

SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

IMPORTANT: Check box if Confidential Treatment is requested

Registered Entity Identifier Code (optional): 18-065

Organization: New York Mercantile Exchange, Inc. ("NYMEX")

Filing as a: DCM SEF DCO SDR

Please note - only ONE choice allowed.

Filing Date (mm/dd/yy): 02/23/18 Filing Description: Reduction of Block Trade Minimum Quantity Threshold Level of Four (4) Natural Gas Futures and Options Contracts

SPECIFY FILING TYPE

Please note only ONE choice allowed per Submission.

Organization Rules and Rule Amendments

- Certification § 40.6(a)
- Approval § 40.5(a)
- Notification § 40.6(d)
- Advance Notice of SIDCO Rule Change § 40.10(a)
- SIDCO Emergency Rule Change § 40.10(h)

Rule Numbers: See filing.

New Product

Please note only ONE product per Submission.

- Certification § 40.2(a)
- Certification Security Futures § 41.23(a)
- Certification Swap Class § 40.2(d)
- Approval § 40.3(a)
- Approval Security Futures § 41.23(b)
- Novel Derivative Product Notification § 40.12(a)
- Swap Submission § 39.5

Product Terms and Conditions (product related Rules and Rule Amendments)

- Certification § 40.6(a)
- Certification Made Available to Trade Determination § 40.6(a)
- Certification Security Futures § 41.24(a)
- Delisting (No Open Interest) § 40.6(a)
- Approval § 40.5(a)
- Approval Made Available to Trade Determination § 40.5(a)
- Approval Security Futures § 41.24(c)
- Approval Amendments to enumerated agricultural products § 40.4(a), § 40.5(a)
- "Non-Material Agricultural Rule Change" § 40.4(b)(5)
- Notification § 40.6(d)

Official Name(s) of Product(s) Affected:

Rule Numbers:

February 23, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC PORTAL

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

**Re: CFTC Regulation 40.6(a) Certification. Notification Regarding Reduction of Block Trade Minimum Quantity Threshold Level of Four (4) Natural Gas Futures and Options Contracts.
 NYMEX Submission No. 18-065**

Dear Mr. Kirkpatrick:

New York Mercantile Exchange, Inc. (“NYMEX” or “Exchange”) is notifying the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC” or “Commission”) that it is self-certifying amendments to the block trade minimum threshold of four (4) natural Gas futures and options contracts (the “Contracts”) as more specifically described in the table below effective on Sunday, March 11, 2018 for trade date Monday, March 12, 2018.

Contract Title	Clearing/ CME ClearPort Code	CME Globex Code	Rulebook Chapter	Block Trade Minimum Quantity Threshold Level	
				Current	Effective on Trade Date March 12, 2018
Henry Hub Natural Gas Last Day Financial Futures	NN	NN	508	25	10
Natural Gas Option on Calendar Futures Strip	6J	A6J	351	15	10
Natural Gas Option on Summer Futures Strip	4D	A4D	352	15	10
Natural Gas Option on Winter Futures Strip	6I	A6I	353	15	10

The reduction of the block trade minimum quantity threshold level is being implemented to align the minimum threshold levels with similar natural gas contracts. The Contracts are available for trading on the CME Globex electronic trading platform and for submission for clearing via CME ClearPort.

The Exchange reviewed the designated contract market core principles (“Core Principles”) as set forth in the Commodity Exchange Act (“Act” or “CEA”) and identified that the amendments to the Contracts may have some bearing on the following Core Principles:

Availability of General Information: The Exchange will issue a Special Executive Report (“SER”) to the marketplace regarding this amendment. The SER will also be posted on the CME Group website.

Execution of Transactions: A designated contract market may authorize transactions that are executed away from the designated contract market’s centralized marketplace for bona fide business purposes. Accordingly, the Exchange has long established block standards for a wide array of futures and options products. The actions certified herein serve solely to improve the alignment of block trade standards for the pertinent futures products with standards applicable to related European natural gas futures on the Exchange.

Pursuant to Section 5c(c) of the Act and CFTC Regulation 40.6(a), the Exchange hereby certifies that the amendments comply with the Act, including regulations under the Act. There were no substantive opposing views to this proposal.

The Exchange certifies that this submission has been concurrently posted on the Exchange’s website at <http://www.cmegroup.com/market-regulation/rule-filings.html>.

Should you have any questions concerning the above, please e-mail CMEGSubmissionInquiry@cmegroup.com or contact the undersigned at (212) 299-2200.

Sincerely,

/s/ Christopher Bowen
Managing Director and Chief Regulatory Counsel