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February 10, 2021

#### **VIA ELECTRONIC PORTAL**

Christopher J. Kirkpatrick Office of the Secretariat Commodity Futures Trading Commission Three Lafayette Centre 1155 21st Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20581

RE: Modifications to the CME/CBOT Interest Rate Options Give Up Incentive Program CME Submission No. 21-093 (1 of 2)

Dear Mr. Kirkpatrick:

Chicago Mercantile Exchange Inc. ("CME") and The Board of Trade of the City of Chicago, Inc. ("CBOT") (collectively, the "Exchanges") hereby notify the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC" or "Commission") of plans to modify the Interest Rate Options Give Up Incentive Program ("Program"). The modifications to the Program will become effective on March 1, 2021.

Exhibit 1 sets forth the terms of this Program. Modifications appear below, with additions <u>underscored</u> and deletions <del>overstruck</del>.

The Exchanges reviewed the designated contract market core principles ("Core Principles") as set forth in the Commodity Exchange Act ("CEA"). During the review, Exchange staff identified the following Core Principles as potentially being impacted: Monitoring of Trading, Execution of Transactions, Protection of Market Participants, Compliance with Rules, and Recordkeeping.

The Program does not impact the Exchanges' ability to perform its trade practice and market surveillance obligations under the CEA and the Exchanges' have implemented systems to track Program participants' volume to ensure proper distribution of earned incentives. The tiered incentives in the Program do not impact the Exchanges' order execution. Participants in the program will be selected by Exchanges' staff using criteria as further stated in Exhibit 1. Chapter 4 of the Exchanges rules includes prohibitions against fraudulent, non-competitive, unfair or abusive practices. The Program is subject to these rules.

The Exchanges certify that the Program complies with the CEA and the regulations thereunder. There were no substantive opposing views to this Program.

The Exchanges certify that this submission has been concurrently posted on the Exchanges' website at <a href="http://www.cmegroup.com/market-regulation/rule-filings.html">http://www.cmegroup.com/market-regulation/rule-filings.html</a>.

If you require any additional information regarding this submission, please e-mail <a href="mailto:CMEGSubmissionInquiry@cmegroup.com">CMEGSubmissionInquiry@cmegroup.com</a> or contact Rachel Johnson at 312-466-4393 or via e-mail at <a href="mailto:Rachel.Johnson@cmegroup.com">Rachel.Johnson@cmegroup.com</a>. Please reference our CME Submission No. 21-093 in any related correspondence.

Sincerely,

/s/ Christopher Bowen
Managing Director and Chief Regulatory Counsel

Attachment: Exhibit 1

# **EXHIBIT 1**

# CME/CBOT INTEREST RATE OPTIONS GIVE UP INCENTIVE PROGRAM

# **Program Purpose**

The purpose of this Program is to encourage executing brokers to increase their volume in the products listed below, enhancing market liquidity. A more liquid contract benefits all participants in the market.

#### **Product Scope**

All CME and CBOT Interest Rate ("IR") options products ("Products").

# **Eligible Participants**

There is no limit to the number of executing brokers who may participate in the Program. Participants may be CME or CBOT members or non-members. In order to qualify for the Program, participants must have met the following criteria: (i) executed at least 750,000 interest rate option give ups in two (2) of three (3) consecutive calendar months over the previous twelve (12) twenty-four (24) calendar months, and (ii) at least 65% 55% of the total interest rate (futures and options) give up volume must be from interest rate options.

#### **Program Term**

Start date is January 6, 2012. End date is February 28, 2021 February 28, 2022.

#### Hours

N/A

#### **Incentives**

Once accepted into the Program, participants will be eligible to receive tiered volume incentives whereby participants may be charged reduced give up surcharges for the Products. The tiered volume levels are predetermined by the Exchanges and are based on a participant's monthly give up volume in the Products.

# **Monitoring and Termination of Status**

The Exchanges shall monitor trading activity and participants' performance and shall retain the right to revoke participant status if they conclude from review that a participant no longer meets the eligibility requirements of the Program.