## SUBMISSION COVER SHEET **IMPORTANT:** Check box if Confidential Treatment is requested Registered Entity Identifier Code (optional): <u>15-284</u> Organization: New York Mercantile Exchange, Inc. ("NYMEX") $|\times|_{\mathbf{DCM}}$ SDR SEF DCO Filing as a: Please note - only ONE choice allowed. Filing Date (mm/dd/yy): 06/21/15 Filing Description: Elimination of Open Outcry **Trading Venue in Connection with the Closing of NYMEX Open Outcry Futures Trading Pits** 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 **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:**



June 21, 2015

## **VIA ELECTRONIC PORTAL**

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

RE: CFTC Regulation 40.6(a) Certification. Elimination of Open Outcry Trading Venue in Connection with the Closing of NYMEX Open Outcry Futures Trading Pits.

NYMEX Submission No. 15-284

Dear Mr. Kirkpatrick:

New York Mercantile Exchange, Inc. ("NYMEX" or "Exchange") hereby notifies the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC" or "Commission") that it is self-certifying the elimination of the open outcry trading venue in connection with the closing of NYMEX open outcry futures trading on July 2, 2015. Beginning on July 6, 2015, open outcry trading pursuant to Rule 521 ("Requirements for Open Outcry Trades") will remain eligible solely in existing NYMEX options currently eligible for open outcry trading in the applicable NYMEX options trading pits, inclusive of options, options spreads, options combinations and options/futures spreads.

The elimination of open outcry in NYMEX futures pits as described above will not occur until after the close of open outcry trading on July 2, 2015.

The above-referenced closures were publicly announced in February of this year. Trading floor volumes for futures have been declining dramatically over the past five years, decreasing by 75% and now representing only 1% of the CME Group Exchange's total futures volume. The customers of the Exchange have overwhelmingly demonstrated, based on volumes, a preference for electronic trading for futures. The Exchange has continued to maintain the floors for the last several years and this has given market participants with the time and the ability to adjust to this volume shift to the screen.

The Exchange reviewed the designated contract market core principles ("Core Principles") as set forth in the Commodity Exchange Act ("CEA" or "Act") and identified that the elimination of open outcry futures trading in all futures trading pits may have some bearing on the following Core Principles:

<u>Execution of Transactions</u>: Notwithstanding the closure of the open outcry futures trading pit, the CME Globex platform provides a transparent, competitive, open and efficient mechanism for executing transaction that protects the price discovery process of trading in the centralized market.

<u>Compliance with Rules</u>: The elimination of open outcry trading in all futures pits represents a change to the terms and conditions of all affected futures products currently trading via open outcry on the trading floor. This venue elimination has been widely communicated to market participants and will not otherwise affect the ability of NYMEX to enforce compliance with its rules.

<u>Availability of General Information</u>: Information on the upcoming closing of all NYMEX futures trading pits has been widely disseminated. A Special Executive Report reminding the marketplace of the upcoming elimination of open outcry futures trading in futures pits, including rule changes separately self-certified in Submission 15-176 (1 of 2) from June 5, 2015, will be issued prior to July 6, 2015.

General views opposing electronic trading without concurrent floor-based access to the same products have been expressed to the Exchange. Such views propose that certain contracts are best entered into via open outcry or that electronic trading without concurrent floor-based access may potentially decrease the size and types of orders that market participants are willing to provide. Notably, the percentage of overall trading activity that is generated electronically, current electronic trading functionalities which, in many instances, replicate similar market strategies, and the Exchange's ability to make product-specific determinations in response to the demands of market participants counter and contradict such opposing views.

The Exchange certifies that the action covered by this submission is consistent with the Act and the regulations issued thereunder.

NYMEX certifies that this submission has been concurrently posted on the CME Group 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, please e-mail <a href="mailto:CMEGSubmissionInquiry@cmegroup.com">CMEGSubmissionInquiry@cmegroup.com</a> or contact the undersigned at 212-299-2200.

Sincerely,

/s/Christopher Bowen
Managing Director and Chief Regulatory Counsel