

NSCC believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of section 17A of the Act⁵ and the rules and regulations thereunder because the surveillance and additional collateralization procedures will facilitate the safeguarding of securities and funds which are in its custody or control or for which it is responsible, and in general will protect investors and the public interest.

(B) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

NSCC does not believe that the proposed rule change will have an impact on or impose a burden on competition.

(C) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants or Others

No written comments relating to the proposed rule change have been solicited or received. NSCC will notify the Commission of any written comments received by NSCC.

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

Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Act requires that the rules of a clearing agency be designed to assure the safeguarding of securities and funds which are in the custody or control of the clearing agency and generally to protect investors and the public interest. As the Commission previously stated, it finds that NSCC's proposed rule change is consistent with these obligations under the Act because it should help NSCC protect itself, its members, and investors from members that pose an increased risk because of their involvement in OTC market making.⁶

Under the proposal, NSCC will continue to have the authority with respect to members which participate in OTC market making activities or clear for correspondents that engage in such activity (1) to place such members on Class A surveillance, (2) to require such members to post additional collateral with NSCC, and (3) to calculate an alternative clearing fund requirement for such members when additional risk factors are present. Collectively, the higher level of surveillance, the additional level of collateralization, and the alternative clearing fund requirements should help ameliorate NSCC's exposure, which in turn should

assist NSCC in fulfilling its obligations under the Act to safeguard securities and funds for which it has control of or is responsible for and to protect investors and the public interest.⁷

NSCC has requested that the Commission find good cause for approving the proposed rule change prior to the thirtieth day after publication of the notice of filing because accelerated approval will allow NSCC to continue to utilize its Class A surveillance procedures, the interim collateralization policy, and the alternative clearing fund formula without interruption until it makes a filing requesting permanent approval of the rule change. The Commission finds good cause for granting approval prior to the thirtieth day after the date of publication of the notice because this should allow NSCC to continue to protect itself and its participants from the potential risks of OTC market making activities without interruption when the current approval of Addendum O expires on May 31, 2000.

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. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Section, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of NSCC. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-NSCC-99-09 and should be submitted by June 28, 2000.

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act, that the

⁷ As noted in each of the previous approval orders, prior to filing a proposed rule change seeking permanent approval of the procedures set forth in this temporary approval order, NSCC shall present to the Commission a more detailed report of its findings regarding the adequacy of the controls and discussing any changes to be made to the procedures.

proposed rule change (File No. SR-NSCC-99-09) be, and hereby is approved on an accelerated basis through May 31, 2001.

For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁸

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-42873; File No. SR-NSCC-00-07]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; National Securities Clearing Corporation; Notice of Filing and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of a Proposed Rule Change Related to Certain Mini-Tender Offers

May 31, 2000.

Pursuant to section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),¹ notice is hereby given that on May 26, 2000, the National Securities Clearing Corporation ("NSCC") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which items have been prepared primarily by NSCC. The Commission is publishing this notice and order to solicit comments from interested persons and to grant accelerated approval of the proposal.

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

The proposed rule change permits NSCC to process certain securities which are subject to mini-tender offers through NSCC's continuous net settlement ("CNS") system.

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

In its filing with the Commission, NSCC 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. NSCC has prepared summaries, set forth in sections (A), (B),

(May 27, 1998), 63 FR 30277 [File No. SR-NSCC-98-03]; (June 4, 1999), 64 FR 31664 [File No. SR-NSCC-99-06].

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78q-1.

⁶ *Supra* note 4.

⁸ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

and (C) below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.²

(A) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

The purpose of the proposed rule filing is to permit NSCC to keep McDonalds Corp., USX-Maraton GR., and Blackrock Inc., securities, which are subject to mini-tender offers, in the CNS system. Under normal circumstances because these mini-tender offers have no protect period, NSCC would exit these securities from CNS. However, because of the high trading volume in these securities and the operational impact exiting this security from CNS would have on NSCC's participants, NSCC has filed this rule change to allow NSCC to continue to process these securities in CNS. If NSCC receives a request from a long participant, NSCC will exit the relevant position and will issue a receive and deliver instruction naming short participants selected by an allocation procedure using the oldest short position first. Participants who wish to participate in any of the tender offers must contact NSCC Operations no later than 1:00 PM on Tuesday, May 30, 2000, so arrangements can be made to remove the relevant positions from CNS.

NSCC believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder. In particular, the proposed rule change is consistent with section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Act³ which requires that the rules of a clearing agency be designed to promote the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions.

(B) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

NSCC does not believe that the proposed rule change will have an impact on or impose a burden on competition.

(C) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others

No written comments have been solicited or received. NSCC will notify the Commission of any written comments received by NSCC.

² The Commission has modified the text of the summaries prepared by NSCC.

³ 15 U.S.C. 78q-1(b)(3)(F).

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

The Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder and particularly with the requirements of section 17A(b)(3)(F).⁴ Section 17A(b)(3)(F) requires that the rules of a clearing agency be designed to promote the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions. Allowing these securities which are subject to mini-tender offers to continue to be processed in the CNS system should help ensure the securities will be promptly and accurately cleared and settled.

NSCC has requested that the Commission approve the proposed rule change prior to the thirtieth day after publication of the notice of the filing. The Commission finds good cause for approving the rule change prior to the thirtieth day after publication because such approval will allow NSCC to continue to process these securities in the CNS system.

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. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of NSCC. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-NSCC-00-07 and should be submitted by June 28, 2000.

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to section 19(b)(2) of the Act,⁵ that the proposed rule change (File No. SR-

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78q-1(b)(3)(F).

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

NSCC-00-07) be and hereby is approved.

For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁶

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-42848; File No. SR-PCX-99-18]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Order Approving Proposed Rule Change and Notice of Filing and Order Granting Accelerated Approval to Amendment No. 1 to the Proposed Rule Change by the Pacific Exchange, Inc., Relating to Facilitation Crosses

May 26, 2000.

I. Introduction

On June 4, 1999, the Pacific Exchange, Inc. ("PCX" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² a proposed rule change to give member firms a participation right in trades proposed as facilitation crosses in certain circumstances; and to allow facilitation crosses for broker-dealer orders. Notice of the proposed rule change was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on September 21, 1999.³ On May 26, 2000, the PCX filed Amendment No. 1 to the proposal.⁴ No comments were received on the proposal. This order approves the proposed rule change, as amended, accelerates approval of Amendment No. 1, and solicits comments from interested persons on that amendment.

II. Description of the Proposal

PCX Rule 6.47(b) sets forth the procedures by which a floor broker representing the order of a member firm's public customer may cross it with a contra side order provided by the firm from its own proprietary account. In these circumstances, the firm is said to be "facilitating" the customer order, and

⁶ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 41867 (September 13, 1999), 64 FR 51171.

⁴ The substantive modifications of Amendment No. 1 are incorporated in the description of the proposal in Section II below, and are further discussed in Section III below.