SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34-65928; File No. SR-NYSEAmex-2011-94)

December 9, 2011

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE Amex LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Amending the NYSE Amex Options Fee Schedule

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 December 1, 2011, NYSE Amex LLC (the "Exchange" or "NYSE Amex") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the self-regulatory organization. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the</u> Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend the NYSE Amex Options Fee Schedule ("Fee Schedule") to exclude Strategy Executions from the monthly Firm fee cap. The proposed change will be operative on December 1, 2011. The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Exchange, the Commission's Public Reference Room, and www.nyse.com.

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 self-regulatory organization included statements concerning the purpose of, and basis for, the proposed rule change and

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

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

discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of those 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 parts 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. <u>Purpose</u>

The Exchange proposes to amend the Fee Schedule to exclude Strategy Executions from the monthly Firm fee cap.

Strategy Executions include reversals and conversions, dividend spreads, box spreads, short stock interest spreads, merger spreads, and jelly rolls. Under the current Fee Schedule, fees for Strategy Executions are capped at \$750 per transaction and \$25,000 per month. Under the proposed change, Firms would continue to benefit from those two fee caps, but fees for Strategy Executions would be excluded from the calculation of the monthly Firm fee cap of \$100,000.<sup>3</sup> The Exchange notes that such treatment would be consistent with the exclusion of Strategy Executions from the calculation of the Market Maker monthly fee cap and volume threshold.<sup>4</sup>

The proposed changes will be operative on December 1, 2011.

### 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 6(b)<sup>5</sup> of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"), in

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See Fee Schedule at n. 6.

See Fee Schedule at n. 5.

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

general, and Section 6(b)(4)<sup>6</sup> of the Act, in particular, in that it is designed to provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its members and other persons using its facilities. The Exchange believes that the proposed change is equitably allocated and not unfairly discriminatory because it will apply equally to all Firms and treat them in a manner that is more consistent with other capped participants, i.e., Market Makers. The Exchange believes that the proposed change is reasonable because Firms will still be able to avail themselves of the reduced rates for Strategy Trade Executions.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose 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>

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

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

The foregoing rule change is effective upon filing pursuant to Section  $19(b)(3)(A)^7$  of the Act and subparagraph (f)(2) of Rule  $19b-4^8$  thereunder, because it establishes a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the Exchange. At any time within 60 days of the filing of such proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may

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

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

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.

#### 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-NYSEAmex-2011-94 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-NYSEAmex-2011-94. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet website (<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, NW, Washington, D.C. 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of such 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-NYSEAmex-2011-94 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>9</sup>

Kevin M. O'Neill Deputy Secretary

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<sup>9 17</sup> CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).