

**SUBMISSION COVER SHEET**

**IMPORTANT:** Check box if Confidential Treatment is requested

Registered Entity Identifier Code (optional): 16-182R

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): May 16, 2016 Filing Description: Modifications to the Natural Gas Basis Futures Market Maker Program

**SPECIFY FILING TYPE**

Please note only ONE choice allowed per Submission.

**Organization Rules and Rule Amendments**

- |                                     |                                     |            |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Certification                       | § 40.6(a)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Approval                            | § 40.5(a)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Notification                        | § 40.6(d)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Advance Notice of SIDCO Rule Change | § 40.10(a) |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | SIDCO Emergency Rule Change         | § 40.10(h) |

Rule Numbers: **Not Applicable**

**New Product**

Please note only ONE product per Submission.

- |                          |                                       |            |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Certification                         | § 40.2(a)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Certification Security Futures        | § 41.23(a) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Certification Swap Class              | § 40.2(d)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Approval                              | § 40.3(a)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Approval Security Futures             | § 41.23(b) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Novel Derivative Product Notification | § 40.12(a) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Swap Submission                       | § 39.5     |

**Official Product Name:**

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

- |                          |   |                      |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Certification   | § 40.6(a)            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Certification Made Available to Trade Determination     | § 40.6(a)            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Certification Security Futures                          | § 41.24(a)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Delisting (No Open Interest)                            | § 40.6(a)            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Approval  | § 40.5(a)            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Approval Made Available to Trade Determination          | § 40.5(a)            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Approval Security Futures                               | § 41.24(c)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Approval Amendments to enumerated agricultural products | § 40.4(a), § 40.5(a) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | “Non-Material Agricultural Rule Change”                 | § 40.4(b)(5)         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Notification  | § 40.6(d)            |

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

**Rule Numbers:**



Christopher Bowen  
Managing Director and Chief Regulatory Counsel  
Legal Department

May 16, 2016

**VIA ELECTRONIC PORTAL**

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

**RE: Modifications to the Natural Gas Basis Futures Market Maker Program  
NYMEX Submission No. 16-182R**

Dear Mr. Kirkpatrick:

New York Mercantile Exchange, Inc. ("NYMEX" or "Exchange") hereby notifies the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC" or "Commission") of plans to modify the Natural Gas Basis Futures Market Maker Program ("Program"). The modifications to the Program will become effective on June 1, 2016.

Exhibit 1 sets forth the terms of this Program. Modifications appear below, with additions underlined and deletions ~~overstruck~~.

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

The Program does not incentivize manipulative trading or market abuse or impact the Exchange's ability to perform its trade practice and market surveillance obligations under the CEA. NYMEX market regulation staff will monitor trading in the Program's products to prevent manipulative trading and market abuse. The Program does not impact the Exchange's order execution. Participants in the Program will be selected by Exchange staff based on criteria set forth in Exhibit 1. Chapter 4 of the Exchange rules includes prohibitions against fraudulent, non-competitive, unfair or abusive practices. All participants must execute a contractual agreement with NYMEX in which each participant will expressly agree to comply with and be subject to, applicable regulations and NYMEX rules. The Program is subject to the Exchange's record retention policies which comply with the CEA.

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

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>.

If you require any additional information regarding this submission, please e-mail [CMEGSubmissionInquiry@cmegroup.com](mailto:CMEGSubmissionInquiry@cmegroup.com) or contact Rachel Johnson at 312-466-4393 or via e-mail at [Rachel.Johnson@cmegroup.com](mailto:Rachel.Johnson@cmegroup.com). Please reference our NYMEX Submission No. 16-182R in any related correspondence.

Sincerely,

/s/ Christopher Bowen  
Managing Director and Chief Regulatory Counsel

Attachment: Exhibit 1

# EXHIBIT 1

## Natural Gas Basis Futures Market Maker Program

### **Program Purpose**

The purpose of the Program is to incentivize market makers to increase liquidity in NYMEX Natural Gas Basis products that are traded on the CME Globex Platform. The resulting central limit order book liquidity benefits all participants in the marketplace.

### **Product Scope**

All NYMEX Natural Gas Basis products ("Products") that are traded on the CME Globex Platform.

### **Eligible Participants**

There is no limit to the number of participants that may participate in the Program. Participants may be NYMEX members or non-members. Potential participants are required to submit an application/bid sheet to the Exchange as part of a competitive application process which is used to determine eligibility. NYMEX, in its sole discretion, will use a variety of factors in determining whether or not a prospective participant is selected to participate in the Program, including the prospective participant's ability to meet the obligations of the Program, the strength of the quoting obligations the prospective market maker is willing to commit to provide, and the prospective market maker's historical activity in the Products. Notwithstanding the foregoing, NYMEX may add or subtract from the factors listed above from time to time.

### **Program Term**

Start date is March 1, 2016. End date is December 31, 2016.

### **Hours**

9:00AM – 1:30PM (CST)

### **Obligations**

Participants in the Program must quote continuous two-sided markets in the Products at designated bid/offer spreads and quote sizes during a specified percentage of time-in-market.

### **Incentives**

Upon satisfying all Program obligations as determined by the Exchange, Program participants may be eligible to receive predetermined incentives.

### **Monitoring and Termination of Status**

The Exchange shall monitor participants' activity in the Products and retains the right to revoke Program participant status if it concludes from review that a Program participant no longer meets the eligibility requirements or obligations of the Program.