

**SUBMISSION COVER SHEET**

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

Registered Entity Identifier Code (optional): 21-287

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): June 15, 2021 Filing Description: Modifications to the NYMEX Spread Options Program

**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: Not Applicable

**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

**Official Product Name:**

**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:



Christopher Bowen  
Managing Director and Chief Regulatory Counsel  
Legal Department

June 15, 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 NYMEX Spread Options Program  
NYMEX Submission No. 21-287**

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 NYMEX Spread Options Program ("Program"). The modifications to the Program will become effective on July 1, 2021.

Exhibit 1 sets forth the terms of the 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: Monitoring of Trading, Execution of Transactions, Protection of Market Participants, Compliance with Rules, Availability of General Information, and Recordkeeping.

The Program does not impact the Exchange's ability to perform its trade practice and market surveillance obligations under the CEA. The Exchange's market regulation staff will monitor trading in the Program's products to prevent manipulative trading and market abuse. Additionally, the Exchange has implemented systems to track Program participants' volume to ensure proper distribution of earned incentives. The products included in this Program are listed for trading in the open and competitive market. Participants in the Program will be selected by NYMEX staff using criteria as further stated in Exhibit 1. Chapter 4 of the NYMEX 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.

NYMEX 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 [CMESubmissionInquiry@cmegroup.com](mailto:CMESubmissionInquiry@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. 21-287 in any related correspondence.

Sincerely,

/s/ Christopher Bowen  
Managing Director and Chief Regulatory Counsel

Attachment: Exhibit 1

# EXHIBIT 1

## NYMEX Spread Options Program

### Program Purpose

The purpose of the Program is to incentivize higher levels of volume contribution in the products listed below. Higher levels of volume and liquidity in the products benefits all participants in the marketplace.

### Product Scope

All NYMEX energy products that are traded on Globex or submitted for clearing via CME ClearPort ("Products").

### Eligible Participants

There is no limit to the number of participants in the Program. Participants may be NYMEX members or non-members. The Exchange, in its sole discretion, will use a variety of factors in determining whether a prospective participant is selected to participate in the Program, including the prospective participant's overall historical volume in the Products and the prospective participant's ability to maintain threshold volume obligations for the duration of the Program. The Exchange may from time to time add or subtract from the above factors as it deems necessary.

### Program Term

Start date is July 1, 2018. End date is ~~June 30, 2024~~ January 31, 2022.

### Hours

N/A

### Obligations

Participants must quote two-sided markets in applicable products, at predetermined average bid/ask spreads and minimum quote sizes, and/or must meet certain volume thresholds in order to be eligible to receive the ~~Program~~ incentives.

### Incentives

Upon meeting all obligations, as determined by the Exchange, participants will be eligible to receive predetermined incentives.

### Monitoring and Termination of Status

The Exchange shall monitor trading activity and participants' performance and shall retain the right to revoke ~~Program~~ participant status if it concludes from review that a ~~Program~~ participant has failed to meet its obligations or no longer meets the eligibility requirements of the Program.