



January 29, 2021

VIA Electronic Portal

Assistant Secretary of the Commission for FOIA,
CFTC FOIA Compliance Office
Commodity Futures Trading Commission
Three Lafayette Centre
1155 21st Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20581

**Re: FOIA Confidential Treatment Request: Appendix A to
CME/CBOT/NYMEX/COMEX Submission Nos. 21-066S, 21-067S, 21-068S, and
21-069S.**

Dear Assistant Secretary:

On behalf of Chicago Mercantile Exchange, Inc. ("CME"), The Board of Trade of the City of Chicago, Inc. ("CBOT"), New York Mercantile Exchange, Inc. ("NYMEX"), and Commodity Exchange, Inc. ("COMEX") (collectively, the "Exchanges"), we request that the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("**Commission**") provide confidential treatment to Appendix A to Submission Nos. 21-066S, 21-067S, 21-068S, and 21-069S dated January 29, 2021, and the information contained therein (the "**Confidential Information**"). This request is made pursuant to and in accordance with Commission Regulations 40.8(c) and 145.9(d). We request confidential treatment of the Confidential Information indefinitely.

Pursuant to Commission Regulation 145.9(d)(ii), we request confidential treatment of the Confidential Information on the grounds that it is confidential commercial information of the Exchanges that is exempt from disclosure pursuant to Section 552(b)(4) of the Freedom of Information Act ("**FOIA**") ("**FOIA Exemption 4**"), which bars disclosure of "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential."

The Confidential Information contains specific information about the Exchanges' internal deliberative processes, including the identities of certain employees (by title) who were involved in reviewing and approving the rule changes covered by Submission Nos. 21-066S, 21-067S, 21-068S, and 21-069S, acting pursuant to delegated authority. CME Group consistently treats this information as private, and thus it does not disclose the identities of the employees who are delegated authority to approve rule changes beyond others in the CME Group as necessary or appropriate for them to perform their responsibilities. The CME safeguards this information to avoid subjecting the employees to external pressure in the future that could interfere with their consideration of other potential rule changes within their areas of delegated authority, as it is crucial that these individuals make decisions based solely on their professional judgment. In addition, although substantial competitive harm no longer is required to satisfy FOIA Exemption 4, *see Food Marketing Institute v. Argus Leader Media*, no. 18-481, 588 U.S. (June 24, 2019), disclosure of the Confidential Information would cause substantial harm to the Exchanges as it would reveal confidential commercial information about the Exchanges' internal operations to its competitors, to the Exchanges' commercial detriment. Thus, the Confidential Information is confidential commercial information of the Exchanges within the scope of FOIA Exemption 4.

Pursuant to Commission Regulation 145.9(e)(1), please contact the undersigned, Christopher Bowen Managing Director and Chief Regulatory Counsel, CME Group, if the Commission receives any request under FOIA for the Confidential Information, or any request pursuant to court order, subpoena or summons for the Confidential Information, before releasing the Confidential Information, so that we may substantiate further the grounds for confidential treatment or take other appropriate steps to protect the Confidential Information.

Please contact the undersigned at (212) 299-2200 should you have any questions concerning this letter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Christopher Bowen
Managing Director and Chief Regulatory Counsel