IMPORTANT: Check box if Confidential Treatment is requested  Registered Entity Identifier Code (optional): 14-399  Organization: New York Mercantile Exchange, Inc. ("NYMEX")
Organization: New York Mercantile Exchange, Inc. ("NYMEX")
Filing as a: SEF DCO SDR
Please note - only ONE choice allowed.
Filing Date (mm/dd/yy): <u>September 16, 2014</u> Filing Description: <u>Natural Gas Options</u>
<u>Liquidity Provider Program</u> 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: N/A
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 Nade Tvalado de Trade Betermination \$ 10.3(a)  Approval Security Futures \$ 41.24(c)
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:



September 16, 2014

### **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:** Natural Gas Options Liquidity Provider Program

NYMEX Submission No. 14-399

Dear Mr. Kirkpatrick:

New York Mercantile Exchange, Inc. ("NYMEX" or "Exchange") hereby notifies the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC" or "Commission") of plans to implement the Natural Gas Options Liquidity Provider Program ("Program"). The Program will become effective on October 1, 2014.

Exhibit 1 sets forth the terms of the Program.

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 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 <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 regarding this submission, please contact Tim Elliott at 312-466-7478 or via e-mail at <a href="mailto:tim.elliott@cmegroup.com">tim.elliott@cmegroup.com</a>, or contact me at 212-299-2200. Please reference our NYMEX Submission No. 14-399 in any related correspondence.

Sincerely,

/s/ Christopher Bowen
Managing Director and Chief Regulatory Counsel

Attachment: Exhibit 1

# **EXHIBIT 1**

# **Natural Gas Options Liquidity Provider Program**

# **Program Purpose**

The purpose of the Program is to incentivize higher levels of volume contribution in NYMEX energy options products, specifically in natural gas options products across NYMEX's trading and clearing venues. Higher levels of volume and liquidity in the products listed below benefits all participants in the marketplace.

#### **Product Scope**

All NYMEX Natural Gas options products that are traded on the Globex Platform, the NYMEX trading floor, or submitted for clearing through CME ClearPort ("Products").

## **Eligible Participants**

NYMEX may designate up to ten (10) participants in the Program. Participants may be NYMEX members or non-members. In order to be considered for the Program, NYMEX will take into account (i) historical volume and experience trading the Products and similar options contracts, and (ii) the participant's ability to maintain minimum volume requirements for the duration of the Program. NYMEX may, in its sole discretion, add or subtract from the aforementioned factors as it deems necessary.

## **Program Term**

Start date is October 1, 2014. End date is June 30, 2015.

#### **Hours**

N/A

## **Incentives**

Upon satisfying the eligibility requirements and obligations under the Program, participants may 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.