because all NOM Market Makers may qualify for the NOM Market Maker rebate tiers and every NOM Market Maker is entitled to a rebate solely by adding one contract of NOM Market Maker liquidity on NOM. Also, as mentioned, the NOM Market Maker would receive the same rebate in Tier 1 as compared Customers and Professionals and a higher rebate in all other tiers as compared to a Firm, Non-NOM Market Maker or Broker-Dealer because of the obligations object by NOM Market Makers as compared to other market participants. Encouraging NOM Market Makers to add greater liquidity benefits all Participants in the quality of order interaction. The Exchange believes that Customers are entitled to higher rebates because Customer order flow brings unique benefits to the market through increased liquidity which benefits all market participants. The Exchange believes that

The Tier 1 NOM Market Maker Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options is the same rebate as the Tier 1 Customer and Professional rebate in Penny Pilot Options. The Exchange pays the highest Tier 1 Rebates to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of \$0.25 per contract to Customers, Professionals and NOM Market Makers for transacting one qualifying contract as compared to other market participants. Firms, Non-NOM Market Makers and Broker-Dealers receive a \$0.10 per contract Penny Pilot Option Rebate to Add Liquidity. In addition, Participant that adds Firm, Non-NOM Market Maker or Broker-Dealer liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options of 15,000 contracts per day or more in a given month will receive a Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of \$0.20 per contract.

See note 7.

offering Professionals the opportunity to earn the same rebates as Customers, as is the case today, and higher rebates as compared to Firms, Broker-Dealers and Non-NOM Market Makers, and in some cases NOM Market Makers, is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the Exchange does not believe that the amount of the rebate offered by the Exchange has a material impact on a Participant's ability to execute orders in Penny Pilot Options. By offering Professionals, as well as Customers, higher rebates, the Exchange hopes to simply remain competitive with other venues so that it remains a choice for market participants when posting orders and the result may be additional Professional order flow for the Exchange, in addition to increased Customer order flow. A Participant may not be able to gauge the exact rebate tier it would qualify for until the end of the month because Professional volume would be commingled with Customer volume in calculating tier volume. 10 A Professional could only otherwise presume the Tier 1 rebate would be achieved in a month when determining price. 11 Further, the Exchange initially established Professional pricing in order to "...bring additional revenue to the Exchange." The Exchange noted in the Professional Filing that it believes "...that

Customer and Professional volume is aggregated for purposes of determining which rebate tier a Participant qualifies for with respect to the Professional Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options.

A Professional would be unable to determine the exact rebate that would be paid on a transaction by transaction basis with certainty until the end of a given month when all Customer and Professional volume is aggregated for purposes of determining which tier the Participant qualified for in a given month.

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 64494 (May 13, 2011), 76 FR 29014 (May 19, 2011) (SR-NASDAQ-2011-066) ("Professional Filing"). In this filing, the Exchange addressed the perceived favorable pricing of Professionals who were assessed fees and paid rebates like a Customer prior to the filing. The Exchange noted in that filing that a Professional, unlike a retail Customer, has access to sophisticated trading systems that contain functionality not available to retail Customers.

the increased revenue from the proposal would assist the Exchange to recoup fixed costs." The Exchange also noted in that filing that it believes that establishing separate pricing for a Professional, which ranges between that of a customer and market maker, accomplishes this objective. The Exchange does not believe that providing Professionals with the opportunity to obtain higher rebates equivalent to that of a Customer creates a competitive environment where Professionals would be necessarily advantaged on NOM as compared to NOM Market Makers, Firms, Broker-Dealers or Non-NOM Market Makers. Also, a Professional is assessed the same fees as other market participants, except Customers. For these reasons, the Exchange believes that continuing to offer Professionals the same rebates as Customers is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory.

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

NASDAQ does not believe that the proposed rule changes will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended. The Exchange believes that incentivizing NOM Market Makers to post liquidity on NOM benefits market participants through increased order

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 64494 (May 13, 2011), 76 FR 29014 (May 19, 2011) (SR-NASDAQ-2011-066).

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 64494 (May 13, 2011), 76 FR 29014 (May 19, 2011) (SR-NASDAQ-2011-066). The Exchange noted in this filing that it believes the role of the retail customer in the marketplace is distinct from that of the professional and the Exchange's fee proposal at that time accounted for this distinction by pricing each market participant according to their roles and obligations.

The Fee for Removing Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options is \$0.48 per contract for all market participants, except Customers who are assessed \$0.45 per contract.

interaction. Also, NOM Market Makers have obligations<sup>16</sup> to the market which are not borne by other market participants and therefore the Exchange believes that NOM Market Makers are entitled to such higher rebates. Lowering the volume requirements on the various NOM Market Maker rebate tiers in Penny Pilot Options should further encourage NOM Market Makers to post liquidity on NOM.

The proposed amendments does not misalign the current rebate structure because NOM Market Makers will continue to earn higher rebates as compared to Firms, Non-NOM Market Makers and Broker-Dealers and will earn the same or lower rebates as compared to Customers and Professionals. The Exchange believes the differing outcomes, rebates and fees created by the Exchange's proposed pricing incentives contributes to the overall health of the market place for the benefit of all Participants that willing choose to transact options on NOM. For the reasons specified herein, the Exchange does not believe this proposal creates an undue burden on competition.

The Exchange operates in a highly competitive market comprised of twelve U.S. options exchanges in which many sophisticated and knowledgeable market participants can readily and do send order flow to competing exchanges if they deem fee levels or rebate incentives at a particular exchange to be excessive or inadequate. These market forces support the Exchange belief that the proposed rebate structure and tiers proposed herein are competitive with rebates and tiers in place on other exchanges. The Exchange believes that this competitive marketplace continues to impact the rebates present on the Exchange today and substantially influences the proposals set forth above.

<sup>16</sup> 

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

No written comments were either solicited or received.

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

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act.<sup>17</sup> At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

#### IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

#### Electronic comments:

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml); or
- Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number SR-NASDAQ-2013-141 on the subject line.

#### Paper comments:

<sup>15</sup> U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

 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-NASDAQ-2013-141. 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 website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. 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-NASDAQ-2013-141 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.  $^{18}$ 

Kevin M. O'Neill Deputy Secretary

<sup>18</sup> 

### **EXHIBIT 5**

New text is underlined; deleted text is in brackets.

## **NASDAQ Stock Market Rules**

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Chapter XV Options Pricing**

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### Sec. 2 NASDAQ Options Market—Fees and Rebates

The following charges shall apply to the use of the order execution and routing services of the NASDAQ Options Market for all securities.

(1) Fees for Execution of Contracts on the NASDAQ Options Market

## **Fees and Rebates (per executed contract)**

	Customer	Professional	Firm	Non-NOM Market Maker	NOM Market Maker	Broker- Dealer
Penny Pilot C	Options:					
Rebate to Add Liquidity	***	***	\$0.10 <sup>2</sup>	\$0.10 <sup>2</sup>	#	\$0.10 <sup>2</sup>
Fee for Removing Liquidity	\$0.45	\$0.48	\$0.48	\$0.48	\$0.48	\$0.48
Non-Penny P	ilot Options	(including NI	<b>DX</b> <sup>1</sup> ):			
Fee for Adding Liquidity	N/A	\$0.45	\$0.45 <sup>2</sup>	\$0.45 <sup>2</sup>	\$0.35	\$0.45 <sup>2</sup>
Fee for Removing Liquidity	\$0.82	\$0.89	\$0.89	\$0.89	\$0.85	\$0.89
Rebate to Add Liquidity	\$0.81 <sup>d</sup>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
SOX, HGX a	nd OSX:					
Fee for Adding Liquidity	\$0.35	\$0.60	\$0.60	\$0.60	\$0.40	\$0.60

Fee for \$0.35 \$0.60 \$0.60 \$0.60 \$0.40 \$0.60 Removing Liquidity

<sup>1</sup>For transactions in NDX, a surcharge of \$0.10 per contract will be added to the Fee for Adding Liquidity and the Fee for Removing Liquidity in Non-Penny Pilot Options, except for a Customer who will not be assessed a surcharge.

<sup>2</sup>A Participant that adds Firm, Non-NOM Market Maker or Broker-Dealer liquidity in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options of 15,000 contracts per day or more in a given month will receive a Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of \$0.20 per contract and will pay a Fee for Adding Liquidity in Non-Penny Pilot Options of \$0.36 per contract.

\*\*\* The Customer and Professional Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options will be paid as noted below. To determine the applicable percentage of total industry customer equity and ETF option average daily volume, the Participant's Penny Pilot and Non-Penny Pilot Customer and/or Professional volume that adds liquidity will be included.

Mont	thly Volume	Rebate to Add Liquidity
Tier 1	Participant adds Customer and/or Professional liquidity of up to 0.20% of total industry customer equity and ETF option average daily volume ("ADV") contracts per day in a month	\$0.25
Tier 2	Participant adds Customer and/or Professional liquidity of 0.21% to 0.30% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month	\$0.40
Tier 3	Participant adds Customer and/or Professional liquidity of 0.31% to 0.49% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month	\$0.43
Tier 4	Participant adds Customer and/or Professional liquidity of 0.5% or more of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per day in a month	\$0.45
Tier 5 a	Participant adds (1) Customer and/or Professional liquidity of 25,000 or more contracts per day in a month, (2) the Participant has certified for the Investor Support Program set forth in Rule 7014, and (3) the Participant executed at least one order on NASDAQ's equity market	\$0.42
Tier 6 b,c	Participant has Total Volume of 115,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 25,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be Customer and/or Professional liquidity	\$0.45
Tier 7 b,c,d	Participant has Total Volume of 150,000 or more contracts per day in a month, of which 50,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be Customer and/or Professional liquidity	\$0.47

**Tier** Participant (1) has Total Volume of 200,000 or more contracts \$0.48 **8** b.c.d per day in a month, of which 70,000 or more contracts per day in a month must be Customer and/or Professional liquidity or (2) adds Customer and/or Professional liquidity of 1.00% or more of national customer volume in multiply-listed equity and ETF options classes in a month.

<sup>a</sup>For purposes of Tier 5, the Exchange will allow a NOM Participant to qualify for the rebate if a NASDAQ member under Common Ownership with the NOM Participant has certified for the Investor Support Program and executed at least one order on NASDAQ's equity market.

<sup>b</sup>For purposes of Tiers 6, 7 and 8, "Total Volume" shall be defined as Customer, Professional, Firm, Broker-Dealer, Non-NOM Market Maker and NOM Market Maker volume in Penny Pilot Options and/or Non-Penny Pilot Options which either adds or removes liquidity on NOM.

<sup>c</sup>For purposes of Tiers 6, 7 and 8, the Exchange will allow NOM Participants under Common Ownership to aggregate their volume to qualify for the rebate.

# The NOM Market Maker Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options will be paid as noted below.

<sup>d</sup>Participants that qualify for Customer or Professional Rebate to Add Liquidity Tiers 7 or 8 in a given month will receive an additional \$0.01 per contract Non-Penny Pilot Options Customer Rebate to Add Liquidity for each transaction which adds liquidity in Non-Penny Pilot Options in that month.

Monthly Volume		Rebate to Add Liquidity
Tier 1	Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of up to [3]29,999 contracts per day in a month	\$0.25
Tier 2	Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of [4]30,000 to [6]59,999 contracts per day in a month	\$0.30
Tier 3	Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of [7]60,000 to [9]79,999 contracts per day in a month	\$0.32

**Tier 4** Participant adds NOM Market Maker liquidity in Penny Pilot Options of [10]80,000 or more contracts per day in a month

\$0.32 or \$0.38 in the following symbols BAC, GLD, IWM, QQQ and VXX or \$0.40 in SPY

(2) – (5) No Change.

\* \* \* \* \* \*